

2013 Annual Technical Meeting
NE-1049 Regional Project
Key Bridge Marriott, Washington DC
April 4-6, 2013

1. General business
 - a. Welcome and attendance
 - b. Introductions
 - c. Approve minutes of 2012 NE-1029 Technical Meeting
 - d. Additions to agenda
 - e. Election of new Chair and Secretary
 - f. Select next year's meeting location

2. New business
 - a. NE-1049: October 2012 to September 2017
 - b. Objective 1: Local/Regional Foods - To better understand the emerging opportunities and threats to the economic structure of non-metropolitan communities arising from the potential shifts in local and regional food systems.
 - c. Objective 2: Community Resilience and Natural / Human-Made Disasters - To identify and analyze policies and strategies contributing to the viability and resiliency of communities in responding to economic and policy changes and to natural and human-made shocks.
 - Natural disasters - floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.
 - Human-made "disasters" - economic, terrorism, poor pest policies, etc.
 - Resiliency in this context is more than emergency management. Long-term perspective is critical, not the short-term FEMA-type view such as a focus on rebuilding in damaged areas. Our focus is on long-run sustainability and ability of communities to respond to changes and to grow.
 - d. Plans for upcoming year: conferences, grant proposals, other collaborations

3. Review of state accomplishments and individual activities

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MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 9am
2. Attendance: Brian Whitacre (Oklahoma State University), Peter Stenberg (ERS), Dawn Thilmany (Colorado State University), Stephan Goetz (NERCRD and Penn State University), John Halstead (University of New Hampshire), Philip Watson (University of Idaho), Tom Johnson (University of Missouri), Matt Fannin (Louisiana State University), Bruce Weber (Oregon State University), David Hughes (Clemson University), Mark Burkey (North Carolina A&T University), Siew Lim (North Dakota State University), Daniel Rossi (Rutgers University), Leigh-Anne Krometis (Virginia Tech University), Dave Shideler (Oklahoma State University), Judy Stallmann (University of Missouri), Pat Hipple (NIFA, USDA), Mark Skidmore (Michigan State University), Warren Kriesel (University of Georgia), Mark Partridge (The Ohio State University), Todd Gabe (University of Maine)
3. Minutes from the 2012 NE-1029 meeting were approved
4. One addition to the agenda was made: a NIFA report from Pat Hipple (see item 9 below)
5. Election of new Chair-Elect / Secretary: Philip Watson. Next year's officers will be Brian Whitacre (Chair) and Philip Watson (Chair-Elect / Secretary)
6. 2014 meeting location was selected: San Antonio as part of the SRSA annual meetings
7. New business: The NE-1049 multi-state project was approved for October 2012 to September 2017. NE-1049 has two broad objectives: (1) local / regional foods, and (2) community resilience and natural / human-made disasters.
8. Review of state accomplishments and individual activities:
 - Mark S. (Michigan State University): fiscal health of local communities, resilience of local governments, natural disasters.
 - Judy S. (University of Missouri): fiscal health of local governments, TELs, local budgets and population trends in Missouri; some collaborative work with Steve Deller.
 - Dave S. (Oklahoma State University): impacts of local foods, natural disasters (droughts).
 - Leigh-Anne K. (Virginia Tech University): access to clean drinking water, sanitation.

Siew L. (North Dakota State University): impacts of oil boom on housing, food prices, etc.

Mark B. (North Carolina A&T University): measures of accessibility to hospitals, alcohol, etc.

Tom J. (University of Missouri): farmer's markets, impacts of local foods versus conventional agriculture, water system disruptions, droughts, wealth creation.

Matt F. (Louisiana State University): fiscal health indicators and resiliency, natural disasters, local contracts (e.g., debris removal, hospital evacuations, etc.).

Philip W. (Idaho State University): helping districts rewrite economic development strategies, community capital and asset mapping, policies that affect sector bias, resilience.

Bruce W. (Oregon State University): community resilience and rural wealth creation, community impacts of federal forest policy, community viability threshold analysis, tsunami resilience.

David H. (Clemson University): agribusiness and economic development, economic scorecards, healthcare and hospital readmittance, social entrepreneurship.

John H. (University of New Hampshire): single-stream recycling, social capital and land use, supply and demand for local agriculture.

Stephan G. (NERCRD and Penn State University): jobs and entrepreneurship, local and regional food systems, balanced use of natural resources, resilience in input-output framework, energy and environment.

Dawn T. (Colorado State University): marketing and demand for local foods, beer and wine (i.e., alcohol production) cluster, best practices for local foods impact studies, impacts of agriculture, droughts, land easements.

Warren K. (University of Georgia): extension-based exercise tool, GIS on-line tools for hurricane damage avoidance.

Peter S. (ERS): local foods, rural wealth, renewable energy / fracking, rural broadband.

Brian W. (Oklahoma State University): rural broadband, rural health and hospitals, electronic health records, impacts of USDA water projects, impacts of quality jobs act.

Mark P. (The Ohio State University): complex ecosystems, Lake Erie amenity growth, income inequality and poverty, attraction of talented people, natural gas drilling in Ohio, impacts of coal.

Todd G. (University of Maine): human capital and economic development, broadband, local foods, environmental and energy technology.

9. NIFA report (Pat Hipple)

Pat's roles on the project are: (1) compliance officer, (2) advocacy, and (3) information officer. Pat discussed some of the challenges facing NIFA (no travel budget, no budget for departmental reviews, no budget to pay registration for conferences) and recent changes (new Director of NIFA, a team-based approach for virtual Center for Rural America). Pat noted that NSF sociology program is interested in multi-state projects for "ready made scholarship."

Pat asked us to compile a list of datasets that we use in our research.

Here are the datasets: Bureau of Economic Analysis—Regional Economic Information System; Bureau of Economic Analysis—Industry Data and Regional Data; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Local Employment Dynamics; U.S. Census—American Community Survey; U.S. Census—County Business Patterns; U.S. Census—various economic censuses; Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Employment Statistics.

10. Plans for upcoming year.

Dawn T. indicated "good attendance" at AAEA sessions on topics related to NE-1049. She recommended a submission to AAEA for ASSA session. The topics considered were: (1) natural disasters, (2) local public finance and resiliency, (3) rural broadband, (4) local foods, and (5) water resources. Dawn T. suggested "virtual issue" of AJAE or other ag-econ journals with seminal articles on NE-1049 topics. We also discussed special issue of Review of Regional Studies.

11. Meeting adjourned