

NE1749 Meeting Minutes
3/15/18
Courtyard Marriot, Philadelphia PA

Nomination for secretary

- Responsibilities of the Chair and Secretary
 - Coordinate activities among members
 - Write and submit annual report
 - Hour or two per month commitment
- Each member has to request to be on NE1749. It doesn't automatically roll over. Currently only 12 members on the project. Contact your associate dean if you're having trouble joining.
- When you do your reporting, we are now on the federal calendar year. Expect an email from John Halsted, incoming chair, around September to submit the work you've done on the project.
- Wisconsin nominated as secretary
 - Tessa Conroy and Steve Deller (pending Tessa's addition to the project)
 - Unanimous approval

Peggy's (USDA) comments

- We all have done a lot of work as individuals, but little cohesion as a group
- What can we do as a group to identify a few key areas that are driving rural economic development and help rural communities thrive
 - Then what policies can we propose supported by that research
- Steve Deller: one of the strengths of this group is diversity, but most of us have extension appointments so it's hard to predict what we'll be working on 5-years from now because of the respective state demands
- Judy Strallman: This group has put out edited books
- Steve Deller: Works are coming out of CRENET, but the membership nearly completely overlaps
- Focusing on publications that may be more useful for practitioners
- Steve Deller: The incentive structure for us is not aligned to do more than the bare minimum to satisfy the research station directors
- Dave Schideler: Could there be funding for subgroup meetings to organize collaborative works?
- Mark Skidmore: He benefits a lot by hearing what others in this group are doing
- Steve Deller: This group is very beneficial to develop collaborations

Station reports

1. Steve Deller (Wisconsin)
 - a. Pension work where Mark Skidmore has identified many rural communities in Michigan where pensions were being eliminated or significantly reduced and having a large effect on the entire communities.
 - b. With Tessa Conroy, what drives entrepreneurship? How does net migration by age group affect entrepreneurship?
 - c. Housing stress in rural communities. Perceived labor shortage, why aren't people coming in to fill these jobs? Notion among educators is that either housing shortage or substandard housing is preventing workers from filling vacant positions.
2. Phil Watson (Idaho)
 - a. Finishing up NIFA funded project of how to measure resilience. Quantitatively measuring and evaluating resilience and community capitals.

- b. NIFA funded project with Don Albrect, community business matching extension program that uses a national business survey about what is important to why they expand. Then go to communities and ask them what are their goals and try to match them.
 - c. Examining low wages on whether there is a factor bias or a sector bias
- 3. Judy Stallman (Missouri)
 - a. Do tax and expenditure limitation laws increase inequality within a state?
 - b. Housing stress work with Steve Deller examining how housing stress is affecting credit ratings?
 - c. Budget trends of rural counties in Missouri
 - d. Internet's impact on sales tax, especially the impact on B2B sales
- 4. Mark Skidmore (Michigan State)
 - a. Why is it empirically that places that are growing have high government spending, but when they shrink spending doesn't decline equivalently
 - b. Natural disaster impacts on rural communities, particularly the impact of heatwaves.
 - c. Demand for mobile homes. Fastest growing housing sector, but these homes are more vulnerable to natural disasters
 - d. Behavioral health issues, prescription drug literacy
 - e. Tax delinquency and housing teardowns in Detroit
- 5. Mike Betz (Ohio State)
 - a. How local economic conditions have impacted the crisis. Deaths of despair v. drug environment.
 - b. Estimating costs
 - i. Lost productivity, lost lifetime wages, medical treatment, criminal justice
 - 1. Municipalities are interested in how to measure how much it cost them, but unsure how to claim lost lifetime wages (taxes)
 - ii. Estimating treatment access
 - 1. We estimated Ohio only has capacity to treat 20-40%, but talking with SAMHSA they say the public available data underreports available
 - c. NIFA project on how shale energy development's impact on demographic and family changes in those communities
- 6. Yong Chen (Oregon State)
 - a. Land use effect on rural growth and amenity-related growth.
 - b. NIFA grant to study how rural communities are resilient to natural disasters
- 7. Heather Stephens (West Virginia)
 - a. Opioid micro level data connected to local economic conditions. Are housing values impacting overdoses? What is the causal direction between local economic conditions and overdoses.
 - b. Women's entrepreneurship and family support
 - c. Shale energy development's impacts
- 8. Anders (representing Dawn Thilmany) (Colorado State)
 - a. Regional economic development institute focus on bridging marginalized rural and urban communities. Produce 2-page reports for nonacademic audiences. This year's focus was on the gig economy. Other topics: Decline in local banking and risk of agrotourism.
 - b. NIFA project about financial strains of small and medium-sized farmers and agrotourism. Identifying place-based factors which towns might benefit the most from agrotourism. Examine traveler preferences for agrotourism.

- c. CSU's food system program to address challenges in the food supply chain. How to create urban food policies that support rural communities.
 - d. Beginning stages of EDA grant
- 9. Tessa Conroy (Wisconsin)
 - a. Applied entrepreneurship and how high amenity areas are potentially overeducated and how those overeducated might be entrepreneurs. The extent to which relationships are information communication mechanisms.
 - b. Are parents of young children an answer to labor shortage in parts of Wisconsin.
 - c. Are immigrants good candidates for entrepreneurship
 - d. Entrepreneurship in the broader context of community economic dynamism
- 10. Warren Kriesel (Georgia)
 - a. Coastal land use issues and economies dependent on coastal land use policies
 - b. Evaluation of recession on communities throughout the state
 - c. Developing natural disaster resilient housing stock through retroactively raising flood-susceptible houses off of the ground
- 11. Dave Schideler (Oklahoma State)
 - a. Finishing AFRI project local economic impacts of local food systems. Profitability of local food production across scale and market channel and factors that increase profitability. What is the economic contribution of small and medium sized farmers engaged in local food production.
 - b. Examining rural retail workforce issues working with local business owners determining skill demands and workforce development
 - c. Economic impact analysis of wind energy
 - d. Brian has shifted from broadband access to broadband utilization
- 12. Steve Miller (Michigan State)
 - a. Macroeconomic modeling of state forecasts
 - b. Education in rural areas and health in rural areas. Vicious cycles of mental health and declining economic circumstances
- 13. John Halstead (New Hampshire)
 - a. Wrapping up local ag projects. Food system drivers. The role of restaurants in promoting local agriculture.
 - b. Pending proposal on food hubs in the Northeast. Use of food waste as animal feed.

Next year's meeting will be via email vote

- WRSA meeting in Napa, CA
- SRSA meeting in Washington DC