**NC1198/Agriculture of the Middle Meeting**

**17-10-17**

**Participants:** David Conner, Hikaru Peterson, Joe Colletti , Marcy Ostrom, Shermain Hardesty, Chuck Francis, Tommy Bass, Keith Harris, Lindsey Day Farnsworth, Liz Kramer, Phil Howard, Keiko Tanaka, Kate Clancy, Christy Brekken, Rob King, Larry Burmeister, Larry Lev, Lauren Gwin, Libby Christensen, Mary Hendrickson, Alejandro Plastina. Kathy DeMaster remotely

USDA phone call cancelled due to health issues and review panels—tentative plan to reschedule remote call with the USDA.

**Review of Meeting Goals**

**Project Updates and New Research**

* 2017 is year 1 for new NC-1198 cycle (per federal fiscal year)
	+ See objectives attached to agenda
* Need to recruit new/younger members for NC-1198
	+ Non-land grant affiliates can join through UW-Madison (as Kate Clancy has)
* Potential new research questions/areas
	+ “Big Data” – What sort of data do farmers and retailers need? What sort of analytic tools do they need? What barriers to data impede their work?
		- Need to balance/integrate qualitative data into big data and develop better mechanisms to ensure that research based on big data is still grounded and meaningful to growers/supply chain stakeholders.
		- Hendrickson and Howard have been looking at ownership of big data—a growing concern for farmers
			* Some types of data ownership impede transparency, which is critical for VBSC
				+ For example, John Deere plans to aggregate/analyze data from all their tractors—public sector doesn’t have access to this sort of data
		- There also may be legal/liability issues associated with ownership of info/technology that results in accidents
		- Cooperative Extension is a potential partner in this work
			* SARE/Cooperative Extension in southeastern US may also be worth tapping into to advance this work
			* UW-Madison is exploring collaboration with tribes in Wisconsin, and ARS is a willing partner in the region

**Highlights from Individual Project Updates**

Lauren Gwin:

* Oregon has developed a set of indicators on rural food systems development, they are now partnering with MSU

Libby Christensen

* Colorado State has created benchmarking tools available online
* They are also analyzing responses to a local food survey and working on a rural indicator project based on NYC Green Markets, will be putting in a FAR grant to continue the work

David Conner

* Wrapping up a project with food hubs
	+ Surveyed buyers to understand how they benefit from transparent local sourcing
	+ Working with ag lenders to understand and communicate what makes a good borrower application for wholesale farmers

Hikaru Peterson

* Surveyed small and medium-sized farms, will focus on outreach in last year of project
* Twin Cities-wide farmers’ market pilot project, 30 markets participating, aim to expand to 100 markets
* Examining role of backhauling in scaling up by using grocery stores as aggregation/drop-sites (very new project)
* Teaching intro to food systems at University of Minnesota, includes a component on Ag of the Middle (3000-level class, primarily upper-classmen across College of Ag)

Joe Colletti

* Looking at the health benefits of the global food system

Marcy Ostrom

* Has been working on a new journal publication coming out soon with international articles on food systems development
* Will be presenting at Food Distribution Research Society meeting

Shermain Hardesty

* Researching opportunities for small and mid-size producers in specialty foods markets
* Examining impacts of food safety regs (FSMA) on producers above the $5K threshold

Chuck Francis

* Has been teaching agroecology in Norway and Nebraska
* Examining land-grabs in the Global South
* Would like NC-1198 group to consider questions about “Up-scaling” vs. “right-sizing”, thinking in terms of “food webs” instead of “supply chains”, and considering life cycle analysis as a greater part of our work

Tommy Bass

* Extension faculty at Montana
* Historically focused on water issues, now working on Montana beef to school case studies
* Pursuing PhD, focus on modeling for local beef supply chains in Montana🡪how would ad hoc system be disrupted by optimizations in bee supply chain

Keith Harris

* Studying transaction costs related to food supply chains
	+ Working with 1890 institutions and Detroit Food Policy Council & partners in Kansas City
	+ Exploring ways to help local producers/food-based orgs to enter wholesale market space

Lindsey Day Farnsworth

* Working on case study research of multi-scale produce markets and food hubs to identify models that build markets for small and mid-sized regional producers and facilitate greater logistical flexibility and resilience
* In second phase, research will be presented at supply chain stakeholder meetings in the Upper Midwest to inform regional food distribution planning
* Also working with public/private partners in metro Madison to use research to inform food systems planning—especially for AOTM distribution—at the city/county level

Liz Kramer

* Working on on-farm food waste research to understand why product is left in the field and how to connect it with local markets
* Also conducting perennial corn study with an emphasis on water use with economic component focused on barriers to adoption
* Working to build capacity in the land grant system by building learning communities through SAREP

Mary Hendrickson

* Studying power dynamics and dependencies within ag networks
	+ Looking at different freedoms from/to
	+ Future work will focus on new forms of anti-trust and anti-monopoly laws—may surface in a different part of law
	+ Hearing from market vendors see businesses such as Blue Apron as the biggest threat to their direct marketing
	+ Urges NC-1198 group to consider pros/cons of Amazon’s acquisition of Whole Foods
	+ SARE National Conference in St. Louis in spring 2018 will have a focus on local food (Apr 3-5)
		- Enthusiasm among NC-1198 group in assembling an AOTM panel

Phil Howard

* New website: philhoward.net
* New paper on uniformity in grain production
* Recently returned from Rome, new report “Too Big to Feed”
* <http://www.ipes-food.org>
* report on Michigan hops and barley supply chains for craft beer to be completed soon.

Larry Lev

* Recently served on an AOTM external examiner at PhD defense in Ireland
	+ Dissertator interviewed many producers at Country Natural Beef to inform development of Irish beef industry (there are 100,000 beef farmers in Ireland)
* Public Policy Master’s student recently studied effects of rising minimum wage in direct-market agriculture in Oregon—producers can’t pass increased production costs to consumers, so they’re shifting their production methods, labor practices, market channels

Keiko Tanaka

* Developing MS and PhD database on a variety of recent graduate research on food hubs, supply chains, and related AOTM topics

Michelle Miller

* Developing a paper on critical thresholds in food distribution systems
* Wrapping a study on Domestic Fair Trade
* Sponsoring Ag and Human Values conference in June 2018 in Wisconsin, WI
* UW-Madison CIAS staff recently drafted an article in The Washington Post—it has yet to be published

Gail Feenstra

* Working on market development for small and mid-sized producers through workshops & mixers
* Also developing a new crop—“moringa”—a “super food” originating from India, they hope to market this product in a dried form as well
* Also working on urban agriculture, especially that related to youth development
* Recently completed study on 10 food policy councils in California—articles forthcoming
* Building capacity to incorporate racial and social justice issues into programming Ag Sustainability Institute and SAREP, and starting at ground zero
* ucop.edu - Global Food Initiative - new UC initiative started by Office of the President – funding some GMO research, but also funding a lot of small scale and sustainable ag

Kate Clancy

* AFRI EFSNE (Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast) Project wrapping up after 7 years
	+ Highly interdisciplinary project
	+ 15 papers in the works
		- Most to be published in RAFS and JAFSCD (Renewable Foods Systems, Journal of Agriculture, Food Security, and Community Development)
* Working with Jen Oughton at University of Washington to develop a new food systems undergraduate program in food systems
	+ Has researched programs at VT, NH, and other places to inform development of this program
* Bloomberg School of Public Health received massive funding from Bloomberg foundation for five initiatives
* APLU report released in May 2017 – read this report! – INFAS decided to infiltrate and really helped shape it
	+ The entire report is on systems and transformative research

<http://www.aplu.org/projects-and-initiatives/international-programs/challenge-of-change/institutional-transformation.html>

Christy Anderson Brekken

* Working on some publications
	+ Regional food markets in rural areas as an appropriate economic development strategy
	+ Impact of Oregon’s small scale marketing bill
	+ Agricultural land succession and keeping land in ag as farmers age
	+ Took over food systems course at OSU, now includes an e-campus version with an open version of systems thinking and food systems

Rob King

* Will be teaching Christy’s course in Oregon
* Released some new papers on economics of organics, possibly in Choices
* Just retired

Larry Burmeister

* Collaborating on Understanding Domestic Fair Trade Project at UW-Madison
* Recently published a paper with Keiko in JAFSCD on power dynamics in VBSC that may impact opportunities and constraints in fair labor practices—it’s functionally a plea for better methodologies

Alejandro Plastina

* Examining water quality issues in ag in Iowa
* Examining farm-level data on mid-level farms
* Looking at decoupling of Farm Bill programs and the ramifications for farmers

KathyDeMaster

 **·**Have completed (with Marcy) a co-edited special journal issue, soon to be published, comparing AOTM with European Union mid-range initiatives

*(International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food*)

**·**Have begun a project, funded through USDA Small and Mid-sized Farms seed grant, on farmland access and farmland financialization (with Madeleine Fairbairn and Loka Ashwood co-PIs)

**·**Have been working on diversified farming systems project with organic strawberry growers in CA's Central Coast region

**·**Nearing completion on co-edited volume (with Saru Jayaraman) to UC Press that includes topical chapters, including one by Phil Howard, relevant to AOTM research team: *Food Democracy: Winning Back our Food System from Corporations*

Gail Feenstra

* Working on market development for small and mid-sized producers through workshops & mixers
* Working with UCCE and Hmong farmers in Fresno on a new crop—“moringa”—a “super food” originating from India, they hope to produce and market this product in a dried form as well
* Also working on urban agriculture, especially that related to youth development
* Recently completed study on 10 food policy councils in California—articles forthcoming
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* ucop.edu - Global Food Initiative - new UC initiative started by Office of the President –funding a lot of projects that address sustainable food systems for CA and world’s growing population

**Misc AOTM/VBSC Project Updates**

* Examining vertical integration
	+ Loss of transparency when small/mid-sized growers start increasing their volume for distribution by buying product from other growers but still labeling the product as if they grew it
	+ Ag Econ Search 🡪 search “King & Lev” for this work
	+ We should post a link to this paper at the AOTM website too
* Term “mid-sized” used inconsistently across researchers/fields and by NC 1198 members themselves – this is worth revisiting
	+ The “story space” related to ag of the middle is also really important and varies depending on other products attributes (e.g. organic), markets, etc.
	+ Ostrom and De Master are working on a paper about this
	+ Nelly McAdams also wrote a paper (assessment for EcoTrust) out of Oregon that discusses scale in context
* Impact of VBSC on farmers study (NC 1198 collaboration)
	+ Collaborators: Gail Feenstra, Christy Brekken, Keiko Tanaka, et al.
	+ Developed online database and map of known VBSCs, case studies, trends in VBSCs, typology
	+ “Marketing Strategies to Consumers Who Care” – Survey
		- Selection criteria based on values statement, supply chain transparency, and types of farmers they source from
		- Survey unit = farmers
		- Participating businesses include: Appalachian Harvest, Cherry Capital Foods, Co-op Partners Warehouse, Veritable Vegetable, Shepard’s grains, Local Foods, Organically Grown Company, FEED Sonoma, and others
		- Substantial difficulty getting businesses to circulate the survey to their farmers🡪 can this group discuss strategies for collaborating to reduce interview/survey fatigue among certain commonly studied VBSCs?
	+ Findings:
		- Farm size: Avg acres: 677.7, farm gross sales range: less than $1000 to over $1M
		- Other market channels: direct, co-ops, retail outlets
		- Product range: poultry, eggs, dairy animals, tree fruits and nuts, peas and beans, vegetables, nursery, berries, melons, hay and forage crops, and more
		- Regional representation:
			* High representation in Western US and northeast, moderate representation in upper Midwest and mid-Atlantic, and a huge gap in plains and south central US.
		- Higher than anticipated difficulty with access to study participants via surveys
		- Farmers participate in VBSCs for a variety of reasons—reduced costs/equal or better prices are just some of the motivations, timely payment is a major motivator (David Connor found this to be true for food producers who sell to food hubs too).
		- High percentage of respondents (90%) perceive benefits of participating in a VBSC
		- It could be useful to explore perceptions of producers supplying to a specific buyer to see if there is variation across different VBSCs
		- Perceived challenges:
			* About 50% of respondents perceived challenges
			* Biggest grievances: “VBSC won’t take enough volume”

**Cross-cutting topics for afternoon work groups**

* Definitions of scale
* Data collection/farmer fatigue
* Aggregation/distribution
* Labor/wages/ownership issues
* Race/ethnicity/gender issues
1. *Farmer fatigue, data needs*

Participants: Lindsey, Libby, David

So much data being collected, but concerns about privacy. Best practices, ways to engage people (providing money and include in grant), building relationships with organizations

Big data, who has availability to the big data, key private organizations that hold that and could build relationships with them (Real Food Challenge and Sydecso, Center for Good Food Purchasing, Blue Apron, Whole Foods/Amazon), thinking strategically about being proactive and they are dictating terms of “local” foods, we can hold the accountable and encourage transparency across the system, recognizing level of data collected for the green market but might not be realistic for others. How do we collect data that is “good enough” to answer the questions we are asking?

Clarifying our definitions could help us be strategic about gathering the information we are seeking.

Certifications allow a lot of data collection—are there organizations that do certifications that could provide data? A lot of organic system plans are not digitized, so very difficult to work with them—not always comparable (Oregon Tilth has data, but we are looking for research questions that can be answered by those questions—and OR Tilth has really good data, comparatively!).

Can use Open Cities data, but not always useful, difficult to work with a lot of data like that; secondary data from USDA also difficult to work with and it is being used in IMPLAN and others

Farmers are also over-surveyed, so it is important to be very clear about why this is important. Problem that we are not operating at the speed of business because there is a long time lag between doing the survey and getting some results back that is meaningful to them.

But farmers/orgs generally want the descriptive data, and that is pretty easy to turn out. That’s a best practice.

Dealing with IRB, grant applications, data management plans, encouraged to make data available to other researchers, etc. Long term plans for the data will be the norm. University library systems may become data repository.

1. *Definition of scale within VBSC, AOTM*

Participants: Kate, Alejandro, Christy, Larry, Lindsey

Need for communications and cohesion:

* Definitions (what are we studying)
* Justification (why are we studying it)

Do we need to put up the definition that we have in order to have a group conversation about the definitions and descriptors?

Small and local are easy to understand and romantic, but regional/mid-scale are more systemic and more difficult to communicate. We haven’t had these conversations as a group for a long time and maybe it would be a good exercise to review the definitions.

Marcy and Kathy had to adjust the definition a bit for a journal article because there is a diversity in all of the sectors that we are talking about. Another thing that has happened is that if we emphasize small, we lose middle completely.

VBSCs are another thing to define and be sure that we understand them.

When we came down to doing case studies, we fudged because a lot of the businesses that we studied were a little different and the categories got bigger. In the first case studies, none of them met all of the criteria. The definition was always aspirational (and still is).

Using some categories about VBSC can still be normative and some groups have been excluded from our studies. For example, MI State put together food hub survey to produce distributors that have some “values” that they provide to their communities. But if you send the same survey to many other similar “mom and pop” businesses, you would get a lot of the same responses to the values questions about supporting their community. Some traditional businesses are left out of our research that move food around on some mid-scale (“old-time folks”). Could also bring in some race/gender elements. On the other hand, some of the large players have extraordinary long-term relationships with their suppliers and do similar things.

1. *Labor/wages (and privacy)*

Participants: Larry B., Lauren G., Chuck F.

What are the key questions we need to explore in this arena?

* finding research protocols that are comfortable
* impact on small farms, sustainably managed farms
* how to value different sources of labor
* current political situation on immigration, farm labor
* justice & equity issues in our projects
* change away from New Deal, exempting farm labor from labor laws
* how do value-based supply chains impact fair labor practices
* what is the stance of mid-sized farmers
* what incentives are needed, eg. market share advantage, a sales tactic
* what incentives, eg. fair trade certification, including labor issues
* what incentives, eg. organic certification, currently under debate
* how important is the barter economy on local labor & resilience
* what is the structure of labor, impact on local economy
* do we have enough data (county level) on entrepreneurs versus wage labor
* are there models of mid-scale farmer groups effectively dealing with labor
* most studies are on niche markets (eg. Organic Valley); are there broader models
* what is the fold of farm labor effectiveness, reach, impact
* what are differences in results among who we approach: producers, aggregators, consumers
* what are key entry points to approach farmers, eg. 'what are your labor challenges'
* what are differences among farm enterprises, eg. dairy + continuous labor vs fruit & vegetable crops + seasonal labor
* who do we talk to, and how do we handle IRB certification
* what are impacts of minimum wage laws and/or overtime wage law

Others from the large group: follow up on what happened after the minimum wage increase in OR—farmers distinguished between high schoolers v immigrant farm workers and how they are perceived differently

Could we do a research program to look at the long term impacts of minimum wage changes (OR, CA overtime law, others to compare—Kathy DeMaster, Lauren, Christy)?

Minimum wage multiple state—it’s about compensation in total, social safety net, can’t just focus on wages (Michelle previous study); Study of farm worker unions?

1. *Ownership*

Explore different types of ownership structures occur, impacts of changing market

Transparency in ownership, difficulties in being able to negotiate, is there a race/ethnicity component to ownership, debt structures

1. *Food flow…form of organizing*

David, Liz, Tom, Shermain, Michelle: Works in progress out there—ag engineers at Upsala, Sweden—uses GIS and supply chain optimization software that focuses on local ag (produce, nodes in the system, simulation experiments, etc.)

Who is positioned to help AOTM improve logistics, study logistics, etc.?

Kate’s project—Miguel Gomez at Cornell led several studies; contributions to regional economy of each part of the supply chain, not just to producers. More information about what supply chains looks like and how they might adapt to changes in demand, climate change, etc. Think about what to optimize for.

Lifecycle analysis and footprinting from MN work (Jason Hill) looking at moving corn through a system depending on where it is going—livestock vs bioenergy—showing different results in each depending on which region and uses it goes toward.

Rockefeller Resilient Cities, many cities have sustainability/resilience for cities and are now also looking at those aspects for city food systems, each city as own natural disaster risks, etc. Looking at distribution of warehousing relative to transportation, would have to optimize different aspects for different food systems. Also find Emerald Cities initiative which also connects to communities of color. Milan Movement is international and cities sign up and includes food systems; only 4 US cities signed up. FoodResilience.org as resource (several people associated with AOTM have papers there).

Systems analysis is used across discipline, and not sure how disciplined we are in the use of it. Could use some engineers to help; sustainability, lifecycle analysis, industrial engineers, energy, food waste.

1. *Race/ethnicity/gender*

Lost opportunity in the VBSC project—didn’t ask race/ethnicity

Need to have some kind of training (1) Training ourselves how to design project to incorporate equity/inclusion issues; (propose to national SARE) Workshop/panel to lead at the national level (2) Effort to develop national study on race, ethnicity, gender in AOTM from farm to market—ask AFRI, SARE (will fund at national level for national interests) (3) proposing special issue on race/ethnicity/class/gender on farmers and orgs; different journals of interest; series of short articles (with a framing paper before it—journal rural social science)

Land and Power (2001) SARE book on people of color in sustainable ag focusing on the South; INFAS and local and regional food systems eCOPs have done training; NSAC and Kellogg both doing training; there is a lot going on so would be good to dig into what else is happening in the space—there is some challenge in doing something more when there is a lot going on, or attracting people/grant to a narrower space toward AOTM; frame it around small/mid-sized farms the way USDA does with NIFA rural development grants? AOTM is taking a systemic view for a systemic problem, and race/ethnicity/gender needs a systemic approach that we could have some expertise on, so framed more on food systems approach rather than directly AOTM; case study focus on VBSCs that focus on POC all the way through the supply chain

*AFRI Grant Program Updates:*

Kate: No big changes right now. Farm Bill—stuff coming out of House very bad (especially appropriations), Senate not so bad right now, but no predicting that now.

**Ag & Food Policy Briefs**

Lauren & Christy lead session on how to develop a policy brief based on NC 1198 members’ summer 2017 policy survey responses

* Policy Brief How-To handout distributed to group
* Potential aims: change public/private policy through legislation and/or administrative processes
* Target brief to specific audiences with sensitivity to the degree to which they’re data-driven vs. motivated by narratives, their level of risk aversion, their knowledge of topic, their anticipated concerns/reservations, etc.
* In analysis section, indicate policy change options and note that no change is an option, then indicate known/possible outcomes, tangential benefits, and unintended consequences
* Policy brief should specify recommendations, “an ask”, or minimally research-based statements about likely consequences of distinct policy actions—that’s what differentiates a policy brief from other information
* At UC Davis, there is a work group on “Research to Policy” which had a training by a group called Compass that helped them understand how communicate their research effectively and appropriately to policy makers and lay audiences
* Basis of IRS law behind role of Extension/faculty vis-à-vis policy is the difference between education and advocacy—so it’s crucial to key this in mind
* Question: Could NC 1198 post non-state specific briefs to the AOTM website?

### NSAC Update

### NSAC staff on call: Julie Obudzinski, Ferd Hoefner, Kanika Gandhi

* Founded in Midwest about 30 years, effectively came out of the Farm Crisis
* One of NSAC’s first major projects was advocating for the SARE Program
* NSAC has been loosely connected to NC 1198 since beginning
* NSAC’s major policy work related to AOTM are:
	+ Successfully advocating for development of small and mid-sized farm area within AFRI grants program
	+ Codifying mid-sized farm and mid-tier value chains within Rural Development Program
* NSAC has recently released at consensus letter, they have ~24 hours to add any additional organizational, institutions to sign on
* Big new wrinkle in mid-tier value chain funding: they are proposing that value-added Producers grant program and mid-tier value chain funded be consolidated in AMS rather than in Rural Development 🡪 may/may not be realized in 2018 Farm Bill
* NSAC is seeking permanent funding for Beginning Farmer and Rancher grants program, which will be lost if not funded again before current funding runs out
* NSAC is requesting that research on farm profitability for small and mid-sized farmers and minority farmers be formally authorized as a research priority area within AFRI
* Funding/programming for value-added, minority farmers, beginning farmers, renewable energy, and other topics are functionally “the stranded topics” that are most vulnerable from farm bill to farm bill
	+ Rank and file members of congress tend to be excited about these programs, but Ag committee members are not necessarily as enthusiastic about sustainable ag initiatives
	+ NSAC funding for Ag Research and Extension is almost non-existent in comparison to the conservation program work that they do
* How to get involved with NSAC
	+ Track specific campaigns related to specific programs/topic areas by
		- Providing feedback, serving as a connector
		- Join NSAC as a member through your university’s sustainable agriculture center or set-up a call with NSAC staffers to get up to speed on various issues/topics
		- You don’t need to sign up for a “representative membership” in which NSAC functionally speaks for you/your org
* Future of NC 1198 vis-à-vis NSAC involvement:
	+ Great sources of guidance on translating research for lay and policy audiences
		- NSAC, Union of Concerned Scientists
	+ Write policy briefs after any research project and share them with NSAC
* Keep in mind other key advocacy partners at state and national levels
* What can we expect/what might be different about the 2018 Farm Bill
	+ Can’t expect anything from White House
	+ Sonny Perdue has administrative experience and is a policy wonk, so the Farm Bill process is likely to proceed relatively normally

Next steps:

* + Explore integrating a Compass training or training by Science Communicators at UW-Madison into a society meeting, such as the Ag and Human Values Meeting in Wisconsin in June 2018
	+ Set up a conversation with Sarah Lloyd about connecting with national Farmers Union
	+ Consider building long-standing relationships with the media and assistants to congressmen to become really trusted and effective
	+ Kate’s federal food policy update:
		- [Local Food and Regional Market Supply](https://pingree.house.gov/localfarmsact) (FARMS) Act in the works
		- Chellie Pingree – sponsor
		- New Local and Regional Food Economies Program = merge of FMPP and LFPP with VAPP to accommodate new USDA organizational changes proposed by Perdue
		- Regulatory relief to make it easier for schools to buy local
		- Livestock, dairy, and poultry processing and distribution infrastructure grants could be oriented to multi-state regional focus as opposed to solely local (came from Starmer)
		- Great resource: [Grassroots Guide to Federal Farm and Food Programs](http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/)
		- Contact Margaret Krome (Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, close affiliate of NSAC) if you want to reach out to your legislators and write letters as part of the appropriations process

**2018 Planning & Wrap-up**

* Planning Next Year’s Meeting
	+ Tentatively next AOTM Oct 10-11, arrival day Oct 9
* Next NC 1198 chairs:
	+ Keiko Tanaka – 2017-2018
	+ Kathy De Master – 2018-2019
	+ Hikaru Peterson – offers to return to chair role in next 5 years
* Website updates & Annual/meeting reports
	+ Link Rob King’s recent research on Ag Econ Research to AOTM website
	+ Also repost abstract of latest work by Marcy, et al.
	+ Web committee: Keiko and Kathy – Kathy has a student who could help with updating the website
	+ Repost NC 1198 annual reports to AOTM website, and have Kathy’s undergrad link all research listed in reports to website, ideally with date and abstract
	+ Other committees
		- What happened with business committee of AOTM?
			* Larry Lee’s work on Food Commons

**Action Items**

* New Committee will revisit definitions of AOTM, mid-sized farms, and related terms: Hikaru, Marcy, Kate, Michelle, Keiko
* Policy work group work:
	+ Connect with National Farmers Union
	+ Libby Christensen will draft and disseminate a policy brief
* Ask David/Keiko to remind us who the various NC 1198 group leaders are, so that group leaders can update/flesh out NC 1198 objectives
* Keiko to tentatively plan a full group NC 1198 mid-year update call for April 2018
* Work group leaders:
	+ Environmental objective group leaders: Marcy & Liz
	+ Economic group group leaders: David
	+ Soc objective group leaders: Keiko & Gail
	+ Governance objective group leader: Michelle, Clare