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**Proposal for Program Leadership Network (Committee)
Northeast Extension Directors
DRAFT**

Background

Following discussion at the March, 2010 NEED meeting in Tampa, FL, Paul Bonaparte-Krogh provided the following committee charge: "Using the Western Extension Directors Program Leadership Committee as a model, create a structure that brings our State Programs Leaders together in a way that meets the needs of the NE Region." The committee was comprised of Bob Schrader (MA), Paul Bonaparte-Krogh (NH), Glenn Applebee (NY) and Linda Kay Benning (NEED Ex. Dir.).

Initial conversation focused on the nature of the work (organizational vs. program focus), and organization of the committee (one or more). By way of comparison, a simple description of committees and roles in the other four regions follows:

Westerns Region: WEDA has a number of committees but utilizes one, the Program Leadership Committee to investigate both program and organizational topics assigned by WEDA. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/weda/index.html>

North Central Cooperative Extension Association: NCCEA has focused on encouraging multistate program collaboration through development of LOGIC models for a number of Extension project areas as a means of developing shared approaches to program development.
<http://www.nccea.org/>

Association of Southern Region Extension Directors: ASRED has a number of committees. The Program Leadership Network is primary mean of supporting multistate work. PLN is composed of eight program committees.
<http://asred.msstate.edu/>

(1890) Association of Extension Administrators: Although not apparent on web site, the Association utilizes program teams to encourage multistate cooperation. 1890 institutions are also fully represented within the ASRED Program Leadership Network.
<http://www.1890aea.org/>

Proposal

Establish a Northeast Program Leadership Network (PLN) for the purpose of assisting Northeast Extension Directors in strengthening multistate program development by promoting multistate collaboration, anticipating emerging program issues and needs, and implementing action processes.

Comment: Consider whether committee might be more appropriate

The Program Leadership Network (Committee) is appointed by the Northeast Extension Directors (NEED) and consists of one program representative from each of the Western Region states and territories. The committee works under the direction of NEED to identify and provide leadership for advancing multi-state programs, and operational and organizational issues of importance to Extension in the Northeast. The PLN may appoint special committees and/or task forces to assist with its work.

Comment: Scope is both program and organizational issues

Comment: Capacity to appoint committees perhaps key to moving committee to a network

Purpose

1. Provide greater program coordination and regional direction among states.
2. Encourage multi-state -state and multi-discipline programming including (through?) development of joint competitive grant applications and other funding.
3. Facilitate two-way (state and federal) communication in all areas of program leadership and development.
4. Coordinate the delivery and integration of base programs and national initiatives.
5. Investigate and present integrated program issues to Northeast Directors.

Comment: Do we want group working only at direction of NEED or also to be able to feed issues up to NEED?

Responsibilities

1. Provide representative framework for communication with Northeast Extension and program leadership in all areas of program delivery
2. Provide leadership for development of Northeast Region multi-program area proposals that address existing or emerging issues through communications with program committees and/or establishment of ad hoc groups.
3. Monitor the need for regional and national programming in the Northeast Region to include:
 - o The establishment of regional task forces or committees.
 - o Recommendations to NEED based on review of multi-program area proposals for regional activities.

Comment: Is there a role for coordinating the work of other existing program committees?

4. Assist in coordination of Extension base program support and implementation.

Membership

One program representative from each 1862 and 1890 institution with representation from the base program areas, if possible, plus one Director as Administrative Liaison.

Comment: Should there be other members? What level of representation is appropriate?

Operating Guidelines

1. Stimulate seeking of additional resources for high priority initiatives, as directed by NEED.
2. Collaborate with the Northeast Regional Association of State Experiment Station Directors (NERA), where feasible, in seeking resources.
3. Receive and review Program Committee reports and prepare coordinated programming recommendations for Northeast Directors.
4. Distribute information related to regional multi-program area activities to all state program committee representatives and Northeast Directors.
5. Assemble periodic assessments of program issues and refer to appropriate groups.

Funding

Funding, in the form of planning grants, may be provided at the discretion of NEED, to support specific initiatives such as development of competitive funding proposals, program LOGIC models or related areas.

Discussion:

This proposal draws heavily from the Western Region Program Leadership Committee model and represents the least sophisticated approach currently used within the other regions. This model is recommended as most appropriate as a starting point for supporting program initiatives of NEED. The structure allows for growth in work of the committee as deemed appropriate by NEED.