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| **Participant** | **Affiliation** |
| Karen DeLong | Univ. of Tennesse |
| Alvaro Durand-Morat | Univ. of Arkansas |
| Lynn Kennedy | LSU |
| Andrew Muhammad | Univ. of Tennesse |
| Tom Wahl | North Dakota State University |
| Alejandra Breva Ferrari | LSU |
| Trina Biswas | LSU |
| Luis Ribera | Texas A&M |
| Andy Schmitz | Univ. of Florida |
| Ian Sheldon | Ohio State Univ. |
| Jarrett Whistance | Univ. of Missouri |
| Osei Yeboah | North Carolina A&T Univ. |
| Jim Seale | Univ. of Florida |
| Troy Schmitz | Arizona State Univ. |
| Eric Young | State Ag Experiment Station Directors |

Monday May 21, 2018

Welcoming comments

Eric Young

Federal budget FY2019 passed the House, and it looks very good. Some increases, overall the house increased NIFA budget from $1.407 to $1.446 billion. Hatch Act budget went up $13 million. AFRI went up $50 million

Very little is known about the Senate version of the Farm Bill

The House bill asks for NIFA to continue to consolidate lines

Lawmakers are hopping to have the budget approved within the next month

There is an OMB proposal to consolidate NASS and ERS. The House budget maintains the ERS budget

**Farm Bill**

There are good provisions for extension. Consolidation of SNAP/FNAP for nutrition education

Increase in OREI funding

The bill instructs USDA to address the lack of investment in university infrastructure

Simplification of annual report process for NIFA

State of NAFTA negotiations

State of cotton in the farm bill.

**Project Proposal**

The peer review process went fine. The writing committee addressed the comments of the peer reviewers, and the review of the revised version is ongoing. Two of the reviewers already proposed to approve it without changes. There is one response still pending, but there are no reasons to think there will be any big issue.

Eric anticipates that everything will be done and approved within 3 to 4 weeks. Then will go up to NIFA.

S1062 finishes in September 30, 2018, and the new S1072 project begins in October 1, 2018.

Members can join the S1072 project filling an Appendix E. Everyone has to do a new Appendix E submission to participate in S1072, even current members of S1062.

The termination report is the most important report. It is important to state clearly the **accomplishments and impacts** of the entire S1062 project (use bullets). NIFA uses those reports to show the impact of these multi-state projects. Charts, tables and pictures are preferred ways to show the impact of the project.

The length is relative. The most important parts are accomplishments and impacts. We can also include the minutes. The timeline is 60 days after today. Our key audience is NIFA since they will review the report. Termination report should also include information for the public at large. We need to provide good content for the impact writer.

We should outline the accomplishment and impact part in this meeting. Linking the help of this project to other grants the group has obtained.

On the new project, the objectives are pretty much a continuation of S1062 objectives. Connect ongoing activities into S1072.

How does crop insurance affect production decisions? This is an interesting topic for research where there is no much literature

The new meeting will be under the new S1072 project.

The regular annual report is primarily the minutes.

The Puerto Rico and Amsterdam meeting are part of S1062

We need a list of publications for the last year

We will send an email to all participants asking for their list of accomplishments and impacts of research related to this project to write the project termination report

Ian raised a good point about the group doing outreach activities about trade. He suggests we should be more proactive about informing the public about the benefits of trade

There are many proposals for upscaling our contribution to the agricultural trade literature (sections in meetings, papers, etc.)

Monday Afternoon Section

The new proposal (S1072) is done. The remaining topic in the agenda is when and where to meet next time.

Tentative date: Last week of October, or November 11-14.

Options are (1) Charleston, SC, (2) Savanah, GA, (3) St. Pete/Clearwater, FL; (4) Austin, TX; (5) San Antonio, TX; (6) Puerto Rico.

Some members are proposing to invite someone from ERS or EMP to talk to the group

Most of the discussion in the afternoon section was on NAFTA publications

Conference in Moose Jaw in June. Idea to organize a section on NAFTA in the Winter Meeting

The product will be 12 to 15 papers (including papers from talks in Moose Jaw)

1. Overview of NAFTA, origin and characteristics; NAFTA and its relations with other free trade agreements; Trade trends for NAFTA members beyond NAFTA (Luis, Andrew, Ian)
2. Changing nature of trade (changing value chains, such as importing vegetables from Canada, or beef from Mexico)
3. Exchange rate (Lynn, Kwan Choi Iowa State)
4. Labor migration (Steven Zahniser ERS)
5. Multinationals
6. Is agricultural even important in the global context? Agriculture in the whole economy
7. Dumping and countervailing cases under NAFTA (Andrew Schmitz, Jonathan Coleman USITC)
8. Suspension agreements (Troy and Jim)
9. Lumber (van Kooten)
10. Dairy (Troy and Karen)
11. Meats (beef, pork, and poultry) (Andrew, Tom, Karen, and Alvaro)
12. Fisheries (James Anderson)
13. Citrus market and technology
14. Fresh fruits and vegetables (Luis)
15. Traditional crops (soybean, corn, etc.) have dominated the talks but other are becoming more relevant
16. Link between policy and trade and NAFTA
17. Trend in US trade integration relative to other countries/regions (Mohammad
18. Steel experts Caroline Frain
19. Preference erosion
20. NAFTA free trade and compensation (Barichello UBC)

The deadline for these papers is December

**TUESDAY MAY 22, 2018.**

State Reports

Texas

Parr Rosson was named interim director for extension. There is a new interim department head

Positions opened in (1) Lubbock and (2) Amarillo.

Budget has been flat

Finishing an AMS grant on border infrastructure

Finishing an AMS grant on the locking system with Texas Transportation Institute

APHIS grant on invasive species and their impact on international trade

Finishing an EMP grant in Brazil (Brazil 2024). The report should be out in the coming months

Work on NAFTA. Using CGE modelling to assess the impact of the NAFTA agreement

Working on water issues in the U.S.-Mexico border

Arkansas

Salary increases after several years without increases

Research activities include the new international rice baseline

Analysis of proposals for 2018 Farm Bill and their impact on AR farms

Impact of tariff retaliation on US and Arkansas rice, soybeans, cotton, corn, and sorghum.

Impact of weeds and diseases on rice productivity and international trade (one paper under review in Global Food Security, another ready for submission)

Consumer preferences for different rice quality attributes in Peru (under review in Agribusiness)

Impact of ECOWAS common external tariff on the global rice market

**Tennessee**

Written state report

**LSU**

Budget remains flat

Lost several positions. Hired an instruction and a couple of assistant professors.

Farm Bureau wants to endow a chair in Ag Policy

Research related to S1062. Focus on food security; tax policies and food accessibility index; modelling of 15% soybean tariff

Working on locking system in the Mississippi River

Search for a new research dean

**Florida**

Andrew

Undergoing interesting times. All switched to 9-month appointment.

A lot of changes and a state of flux. Many new hires and a move to instructors rather than tenure track positions.

Yield maintenance in sugar cane in Florida. Paper in Crop Science.

Finished the volume on Handbook in Ag Economics

Issue on storage and market stability. There is no need for the government to store commodities to stabilize markets. Governments should never get into storage

Jim

Published a paper on the impact of the Food Safety Modernization Act. Working on a paer on organic food in Denmark.

**Missouri**

Budget remains flat. The state is compensating for some of the losses of federal funds

Undergoing consolidation to streamline programs

Process of filling three positions: one faculty position just filled, one agricultural economist extension and agronomist extension position still pending.

Conducting stress testing on several banking institutions

**Ohio**

No budgetary problems, raises have happened every year. Salaries are lagging relative to other competitive institutions

Four new assistant professors hired (Stanford, Yale, Cornell, and Davis).

Will soon advertise the position for Department Head. A new Dean was recently hired

Replacing Carl Zulauf.

Working a lot with trade lawyers on trade law.

Papers using new Ricardian model. IPR impact on seed exports. NSF project looking at the impact of de-globalization on agriculture and the environment in the Great Lake Region.

Significant extension and outreach activities

**NC A&T**

Have given 2-3% salary increases in the last 3 years after many years without salary increases.

Almost all Deans are interim around campus. The Dept. lost many positions. The Center is looking for a research associate.

Climate and energy paper published in Energy Economics. Last year of AFRI’s project on COOL.

Third year into the food security project in Ghana.

Looking at bilateral trade agreements and their impact on the NC agricultural sector

Working with Dr. Shaek (NDSU) on paper on GMO and trade in TPP