

W4112 Multistate Meeting 2026 Minutes
Brookings, SD
May 21-22, 2026

Chairman – Jessica Drum (SDSU)

Secretary – Jeremy Block (University of Wyoming)

Member-at-Large – Mario Binelli (University of Florida)

Thursday, May 21

In attendance virtually:

1. Rick McCosh, Colorado State University
2. Kristen Govoni, University of Connecticut
3. Katherine Halloran, University of Kentucky
4. Rocio Rivera, University of Missouri
5. Thiago Martins, University of Missouri
6. Rebecca Poole, Texas A&M University
7. John Hall, University of Idaho
8. Kimberly Davenport, Washington State University
9. Sarah McCoski, Montana State University
10. Brenda Alexander, University of Wyoming
11. Anna Denicol – University of California-Davis
12. Claire Stenhouse - Penn State University
13. Ky Pohler - Texas A&M University

In attendance, In -Person:

1. Jessica Drum, South Dakota State University
2. Mario Binelli, University of Florida
3. David Grieger, Kansas State University
4. Andrea Cupp, University of Nebraska
5. Karl Kerns - Iowa State University
6. Ryan Ashley, New Mexico State University
7. Sofia Ortega, University of Wisconsin
8. Jeremy Block, University of Wyoming
9. Rafael Domingues, Ohio State University
10. Matthew Dean, University of Illinois
11. Alex Vasquez Hidalgo, South Dakota State University

8:40 am – Business meeting called to order by Jessica Drum

- Round table introductions for all present (virtual and in-person)
- 2025 meeting minutes approval – Sofia Ortega moved to approve, Andrea Cupp second.
- New officer election and 2027 meeting location tabled to later in the meeting.
- Congratulations to the W4112 group for being awarded the 2026 Ag Innovation West Multistate Research Award. Special thanks to Sofia Ortega for submitting the nomination packet. Brenda Alexander indicated she would not be able to attend so the

group needs to identify another member that is willing to represent the group at the conference.

- Group discussion regarding Station Report content. Sofia Ortega talked about the importance of writing impact statements that specifically indicate the change in response or behavior or knowledge. Additionally, Sofia emphasized that each station needs to make sure to include all activities that station personnel are involved in (i.e., invited talks, workshops, etc.).
- The group discussed possible modifications to the meeting format as well as the process for how Station Reports are made available to the group. Sofia Ortega suggested allotting time during the meeting for the group to work on writing impact statements for the annual report. Andrea Cupp and David Grieger indicated that they preferred that Station Reports be sent to the entire group via email, as reports are submitted, rather than as only a compiled document ahead of the meeting.
- There was discussion about how the group's work could be better communicated. Suggestions included submitting popular press and/or review articles, working with economists to estimate the impacts of the group's achievements, and organizing symposia that have speakers selected from the W4112 membership (i.e., sectional ASAS meetings).
- Sofia Ortega and Andrea Cupp provided a status update on the re-write of the project (W5112). Comments from the initial peer review have been received. One of the peer-review comments was to develop an objective related to workforce training. Another comment suggested trying to capture the economic impact of the group's work during the duration of the next project. Sofia suggested, based on the comments of the peer-review, that the group consider splitting the current three objectives into five objectives. Andrea requested that the group review the comments of the peer-review and provide suggestions as to how the group's objectives should be modified and for how the group might work to capture economic impacts. Feedback on these items was requested by May 29th, 2026.

9:56 am - Began STATION Updates

1. Rocio Rivera, University of Missouri
2. John Hall, University of Idaho
3. Kristen Govoni, University of Connecticut
4. Ky Pohler, Rebecca Poole - Texas A&M University
5. Sarah McCoski, Montana State University
6. Rick McCosh, Colorado State University
7. Katherine Halloran, University of Kentucky
8. Brenda Alexander, University of Wyoming
9. Anna Denicol, University of California-Davis

10:25 am - USDA update, Dr. Kamilah Grant

10:56 am – Break

10:57 am – Station Updates continued:

10. David Grieger, Kansas State University
11. Andrea Cupp, University of Nebraska
12. Ryan Ashley, New Mexico State University
13. Mario Binelli, University of Florida
14. Matthew Dean, University of Illinois
15. Rafael Domingues, Ohio State University
16. Karl Kerns, Iowa State University
17. Sofia Ortega, University of Wisconsin
18. Jessica Drum and Alex Vasquez Hidalgo, South Dakota State University

11:50 am – Break/start of working lunch

12:05 pm - Began STATION RESEARCH Reports

1. Sarah McCoski, Montana State University
2. David Grieger, Kansas State University
3. Jeremy Block, University of Wyoming
4. Andrea Cupp, University of Nebraska

1:00 pm - Tour of SDSU facilities

- 1:00 PM – CCERF
- 1:20 PM – BBU
- 1:40 PM – Swine Unit
- 2:00 PM – Sheep Unit
- 2:20 PM – Animal Science Metabolism

3:25 pm Station Reports resumed

5. Rick McCosh, Colorado State University
6. Katherine Halloran, University of Kentucky
7. Kimberly Davenport, Washington State University
8. Rebecca Poole, Texas A&M University
9. Thiago Martins, University of Missouri
10. Kristen Govoni, University of Connecticut
11. John Hall, University of Idaho
12. Ryan Ashley, New Mexico State University
13. Mario Binelli, University of Florida

6:05 pm – Business Meeting (Cont.)

- New officer election- Andrea moved for Rafael Domingues to be Member-at-Large and Sofia seconded the motion. Vote for Rafael was unanimous. Officers for 2026 are Jeremy Block-Chair, Mario Binelli-Secretary, and Rafael Domingues - Member-at-Large.
- Location for 2027 meeting – the group discussed having the meeting in either Wyoming or Kansas. Final vote was in favor of Kansas with David Grieger serving as host. Andrea Cupp suggested members block out the week of May 17-21 for potential meeting dates.

6:30 pm – Meeting adjourned

7:00 pm - Dinner at Pheasant Restaurant & Lounge

Friday, May 22

In attendance virtually:

1. Kristen Govoni, University of Connecticut
2. Katherine Halloran, University of Kentucky
3. Rocio Rivera, University of Missouri
4. Rick McCosh, Colorado State University
5. Rebecca Poole, Texas A&M University
6. Brenda Alexander, University of Wyoming
7. John Hall, University of Idaho
8. Ky Pohler - Texas A&M University
9. Kimberly Davenport, Washington State University
10. Sarah McCoski, Montana State University

In attendance, In -Person:

1. Jessica Drum, South Dakota State University
2. Mario Binelli, University of Florida
3. Andrea Cupp, University of Nebraska
4. Karl Kerns - Iowa State University
5. Ryan Ashley, New Mexico State University
6. Sofia Ortega, University of Wisconsin
7. Rafael Domingues, Ohio State University
8. Matthew Dean, University of Illinois
9. Alex Vasquez Hidalgo, South Dakota State University

8:41am - Station Reports Continued:

1. Rafael Domingues, Ohio State University
2. Matthew Dean, University of Illinois
3. Sofia Ortega, University of Wisconsin-Madison
4. Jessica Drum, South Dakota State University
5. Alex Vasquez, South Dakota State University
6. Karl Kerns, Iowa State University
7. Ky Pohler, Texas A&M

11:19 am – Business Meeting (Cont.)

- Further discussion regarding the rewrite of the project. Sofia Ortega asked the group to consider how the group can quantify the economic value and impact of what we do. Sofia also discussed the suggestion of the project reviewers to increase the number of objectives for the project and to include an objective specifically related to mentoring/training.
- Jessica Drum relayed that any collaboration solicitations that members may have should be emailed to the secretary.

11:55pm - Meeting adjourned