

Association of Northeast Extension Directors

Meeting Notes and Action Items

February 12, 2026
8:00-9:30 AM ET

Attendance: Andy Turner, James McKane, Lisa Townson, Erik Ervin, Brian Schilling, Amy Loader, Nelson Escobar, Jinhee Kim, Jeff Hyde, Jenn Volk, Tsakani Ngomane, Ali Mitchell Dunigan.

Agenda item	Action taken/To take
<p>NEED Business</p> <p>Accept past meeting summary and agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Schilling/Lisa Townson/Carried <p>Project updates & tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed Funding – Letters of intent due March 1st • Exceptional Local Educator Award – Nominations due May 1st • Data collection on fee-based Extension activities – Please provide information this week. • Review and accept updated language for the Northeast Agenda to bring it in line with Executive Orders -- Ali will send the text to members after the meeting with one week to review. <p>Committee assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEDA Planning Committee – Jeff Hyde has graciously agreed to represent us on the committee. • Extension Foundation request for a board advisory committee – Individuals should be from outside of Extension and the LGUs but aligned in their careers or activities in some way. Please consider nominating appropriate individuals. <p>ECOP & regional committee issues & updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOP Budget and Legislative Committee (Jorge Atiles) - Nothing to report. There have been no meetings. • ECOP Health Tiger Team – The work is ongoing and includes health and nutrition. Note that some LGUs receive criticism about mission creep related to health 	<p>Motion: To accept the January 2026 meeting summary and February 2026 meeting agenda as presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Schilling/ L. Townson/ Carried

outreach work. Members shared that it would be worth talking about this at the March Retreat: How communities, stakeholders, leaders are reacting to health programming and how leaders are positioning themselves and arguing for the relevance of this work. I may also be beneficial to bring in deans from colleges of medicine, pharmacy, public health, and/or health sciences to discuss.

NIFA update: None. NIFA rep was not present.

Learning from the 1890s Region: Presentation and Discussion

NEED welcomed Vonda Richardson, Director/Associate Administrator, Cooperative Extension at Florida A&M University and Dr. Albert Essel, Executive Administrator for the Association of 1890s Extension Administrators.

They shared...

- How AEA works – when do they meet? Who joins? What committees or sub-groups do they have to accomplish their work?
- What AEA cares about – what are their priorities and what are they doing to move them forward?
- Opportunities – what are AEA members excited about doing together moving forward?

Presentation slide deck is shared separately.

Ali will follow up with Albert to get information on common measures work and a past agenda for the system-wide conference in 2022.

Burning Issues/Roundtable

Members focused discussion on proactive plans/protocols for Extension staff regarding ICE

- The NYC extension team has experience from last year, put together an extensive protocol document. Andy will share over email.
- RI has not touched on the topic beyond the high level, but have been talking about security and campus safety more broadly (ex. shelter in place).
- University of Maryland: Follows university guidelines and informs the Office of the General Council immediately. Also have general guidelines for the community setting. Jinhee will share those.

- From all: There is more clarity around what happens on campus, but not clear what happens in community. May be helpful to turn to how other community-based organizations are dealing with the issue.
- Next steps: Share what we have developed, continue sharing for awareness. Ali will ask everyone to share guidelines they have developed.

Adjourn: Amy Loader, Lisa Towson. Carried.