

Association of Northeast Extension Directors

Meeting Notes and Action Items

November 13, 2025
8:30am-10:00am ET

Attendance: Andy Turner, Lisa Townson, Chris Houser, Brian Schilling, Jeff Hyde, Jenn Volk, Bill Miller, Jinhee Kim, Eric Ervin, Chris Callahan, Amy Harder, Gulni Ozbay, Ali Dunigan.

Agenda item	Action taken/To take
<p><u>NEED Business</u> Accept October meeting summary and November meeting agenda.</p> <p>Project updates & tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lila Karki (UMES) has asked for evaluation specialists who could speak/do a staff training this fall. Send Ali names for who you think could do this. - NEASDA Workshop: The workshop was a success. An idea that came from it is a joint meeting alongside the EDEN meeting in Florida to get trained on the UF ag loss assessment process. Email Ali if your LGU is interested in being a part of such a training. - NUEL branding toolkit: NEED owes a response to the Northeast NUEL network. If you have not yet responded to the request to review, please do so. <p>Committee assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NEED must identify a ECOP Voting Member to finish Roy Beckford's term, ending September 2026. <p>NIFA update (if government is open)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No NIFA update. <p>ECOP & regional committee issues & updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APLU: The Board on Ag Assembly (BAA) puts out the ag appropriations requests on our behalf from the APLU. Ag Innovation had introduced a request to increase the BAA's appropriations request for AFRI to \$700M from last year's \$500M. Extension directors were concerned that this may signal that we are more interested in competitive funds than capacity funds. Ultimately, the BAA decided to go back to the \$500M ask from previous years. - ECOP Health Tiger Team focused on health work post SNAP-Ed: Lisa Townson and Jinhee Kim are both on this committee. The group met face to face in Washington D.C. last week. Well on the way to creating a high-level strategy. NEED members are excited about this visioning and growth opportunities. 	<p>Motion to approve the October meeting summary as presented: B. Schilling/L. Townson/Carried.</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Send Ali names for Extension professionals who could conduct an evaluation training at UMES. - Send Ali an email indicating your interest in a possible workshop at UF alongside the EDEN conference in March to be trained on the UF ag loss assessment process. - If you have not yet responded to the request to review, please consider and send your approval or disapproval of the NUEL branding toolkit. - Consider volunteering to serve the remainder of Roy's ECOP term, ending September 2026. Email Ali if interested.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NOTE: Don't forget about the possibility of engaging with Hatch Projects related to health for which you can fund Extension activities for efforts related to the research goals of that project. ○ Examples: NE2439 - Improving the health span of aging adults through diet and physical activity; NE1962 - Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms; NC1193 - Promotion of Health and Nutrition in Communities of Emerging Adults; NC2172 - Household financial and health decision-making under economic uncertainties - Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development: If they are not already, get your folks engaged with the NERCRD. They are doing great data integration and have good opportunities for early career faculty to get funding and connect with others. - Journal of Extension: Progress is happening. RFP is going out to take over managing roles from Clemson University Press. The board will now control the contents of JOE. 	
<p><u>Member Roundtable</u> NEED's power is interpersonal connection. The goal of this 30-minute section of the agenda was to give space for members to ask each other questions and have discussion on issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northeast IPM center (Andy): In October or September the Center, located at Cornell, received verbal update from NIFA that the funding for year 4 of the Northeast IPM center would be leaving Cornell and going to the Southern center. Cornell has been working through the personnel ramifications. NEED and AgInnovation are sending a joint letter to Director Hamby that has been reviewed by NEED. Some members are choosing to let their congressional delegations know about this. Ali will send all members the final form of the letter. 	<p>Ali will send NEED members the final version of the Northeast IPM Center letter that is being sent to Director Hamby.</p>
<p>Guest Speaker: Cody Stone (Executive Director, Montana State University Cooperative Extension; Chair, ECOP 4-H Leadership Committee)</p> <p>Cody joined need to discuss the status of national level conversations around 4-H, the Thriving Model, the Beyond Ready initiative, and interactions with our federal partners.</p>	<p>No actions taken.</p>