**ESCOP Science & Technology:** <http://escop.info/committee/scitech/>

**Meeting Minutes-** March 4, 2024

**Committee Members:**

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| **Chair:** Nathan Slaton (SAAESD)  **Past Chair:** Bernie Engel (NCRA)  **Delegates:**  Alton Thompson (ARD)  John Yang (ARD)  Frank Casey (NCRA)  Shibu Jose (NCRA)  George Criner (NERA)  Jason Hubbart (NERA)  Nathan McKinney (SAAESD)  David Monk (SAAESD)  Gene Kelly (WAAESD)  Greg Cuomo (WAAESD)  **Executive Vice Chair:**  Bret Hess (WAAESD ED)  Jennifer Horton (WAAESD Recording Secretary) | **Liaisons:**  Tara McHugh (ARS)  Kevin Kephart (NIFA)  Roger Magarey (NIPMCC)  Tim Killian (SSCC) |

**Attendance**: Nathan Slaton, Gary Thompson, Jason Hubbart, Kevin Kephart, Bret Hess, Nathan McKinney, Jeanette Thurston, Jose Shibu, David Monks, Jennifer Horton (recording secretary)

1. **Welcome & Introductions-** Nathan welcomed members
2. **Focus Redirect for March Meeting-** We are going to redirect our agenda due to the ask about the NSF CASA-Bio request.
3. **Thank you to Nathan McKinney for his years of service.** Congratulations on your retirement.
4. **Approval of February 5 Minutes-** no quorum.
5. **Supporting the agInnovation Chair**
   1. **NSF CASA-Bio Responses (see separate attachments)-** The deadline is mid-march. The committee reviewed and updated their response.
   2. This could be an opportunity to emphasize the need for infrastructure.
   3. Need to make sure animal agriculture is included.
   4. What is achievable in the next two, three, and five years?
   5. There needs to be a promise of profitability in the near future to gain adoption.
   6. Jeanette noted some topics that came up in the session she attended about food and ag innovation group. Bio economy- how can waste be used. Can AI be incorporated? What is the research we need now to reach these goals in the next ten years?
   7. Who is going to complete the work? What training is going to be completed? What is the incentivization? How are end users going to adopt?
   8. Kevin recommends what has been done in the past and is there room to expand on some of those successes?
   9. One recommendation is workforce development and the next generation of scientists.
   10. Social Sciences needs to be included. We need an economic justification. Rural sociology needs to be considered. How can circularity be incorporated?
   11. Instead of getting specific about the type of scientists. Rather the ability to train individuals to think in that manner where there is a transdisciplinary type of approach where social sciences economics, natural and physical sciences all in one package to be able to accomplish these audacious issues.
   12. Precision agriculture is moving in this direction of evolution. Traditional workforce development is not necessary, rather we need to switch to thinking to be more efficient.
   13. The committee discussed the short timeline of 2-5 years and agreed to add a statement about expansion to a 10-year timeline to achieve objectives.
   14. Nathan shared that the idea of getting end users to adopt is critical. Most disruptive innovations take time. We need a realistic way of showing the end user the benefit to help with adoption. Coupled with efficient technology energy transferred. One of the differences is to make sure the changes are incorporated.
   15. Part of the listening session that said if I have the money I could do this project? Instead of the broad goals. Jeanette shared that it was not pitched that way. They discussed the type of research that could be completed in the next few years. Is the input support to help the agency, and do they want it written broadly? Gary shared that they wanted short- and long-term goals.
   16. Bret is going to tie in discussion and circulate for one last review. The committee is looking for an organizing concept.
6. **Liaison Reports**
   1. **USDA-NIFA-** Kevin report that the Climate Change roadmap is a community of land grant systems, and an extension meeting was a result, and took place at the end of January. A work product is being developed, and it was discovered that an MOU between extension, agriculture research and climate hubs expired in 2019. Kevin continues to work on updates, currently Associate Director Toomb’s is reviewing and Kevin will share with agInnovation once ready for review. The goal is to have the new MOU complete by August 2024.
   2. Kevin has direction from the Climate Hubs that they want to make sure that the 1994’s are included in the overall effort. Bret recommended working with John Phillips from FALCON.
   3. AFRI SAS RFA was published last Friday. Parts of the RFA include bio economy. There are still the three main objectives: bio economy, some of these include.
      1. The letter of intent is no longer required.
7. **Future Topics for Discussion/ Ideas for 2024-2025 Workplan**
   1. **Capacity Funding Acknowledgments**
   2. **Open Access/Dada Commons**
8. **Meeting Times Reminder**- 4-5 pm ET the first Monday of each month
9. **Currently scheduled Meetings:** April, 1, May 6, June 3, ~~July 4~~, August 5, ~~September2~~
10. **Adjourn**