

**Northeast Extension Directors
Conference Call
November 2, 2016, 2016 | 8:00-9:00 AM ET**

Conference Call Number: 866-675-3613 **NEW CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER**
Passcode: 7235348

Email ListServ - necesdirs@AESOP.Rutgers.edu
Executive Committee: O'Neill, Hare, Bonanno, Bull, Rodgers

Call to Order **Steve Bonanno, Chair**

Roll call: **Bill Hare, Chair-Elect**

CT:	Mike O'Neill
DC:	Sabine O'Hara, Bill Hare
DE:	Michelle Rodgers , Donna Brown
ME:	John Rebar
MD:	Tom Porter, Nelson Escobar, Maifan Silitonga
MA:	Patricia Vittum , Jody Jellison
NH:	Ken LaValley
NJ:	Larry Katz
NY:	Chris Watkins
PA:	Dennis Calvin , Bill Kleiner
RI:	Debby Sheely
VT:	Doug Lantagne, Dan Lerner
WV:	Steve Bonanno , Ami Smith
NIFA:	Muquarrab Qureshi
ED:	Nancy Bull

Attachments: NEED ED Ad Copy; Minutes 10-05-16 (pending)

Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2016 - postponed until minutes can be redistributed.

Politics

Dennis Calvin

Dennis reported that a State senator candidate used the 4-H emblem in their campaign literature. The flyer included a picture of the candidate in front of a banner with the 4-H and FFA emblems. Muquarrab stated that NIFA is concerned regarding these types of issues as the use of the 4-H name and emblem are as closely guarded as the Presidential Seal.

Budget Report:

Dan Lerner

Dan reported that for FY17 all institutions have paid for a total of \$124K; \$30K was distributed for operating. Following the meeting he sent a written update. Our net asset is at \$140,987K; minus the \$52K for the InTouch analytics.

Net Asset \$140,487.75. Committed \$52,000 to the 4-H Online project.

Discussion/Actions:

- **Contract / Agreement with InTouch Analytics, 4-H**

Question on our legal authority to sign a contract. We documented the steps we took in the minutes; are other regions 501c3 organizations? How do they handle contracts? Nancy offered to investigate.

The contract was discussed and the consensus was that as a group, NEED decided to invest the funds that is sufficient for the Chair to execute a contract on our behalf.

- **NEED Executive Director Position Description, approval and posting**

Larry moved to approve the changes and post as soon as possible. Dennis seconded. Motioned passed.

New Initiatives:

- **Leadership Transition Plan - Survey**

Steve discussed the likelihood of proposing a change to the NEED Rules of Operations to have the change in leadership occur after at NEED's last face-to-face meeting on the year or the calendar year. This may cause an overlap in ECOP positions. While our rules of operation state that leadership changes following the close of APLU, the question was asked as to what do other regions do? Nancy offered to investigate.

Reports:

ECOP Executive Committee

Michelle Rodgers

ECOP is providing input into the BAA goals for the coming year.

ECOP is setting up interviews for the ED.

Those attending the APLU Annual Meeting should participate in the Monday evening ECOP banquet.

ECOP Program Committee

Bill Hare

Shared the focus on civil discourse and rapid response. This is being led by the southern Rural Development Center and moving rapidly through eXtension.

ECOP Personnel Committee

Mike O'Neill/Chris Watkins

NIFA Liaison's Report

Muquarrab Qureshi

NIFA is seeing a changeover in personnel as people are retiring. Quite a bit of hiring is going on. There will be quite a few from NIFA attending APLU though Tuesday.

NIFA is developing transition documents to aid the new administration in understanding USDA goals and programs.

NEED Executive Director

Nancy Bull

Attended the Northeast Management Officers Meeting (NEMO) last week in Portsmouth NH. Was very well done. This group represents both research and extension people in the areas of financial management, reporting, human resources, etc. The group is very well organized and engaged. Nancy - ANR leaders met recently in Maine.

NEED Chair

Steve Bonanno

Other:

Larry Katz - The Farm Bill has language about industrial hemp. The NJ Board of Ag has asked Extension to be engaged in research on industrial hemp, however, their lawyers have advised that participation could jeopardize federal grants because hemp is still illegal according to Federal laws. Dan stated Vermont conducts research on industrial hemp.