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

**01.13.2025**

**4:00-5:00 pm ET**

**Zoom:** <https://unr.zoom.us/j/83632004665?pwd=jab272YVVMB45nzqbSzD6SemgIj0YW.1>

**Meeting ID:** 836 3200 4665; Passcode: WEST

**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)  Tom Zimmerman (SAAESD)  David Monk (SAAESD)  Gene Kelly (agInnovation- West)  Greg Cuomo (agInnovation- West)  **Executive Vice Chair:**  Bret Hess (agInnovation- West ED)  Jennifer Horton (Recording Secretary) | **Liaisons:**  Tara McHugh (ARS)  Kevin Kephart (NIFA)  Roger Magarey (NIPMCC)  Tim Killian (SSCC) |

**Agenda:**

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Nathan welcomed members.
2. **Roll Call** – Nathan Slaton, Bret Hess, David Monks, Chris Hamilton, Kevin Kephart, Jason Hubbart, Frank Casey, Shibu Jose, Roger Magarey, Alton Thompson, Jeanette Thurston, Jennifer Horton (recording secretary).
3. **Approval of December Minutes**



<https://unr.zoom.us/rec/share/AslEajDlZR_6yOJPbGhqxtGdU4XkuXOb2s1IorsUtMtRYEzoFVp2doQOq4RdAD0x.2hN5WBMUeScuYdV-?startTime=1733777508000>

Shibu moved to approve the minutes as presented. Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **Develop validated talking points in support of the roadmap focus areas–** We have discussed the three pillars presented for the agInnovation roadmap. STC was asked to develop the science behind the goals, impacts and research opportunities for each pillar. The approach should be to develop the foundation with information to support the talking points for different audiences. Nathan recommended that first we lean on faculty to be identified at each institution to then assemble a team across the nation. Return on investment should also be identified within the groups. Alton commented that we merged the ECOP pillars with the agInnovation pillars. Do we need to wait to see if that merger happens? Bret shared that he has learned from our Extension colleagues in the West that Extension is forming working groups to review the new pillars only, they were not going to review the agInnovation pillars. Jeanette shared that we have received input from ECOP on their three pillars and the working group has already incorporated it into the next version of the documents. Jeanette noted that the working group has already validated the information in the 3 agInnovation pillars. Shibu asked when STC will receive the updated documents. The roll out is in March. Bret asked about the charge from the agInnovation Chair- how much work has already been completed and what does STC need to focus on? The committee discussed and Bret is going to reach out to Gary for more information.

Jeanette is going to confirm with Gary and determine if a communications firm has been identified yet.

Nathan asked if a communications firm has been hired yet? Jeanette will report back.

This will be a reoccurring topic for future meetings. Bret noted that the national timeline seems ambitious if additional input from experts is needed. Jeanette does not believe so as most updates are just revamping.

More information to come at the next meeting.

1. **Liaison Reports-**

**Kevin, NIFA**- Kevin shared that the AFRI foundation for applied science was published on 1/2/25. NIFA does not have a FY25 appropriations yet and the agency used last year’s funding model. An update on a funding opportunity for extension and education partnership with USDA climate hubs, A1721 has been updated. Climate hubs are still an opportunity, and it has been opened to other federal centers such as NOAH and USGS. This included integrated programs for extension and research. <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/agriculture-food-research-initiative/afri-request-applications>

**Roger, NIPMCC**- moving forward with the strategic plan. Just met with stakeholders and commodity members. This report will be released in March at that national symposium. The goal is that the work will lead into the larger agInnovation plan. There is some great alignment with the sustainable food systems in the roadmap.

1. **Excellence in Research Innovation Award** –Nathan shared this was discussed in December, if you have any changes, please let us know. The 30-day notice period for the agInnovation budget is approaching and we should know soon about the request to increase the line for awards to $20,000. Do we need to consider extending the due date? The current date is 2/1, last year it was updated to the end of February. The committee agreed to extend the deadline and update the deadline moving forward for future years to the end of February. Frank moved to extend the award nominations due date to the last day in February moving forward. Shibu seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

[STC\_INNOVATION\_EXCELLENCE\_AWARD\_CALL\_2025.pdf](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fescop.info%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2017%2F05%2FSTC_INNOVATION_EXCELLENCE_AWARD_CALL_2025.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Cjennhorton%40unr.edu%7Cfda6aec04d27404ba73608dd2eb688f3%7C523b4bfc0ebd4c03b2b96f6a17fd31d8%7C0%7C0%7C638718083695956617%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nSgXH4gQeh1%2FHyX%2FJWiwNG9lJcmGeDHkEjGHoxE%2Bp50%3D&reserved=0)

1. **Open access and publishing datasets presentation recording:**

[Public Access to Scholarly Publications and Digital Scientific Research Data- STC Fall 2024](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LZIQ5BxD2s)

1. **Zoom meetings: 2nd Monday each Month (1 pm PT/2 pm MT/3 pm CT/4 pm ET)**
2. **Adjourn**