ACAAA Membership Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2014 - Hot Springs, AR

Rex Herring - Called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. Gene McAvoy – Florida Southern Region Director of NACAA provided an update and a NACAA report. He mentioned that the national dues are due by January 1 and will be considered delinquent on January 15.

Rex Herring appointed Jesse Clark as Parliamentarian for the meeting. Keith Perkins made a motion to approve the last minutes as presented online. Melanie Fuhrman seconded the motion. Vote was taken and motion passed.

Chris Grimes presented the Financial Report. Jerry Clemons made the motion to accept the financial report. Brad Runsick seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jaret Rushing, Robert Goodson, and Sara Beth Waller served on the Peer review audit committee. Jaret told the group that the audit checked out perfectly.

Old Business:

Jesse Clark discussed the Kountry Kitchen to serve at the Association of Counties. This is a great opportunity for county agents to mingle with their elected officials. Jesse plans to retire soon and needs a volunteer to work with him to learn the ropes. Carla Vaught volunteered to chair the Kountry Kitchen.

The Association Foundation solicits funds from donors to be used for delegates to attend AMPIC meeting annually has been housed in Clark County. Amy Simpson hopes to relinquish that account to someone else. After discussion, Brad McGinley made a motion to dissolve that account and move the funds to the ACAAA general account and to postpone solicitation of funds until after the 2016 National meeting. Brad asked to withdraw his motion and there was no objection.

Brad McGinley made a motion to dissolve the Foundation account and move those funds and the CD funds, once it matures, to the ACAAA general account and to postpone solicitation of funds for the Foundation account until after the 2016 National meeting. Sherry Sullivan seconded the motion. Vote was taken and motion passed.

Since some Life Members and some current agents aren’t receiving their “County Agent” magazine it was suggested that they should check NACAA database to verify their current information.
New Business:

Jerry Clemons made note of the open chair and vice chair opportunities in NACAA. He encouraged people to apply for these positions.

There was much discussion on the timeline for state meetings and the awards being ordered in a timely manner.

Brad McGinley made a motion and it was seconded, that the President elect will set the date and location of the ACAAA state meeting by July 1 prior year and that the awards deadline will be six weeks prior to that meeting. Motion passed.

Sherri Sanders provided a report for the JCEP meeting in Memphis. Darrin Henderson will attend PILD in Washington, DC in April.

Chris Grimes shared some information about the 4-H Crops and Weeds Contest Exam. This year’s exam will be taken from the Corn Quick fact sheet only.

Rex Herring presented the slate of board members and Those are: President, Darrin Henderson; President Elect, Sherri Sanders; Secretary, Jerry Clemons; Treasurer, Chris Grimes; and Past President, Rex Herring. The Delta District representatives are: Anthony Whittington (2 year), Robert Goodson (1 year) and Mike Andrews (alternate). The Ozark District representatives are: Adam Willis (2 year), Cindy Ham (1 year), and Michael Sullivan (alternate). The Ouachita District representatives are: Keri Welch (2 year), Jerri Lephiew (1 year) and Brad McGinley (alternate). The Specialists representatives are: Melanie Fuhrman (2 year), Jeremy Ross (1 year) and Jarrod Hardke (alternate).

Keith Perkins made the motion to approve the 2014 – 2015 Slate of ACAAA officers and Board Members was as presented by Rex Herring. Joe Paul seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Resolutions

Animal Science Committee presented by Mike McCarter:

1. When Specialist and agents cooperate on conducting area programs and a registration fee is charged, we recommend that a profit sharing arrangement such as that used with PAT be used.

2. We recommend that a reporting category for forage education other than 300 days of grazing be included in AIMS.
3. We commend the Animal Science/Forage specialist for assisting agents with setting up and conducting demonstrations.

Sherry Sullivan made the motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Carla Vaught seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Technology Committee presented by Jesse Bocksnick:

1. We commend administration and all involved for development of new website.

2. We commend Ples Spradley and PAT for continued support of extension technology and county programs.

3. We commend administration and specialist for development of Extension related apps and recommend greater communication to county staff regarding the release and content of those Extension Related Apps.

4. We recommend purchasing turning point materials for small 3-5 county groups along with appropriate training on its use in programs as an evaluation tool.

5. We recommend utilizing QR codes for educational activities, promotion of events, publications, etc.

Jerry Clemons made the motion to accept these as presented. Brad Runsick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4-H Committee presented by Keith Perkins on behalf of Amy Heck:

We recommend that an app for 4-H online be developed to allow volunteers and youth to enroll on smart phones and tablets

We recommend a 4-H Shooting Sports policy guide be developed and implemented statewide

We recommend all shooting sports program and events utilize 4-H online for registration. i.e. – instructor training

We recommend 4-H volunteers be required to complete criminal background checks every 5 years instead of 3 years. This will allow us to match current teacher requirements and lower the cost to the county 4-H program.

We recommend an in-depth in-service on utilizing features on 4-H online.

Currently there are discrepancies among state 4-H contests. For example, state o rama limits winners to one time per activity, but events such as horse judging and shooting sports do not
have these limitations. We recommend investigation into providing consistency among state 4-H events.

We recommend if a 4-H team or individual represents the state of Arkansas at a national contest that financial support be provided from the state level.

We recommend 4-H state officer elections be conducted utilizing electronic voting methods.

We recommend working with public policy to advocate the changing of the law in reference to the EHIRE -164, to make it possible to complete the form online.

We recommend all state 4-H events be announced, with dates, at least three months prior to event

Examples: Volunteer Leader Forum, District BBQ Broiler contests, Shooting Sports Instructor trainings

Jaret Rushing made the motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Jesse Bocksnick seconded. Motion passed.

Jaret Rushing presented the Natural Resources and Aquaculture committee resolutions:

1. We would like to commend the Aquaculture and Fisheries Department for their implementation of the small farm pond management in-service trainings and recommend that they continue these trainings as they are very useful for agents.

2. We would like to commend the administration for continued support of agent travel and booth expenses for the continuation of utilizing booth space at the Big Buck Classic to promote Extension related programs and activities.

3. We want to recommend that Extension specialists promote and educate agents on various harvesting techniques for controlling feral hog on private and public lands.

4. We recommend that Extension specialists education agents and other clientele on direct impacts that feral hogs pose to individual species of animals (e.g. white-tailed deer and eastern wild turkey).

5. We recommend that Extension offer more waterfowl management trainings including areas such as habitat improvement.

6. We recommend that Extension professionals research and promote repellents for white-tailed deer and other nuisance wildlife species for deterrent from production agriculture crops.
7. We recommend that Extension specialists education agents on areas of forest management including (but not limited to):

   a. Genetically improved seedlings and seedling selection
   
   b. Intercropping and benefits associated with intercropping and wildlife management
   
   c. Water quality

Keith Perkins made the motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Melanie Fuhrman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Robert Goodson presented the Ag Economics Resolutions:

The ACAAA acknowledges the need for qualified individuals to present current information in the area of livestock economics. Therefore, we recommend for consideration the investigation of cooperation with neighboring universities and/or foundations to establish a list of livestock economists who would be willing to work with the University of Arkansas Extension Service and assist county agents to develop successful multi-county producer events that focus on the area of livestock economics.

Therefore, we also recommend the exploration of employment of a livestock economist to assist with the presentation of livestock economical data to local producers.

Sherry Sullivan made the motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Andy Vangilder seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Carla Vaught presented the Administrative Skills resolutions:

- We commend administration for their commitment of financial support for association representatives to attend PILD each year.

- We recommend reinstatement of the extension intern program.

- We recommend a review of the evaluation/narrative document process. The documents need to be revamped and redesigned to be less repetitive and more concise. Training for agents on the preferred layout by district agents would be helpful.

- Inservice opportunities that have traditionally been conducted for staff chairs only should be open to other agents that are interested.

- Training for agents interested in completing promotion documents needs to be offered.
- New agents indicate that they don't always know about the opportunities provided by community and economic development. It tends to be a lesser priority due to the overwhelming duties of general extension agent work. We recommend more localized CED training in small segments for agents.

- Agents should be officially directed on preferred approaches for networking and building relationships with legislators and other elected officials.

- Volunteer management consumes a large portion of agent time. We recommend that quick and efficient volunteer training such as online modules be developed for all aspects volunteer training.

Sherry Sullivan made the motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Joe Paul seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Melanie Fuhrman presented Agronomy Pest Management resolutions:

We recommend that Ples and the Extension admin work with the state plant board to establish a new lifetime private applicator license for extension agents as long as they taught PATs for a minimum of five years

We commend all extension personal for their contribution to the new publications and MPs provided this past year.

Jerry Clemons made the motion to accept resolutions as presented. Andy Vangilder seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Melanie Fuhrman presented the Sustainable Agriculture resolutions:

We commend the agronomy specialist for their work on pig weed, insect thresholds, protecting the beneficials, production of soybean cross reference guide, soybean rust updates, frogeye resistance, and for recommendations such as N-Star rice and wheat.

Keith Perkins made the motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Mike McCarter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Sherri Sanders reported that there were no resolutions from the Horticulture Committee.
Rex Herring gave a report to the group of last year’s ACAAA resolutions report to administration. He recognized Dr. Windham’s support of $800.00 per person per organization to attend PILD.

Brad McGinley made the motion to adjourn. Jerry Clemons seconded the motion. Motion passed.