

**Northeast Extension Directors Meeting**  
Conference Call December 2, 2015 | 8:00 AM ET

**NEW NUMBER:**  
**Dial 1-877-302-0757**  
Enter conference ID, **8768729**, and press #

**Call to Order 8:05 AM ET**

Steve Bonanno, Chair

**Roll call:**

Mike O’Neill, Chair-Elect

CT: Mike O’Neill  
DC: Sabine O’Hara, Bill Hare  
DE: Michelle Rodgers, Donna Brown  
ME: John Rebar  
MD: Stephen Wright, Enrique Escobar  
MA: Patricia Vittum, Bob Schrader  
NH: Ken LaValley  
NJ: Larry Katz, Mary Jane Willis  
NY: Chris Watkins, Kim Kopko  
PA: Dennis Calvin, Bill Kleiner  
RI: Debby Sheely  
VT: Doug Lantagne, Dan Lerner  
WV: Steve Bonanno, Ami Smith  
NIFA: Muquarrab Qureshi  
ED: Nancy Bull

**Approval of Minutes from October 12, 2015** (minutes were not distributed; approval will take place on next call).

**NEED Discussion, Initiatives and Updates**

**Update: RFP for Program Leaders**

Dan, Michelle, Debby

No update at this time from the team. Discussion: Should we invite all four groups or only two? ANR/4-H – What would they like from this meeting? The RFP is intended to provide funding to plan the event. Is this necessary? Support getting this group (Program Leaders – Directors) together. Improving diversity in 4-H: challenges with achieving diversity; this could be a focus. Is diversity related to program offerings or audiences? Michelle requested to be removed from this group. Nancy, Dan, and Debby will develop a draft for comments.

**POW Panel of Experts**

Nancy

Lisa Townsend was the previous NE representative. Replacement: Jody Jellison (new Director at UMass – from VA Tech). Pat will discuss with Jody when she is on board (January).

**Continue with NEED/NERA joint grant?**

Nancy

Comments are due by 12/4/15. NERA is interested in response so that they can plan. NERA will also do a separate research program but at a date different from the joint grant. \$5,000 commitment from NEED which is in the budget.

## **Leadership Development for Directors**

Debby, Bill, Stephen

Nothing to report at this time. Survey results were sent. Moved to January agenda.

## **NEED Meeting Schedule**

Directors

Currently two face-to-face meetings. We need explicit goals for another face-to-face meeting. Continue to hold times for monthly conference calls. Third meeting potentially in March 2017. Can this be used to meet with Program Leaders (previous discussion item)? We could structure meeting to have some time with Program Leaders and other time for Directors (only). A joint meeting with Program Leaders could create exposure to a broader network (for PL and Directors). This meeting will need goals/outcomes; Directors should set expectations. Can we drop the RFP process (previous discussion item)? The strength of Program Leader networks varies.

Motion (amended): Northeast Directors to meet with Program Leaders in 2017.

Discussion: Create a planning team; NEED Executive Committee plus Program Leader Chair from each area (or a designee). Planning team will develop a proposal and report to NEED.

Motion passed.

## **Updates/Announcements (Follow-up and new items)**

- **NE Rep for the Journal of Extension** Ken LaValley has been approved.
- **4-H Council Marketing Initiative** Nancy, Steve, Michelle  
Focus on diversity and inclusiveness; Plan to reach alumni for fund development; Tested in ten states. NH will participate; state 4-H Foundation will fund this. DE also participating. What does 4-H Council contribute (cash or in-kind)? A combination. Note: three year commitment of funds listed in report.

## **ECOP Discussions**

### **ECOP Executive Subcommittee**

Michelle Rodgers

Public – Private Partnership: This is an action item for ECOP in January. \*\* Make this a substantive discussion item for January 6, 2016 NEED Conference Call. Focus on the concept. National-level fund development. What are the Strengths/Concerns/Barriers? Do we agree in concept? What is the return on investment? Ken sent this to the NH Foundation for comments: very supportive. Recommend sending this to campus development officers for comments. Department of Defense is doing this; why? This is the future of funding. Links to documents will be included in email/agenda.

### **Personnel Subcommittee**

Mike O'Neill, Nancy

Report deferred until next meeting.

### **Program Subcommittee**

Mary Jane Willis

Report deferred until next meeting.

### **Budget and Legislative Subcommittee**

Larry Katz, John Rebar, Bill Hare

New document exists linked to growing capacity funds. Excellent graphic of funding sources. Link to document will be sent in next agenda.

**NIFA Liaison's Report**  
(no report).

Muquarrab Qureshi

**NEED Executive Director**

Nancy Bull

Need volunteers for some committees. eXtension (VT, NH, TX A&M) having difficulties with intellectual property (IP) issues; shutting down work process. Who controls IP? Need an agreement with eXtension. Ken will talk with Dennis. Item will be added to January agenda.

**NEED Chair**

Steve Bonanno

No additional comments.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:03 AM ET.**