

NRSP1 Management Committee Call NOTES

Date: 4/22/2025

Time: 3 pm ET, 2 pm CT, 1 pm MT, 12 noon PT

NRSP1 Management Committee Members
Chris Hamilton, Chair and NIMSS Lead, NCRA Bret Hess (AA), WAAESD Jeanette Thurston (lead AA), agNC David Leibovitz (AA), NERA Cindy Morley (AA), SAAESD Rick Rhodes, NERA Gary Thompson, SAAESD Jennifer Horton, WAAESD Alton Thompson, ARD Julie Estrada (NIMSS User), Purdue University Robin Williams (NIMSS User), Clemson University Sara Delheimer (ESS Program Coordinator), Ex-officio Faith Peppers (NIFA Director of Communications), NIFA Liaison Tara Warner (NIFA PARS Director), NIFA Liaison Email list: nrsp1@escop.info Committee Page: http://escop.info/committee/nrsp-1-management-committee/

Attendees: Sara Delheimer, Gary Thompson, Cindy Morley, David Leibovitz. Bret Hess, Faith Peppers, Alton Thompson, Chris Hamilton

Call Agenda:

1. Roll Call and Welcome – Chris
2. [NIMSS Update](#) – Chris
3. MRF Impact Program Q2 2025 Update – Sara
4. NIFA PARS Update (staffing, NIFA reps, etc.) – Tara (if available)
5. NIFA Communications Update – Faith (if available)
6. [NRSP1 Midterm Review](#) – Chris (with Gary/Cindy for more info, if available)
7. Other Items, as needed.

Fathom AI Meeting Summary:

[VIEW RECORDING - 42 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

Action Items

- Plan user interface test for NIMSS w/ random faculty & directors. Engage Steven (Clemson UI guy) for improvement suggestions.
- Fix NIFA name on NIMSS.org (change "of" to "for") - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#) – Done, request sent to Parker immediately after call.

- Send new agInnovation logo w/ ® to Parker for NIMSS update - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#) - Done, request sent to Parker immediately after call.

NIMSS Updates

- [Searching improved but limited by database structure](#)
- [New logos added to main page \(MRF Impacts, agInnovation\)](#)
- [Project homepages now display MRF Impact logo linking to Sarah's impact statements](#)
- [Bug fixes implemented, including user management errors identified by Chris Hansen](#)

MRF Impacts Report

- [Multiple impact statements finalized across regions in Q2](#)
- [NIFA featured projects in updates and blog \(Eastern White Pine, Firefighters\)](#)
- [Social media engagement up, particularly on LinkedIn](#)
- [Northeast Region conducted impact writing workshop in June](#)
- [Sara completed communications evaluation certification course](#)

NIFA Communications Update

- [Social media posting improving but still slow due to approval process](#)
- [Dr. Hanby \(new leadership\) actively engaging with stakeholders through site visits](#)
- [Farm Bill vote passed, viewed as positive news for the sector](#)

NRSP1 Midterm Review Feedback

- [Continuous improvement of NIMS evident, especially mobile app](#)
- [Suggestions for improved keyword searching and print functionality](#)
- [Encourage placement of branded MRF impact statements on project pages \(implemented\)](#)
- [Increase agInnovation and MRF Impacts presence on NIMSS \(logos added\)](#)
- [Manage SOPs for uniform user experience, especially for NRSPs](#)
- [Address ADA compliance issues with PDF uploads vs. form field entries](#)

National Excellence in Multistate Research Award

- [Winner to be announced July 25th](#)
- [Sara has prepared impact statements for all regional nominees](#)

Next Steps

- [Chris to work with Parker on potential NIMSS improvements \(search, print functions\)](#)

- [Develop NRSP-specific NIMSS step-by-step guide and link in guidelines](#)
- [Regional admins to enforce proper placement of reviews and reports in NIMSS](#)
- [Committee to consider major NIMSS upgrades for inclusion in next 5-year budget proposal](#)
- [Sara to prepare press releases for National Excellence Award winner announcement](#)

Q2 2025 NIMSS Updates:

Major Updates

- **Project Impact Statements Improvements**
 - Added destroy route for project impact statements
 - Added a new column to track MRF links
 - Updated the project index page to display both the impact statement link and the PDF download link
 - Removed unnecessary text fields from the impact statement forms
 - After creating a new project impact statement, users are now redirected to the view page for that statement (previously redirected to a blank creation form)
 - Made the full text column in the project impact statements table nullable
- **Appendix E Enhancements**
 - Updated how project participant emails are retrieved to include statuses 2 and 3 (previously only included status 4; all three are considered “approved”)
 - Added additional internal logging to the Appendix E creation process
 - Fixed a bug where Appendix E would be created with multiple rows of KAs (Knowledge Areas) incorrectly
 - Updated Appendix E creation to use a batch process — creation either fully succeeds or fully fails, with clear user messages and logging
- **User Access & Station Permissions**
 - Added a new function to the Station model to determine if a user has management access
 - Updated all station-related pages to use this function to determine if the interface should be read-only or editable
 - When deactivating or activating a user from the station users page, the redirect now returns the user to that same station users page (instead of a general users list)

Minor Fixes & Improvements

- Fixed the print link used during NRSP review — previous link was broken or pointed to the wrong location
- Corrected a parameter name used in an NRSP review-related link — previous value prevented the link from working
- Updated the "GetNIFAUsers" function to pull emails dynamically instead of using hard-coded addresses
- Improved the PDF generator to prevent failures when null records are present in the Station PDF users view
- Updated Jennifer’s email address in the new user creation process
- Updated the project homepage so the impact statement link uses the MRF logo
- Standardized the heading on all Appendix forms and pages to show appendix status, project title, and project custom ID

- Updated the NIMSS logo to use a higher resolution version
- Added AgInnovation and MRF logos to the NIMSS homepage
- Added regional logos for agInnovation South and agInnovation Northeast
- Fixed spacing issue and added new logos to the NIMSS mobile homepage view

NRSP1 Midterm Review Feedback from NRSP-RC

The committee acknowledges the value of both NIMSS and the MRF impact writing activities. Several recommendations came from the committee's discussion.

- The continuous improvement of NIMSS is evident, especially with mobile app, but some user experiences such as keyword searching and other tasks can be further improved.
 - *This has come up in the past before, so we need to remind directors and the NRSP-RC that NIMSS was not built as a search engine, so the framework for this doesn't exist. We will continue, however, to work with Clemson on way to improve searches whenever possible within the constraints of the system.*
 - *Any other issues can be brought to RSAs whenever they appear so we can have them fixed ASAP, as usual.*
- Consider conducting stakeholder engagement sessions to discover challenges that NIMSS users might encounter, especially for casual users (faculty or directors).
 - *RSAs regularly offer trainings, online and at NERAOC. Additional resources abound at <https://www.aginnovationnc.org/nimss-manual>*
 - *We are happy to schedule other session, please just reach out to your RSAs!*
- Managing SOPs to provide a uniform user experience is encouraged, especially for NRSPs.
 - *We are finalizing an NRSP-specific portion of the NIMSS manual and encourage the NRSP-RC to further develop the NRSP Guidelines with more specifics to help project leads better understand the NRSP-RC process.*
- Encourage placement of branded MRF impact statements on multistate project pages.
 - *Done! Please check out <https://nimss.org/projects/18881> as an example, noting the MRF impacts logo in the Impact Statement button. Click on that to see more details on MRF Impacts within NIMSS.*
- Increase the agInnovation brand and MRF impacts presence on NIMSS
 - *Done! Check out the agInnovation and MRF Impacts logo now at www.nimss.org.*

WE SHARE THE IMPACTS

Q2 | Apr 1 -June 30, 2025

The Multistate Research Fund promotes agricultural innovation by providing federal funds to collaborative land-grant university research and Extension projects. We communicate the impacts and importance of these projects to the American people and give researchers and Extension specialists the skills and knowledge to share their science.

IMPACT STATEMENTS



Sara finalized **4 Impact Statements**: **NCERA3**, **S1085**, **NE1942**, and **NC246**.

2 Impact Statements are in draft/review stage: **NE2439** and **W4003**

All finalized impact statements have been uploaded to the NIDB and NIMSS.



In Q2, NIFA shared **2 projects in the NIFA Update** newsletter:

- Featured in the April 17 issue, [NE1601 Eastern White Pine](#) received 147 clicks/views.
- Featured in the April 23 issue, [W3192 Protective Clothing for Wildland Firefighters](#) received 220 clicks/views.

During Q2, NIFA shared **2 projects on the NIFA Impacts page**:

- [NE1601 Eatern White Pine](#) was the 3rd most visited Impact page with 658 views.
- [W3192 Protective Clothing for Wildland Firefighters](#) was the 12th most visited Impacts page with 336 views.

Previously posted Impacts pages about MRF projects were among NIFA’s top 20 most visited Impacts pages in Q2:

- [S1069: Drones in Ag](#) was the most visited page with 2,037 page views.
- [NC1194: Nanotechnology](#) was the 5th most visited page with 481 page views.
- [NC1193: Supporting Healthy Habits in Young Adults](#) was the 17th most visited page with 185 page views.

IMPACT WRITING TRAINING



- Led workshop for NE2439 on June 5.

MEETINGS & NETWORKING

- Monthly: Participated in APLU Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) meetings.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Attended the ACE Conference professional development sessions.
- Received **certification** in communications plan evaluation through ACE after completing a 4-part webinar course with test and peer review.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In Q2, we highlighted research related to National Dairy Month, pollinators, invasive species, National Egg Month, wildfires, National Beef Month, pecans, Earth Day, World Health Day, and more. We shared communications toolkits with NIFA, APLU, and project participants to help them promote multistate projects on social media.



63 likes **39** retweets/replies
31 clicks on links to view/read the Impact Statement
71 tweets

3,109 people received our tweets in their Twitter feeds or search results.



71 posts on Facebook
915 views
30 engagements



71 posts on LinkedIn
9,545 impressions
404 engagements

Use of MRF Impacts content on NIFA’s X and LinkedIn accounts and total impressions on those platforms doubled in Q2 compared to Q1.

NIFA made **9 tweets or retweets** using MRF Impacts content. These tweets garnered **7,990 impressions** and had **68 engagements**.

NIFA made **6 facebook posts** using MRF Impacts content. These posts had **473 impressions** and **10 engagements**.

NIFA made **9 posts** using MRF Impacts content on LinkedIn. These posts received **10,419 impressions** and **364 engagements**.

APLU FANR made **5 tweets** using MRF Impacts contact. These posts received **584 views** and **18 engagements**.

APLU FANR made **5 posts** on facebook using MRF Impacts content. These posts reached **1,042 accounts** and received **28 engagements**.

WEBSITE

1,249 sessions **5:21** minutes/session
938 unique visitors

NEWSLETTER

Our 2025 Q1 newsletter was sent in April 2025 and had **59 opens** and **6 clicks**. The Q2 issue will be sent July 9.