**Minutes from W3112 Annual Meeting September 3 and 4, 2020**

This meeting was online via Zoom due to the travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Member-at-large Anna Denicol (CA) generated a Zoom meeting link that was shared with the group.

**Members present:**

Milan Shipka – AK – **Administrator**

Sean Limesand - AZ

Anna Denicol – CA – **Member-at-large**

Russ Anthony – CO

Thomas Hansen - CO

Kristen Govoni – CT

John Hall – ID - **Chair**

Phil Cardoso – IL

David Grieger - KS

Caleb Lemley - MS

Andrea Cupp – NE

Ryan Ashley – NM

Jennifer Herdandez-Gifford - NM

Michelle Kutzler - OR

Wansheng Liu – PA

Nathan Long - SC

Ky Pohler – TX

John Stevens - UT

Brenda Alexander – WY

**September 3, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 8 am PST by chair John Hall. Brief introductions followed.

**Administrator’s report:** Milan Shipka. This is Milan’s last year as the group’s Administrator, with a new Administrator to be assigned for 2021. The report included a reiteration that the members needed to discuss the project re-write as the current project ends in 2021.

**USDA report**: Mark Mirando joined the meeting to provide the USDA annual report. The USDA has undergone personnel changes in 2020. The budget has been slightly increased this fiscal year in comparison to the previous year. The AFRI Foundational and Applied Research Program’s RFA has been released for FY 2021 and 2022. The submission deadline for 2021 is May and for 2022, August. The plan is to make the annual deadline between August and September in the future. The award cap for this program increased to US$ 650,000 in 2021.

Dr. Mirando also pointed out other funding opportunities such as the OREI (organic agriculture) which currently has a 90-100% funding rate.

Next, the group discussed elections of the member-at-large and the meeting location for 2021. Brenda Alexander (UW) self-nominated to be the member-at-large. The nomination was unanimously approved by the group. The group decided to have the 2021 meeting in Lincoln, NE in May 2021. The tentative dates for the meeting are May 21-22, 2021.

Next, stations gave updates on hirings, retirements, and budgets for their respective Departments. At 9:20 am the group moved into the station annual reports. The following stations provided reports followed by discussions: PA, CT, IL, WY, UT, OR, NM (Hernandez-Gifford), MS, TX, SC, CO (Anthony), CA, NM (Ashley), ID. The meeting was adjourned for the day at 2:30 pm PST.

**September 4, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am PST by chair John Hall. Three more stations gave annual reports: CO (Hansen), NE, KS. Next, the following topics were discussed:

* Organization of a symposium about reproductive performance in ruminants to be held during the Annual Meeting of the American Animal Science Association (ASAS) in 2021. The ASAS accepts symposia suggestions every year, and the submitted suggestions are reviewed by the meeting board. Anna Denicol volunteered to lead the effort of putting together a full day program that would include several members as speakers. Ky Pohler, Ryan Ashley, and Tod Hansen volunteered to be part of a sub-committee to revise Anna Denicol’s initial draft before final submission. This subcommittee will meet again before the submission deadline (Sep 24).
* Approval of the minutes of the 2019 meeting held in Boise, ID. The group reviewed the minutes. Kristin Govoni moved a motion to accept the minutes, and Andrea Cupp seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
* Discussion about the re-write of the W3112 project for the next 5 years. Brenda Alexander will lead the re-write effort. Tod Hansen, Anna Denicol, Jennifer Herdandez-Gifford, John Hall and Andrea Cupp volunteered to be part of a sub-committee to support leader Brenda in this effort. This sub-committee will meet again before the January 2021 submission deadline to further discuss and refine the project. Discussion with the larger group ensued regarding the research objectives for the future project, as well as accomplishments and impacts of the group during the last 5 years including publications and research funding received by each member.
* The project re-write discussion also resulted in collaboration discussions between members as they defined objectives and future projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am PST.