

NRSP1 Management Committee Call NOTES

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Time: 11 am ET, 10 pm CT, 9 am MT, 8 am PT

NRSP1 Management Committee Members
Chris Hamilton, Chair and NIMSS Lead, agInnovation North Central Bret Hess (AA), agInnovation-West Jeanette Thurston (lead AA), agInnovation North Central David Leibovitz (AA), agInnovation Northeast Cindy Morley (AA), agInnovation South Rick Rhodes, agInnovation Northeast Gary Thompson, agInnovation South Jennifer Horton, agInnovation-West Alton Thompson, ARD Julie Estrada (NIMSS User), Purdue University Robin Williams (NIMSS User), Clemson University Sara Delheimer (agInnovation MRF Impacts Program Coordinator), Ex-officio Faith Peppers (NIFA Director of Communications), NIFA Liaison Olivia Kwong (NIFA NIMSS Contact), NIFA Liaison (Until 2027) Email list: nrsp1@escop.info Committee Page: http://escop.info/committee/nrsp-1-management-committee/

Call Agenda:

1. Roll Call and Welcome – Chris
2. [NIMSS Updates, Q3](#) (below) - Chris
3. NRSP1 Renewal Proposal Status - Chris
4. [MRF Impact Program Q3 2026 Update](#) – Sara
5. NIFA PARS (?) Update – Olivia (if available)
6. NIFA Communications Update – Faith (if available)
7. Other Items, as needed.

Call Notes (From Zoom AI)

Attendees: Sara Delheimer, Jeanette Thurston, Cindy Morley, David Leibovitz, Faith Peppers, Julie Estrada, Olivia Kwong, Gary Thompson, Chris Hamilton

Action Items

Chris

- Send any necessary revisions after reviews to Sara and Jason and make updates in NIMSS before the NRSP Review Committee submission deadline in January.

Faith

- Work on getting the newsletter email address (sara@mrfimpacts.org) added to the accepted/safe senders list for NIFA staff.
- Share official guidance on the use of "AI" vs "SI" language once it is available from OSEC/NIFA.

Jeanette

- Compile all AA reviews of the NRSP-1 renewal proposal and send them to Chris/submit via NIMSS review form.

Sara

- Send out a recap email with a suggested timeline for soliciting applications and nominating projects for 2027 impact workshops.
- Continue to send the monthly social media toolkit directly to Faith and the APLU folks to ensure delivery.

Collaboration

- NRSP1 AAs: Submit your reviews of the NRSP-1 renewal proposal to Jeanette by the October 30th deadline.

Call Summary

Quarter 3 NIMSS Updates Presentation

Chris presented the [Quarter 3 NIMSS](#) updates, highlighting key changes including the addition of an Appendix E rollover function for experiment station participants and participation forms. She explained that station directors and participants now have options for managing participant objectives on new projects, with automatic removal of inactive participation forms after six months of no activity. Chris also mentioned new features like a rejected proposals page for system administrators and improved email tracking capabilities. More details on NIMSS updates are below.

NIMSS Updates Meeting

The team discussed David planning to present NIMSS updates at NERAOC and a forthcoming business meeting. Jennifer confirmed she would use updated PowerPoint slides for the Western meeting next week.

NRSP 1 Renewal Proposal Discussion

Chris reported that the draft NRSP-1 renewal proposal was completed and in NIMSS, with text MRF Impacts contributions from Sara D. and NIMSS ones from Jason at Clemson, and noted that more sections were filled in compared to previous versions to better link NIMSS and MRF impacts. The administrative advisors are reviewing the proposal, which will be submitted to NIMSS along with peer reviews from multiple reviewers including Faith Peppers (NIFA), Adam Preuter from NIFA PARS, Sarah Lupus (involved with NRSP1 and NIMSS previously), and Diane French from Rutgers University AES.

The team discussed the NRSP 1 renewal proposal, with Jeanette confirming an October 30th deadline for peer reviews and noting that the current version is in good shape thanks to the work of Christina, Sarah, and Jason. The group reviewed plans to add AI capabilities to NIMSS for search functions, and Olivia Kwong from NIFA clarified that while federal agencies use "superintelligence" for policy purposes, non-federal entities can continue using "AI" in scientific contexts. The team confirmed they are ahead of schedule on the project timeline, and the proposal is in good shape for the January NRSP Review Committee deadline.

MRF Impact Program Q3 Update

Sara presented the [Q3 update](#) for the MRF Impact Program, highlighting several key achievements including four impact statements for regional Excellence in Multistate Research Award winners, with the Western Region Project being the national winner. She reported positive website performance metrics and successful resolution of technical issues with their newsletter platform, which improved the bounce rate from over 70% to 4%. Sara announced plans to send out the next newsletter the following morning and will begin soliciting applications for 2027 impact workshops, aiming to select projects by early next year.

Social Media Metrics and Updates

The meeting focused on social media metrics and communication updates. Sarah presented improved metrics formatting following a communications certificate, with participants noting that LinkedIn significantly outperforms other social media platforms in engagement and reaching target audiences. The team discussed ongoing email delivery issues with the newsletter, with Sarah agreeing to continue direct email distribution to ensure NIFA and APLU recipients receive the content. Olivia provided updates on NRS requirements and FTE data access, while Faith noted that NIFA is still awaiting official guidance on AI vs SI language usage in proposals.

NIMSS Updates, July 1 to September 30, 2026 (Q3)

Participant Form/Appendix E Rollover Workflow

- Rolled-over Participation Forms now go back to the participant to review and confirm objectives before reaching the Station Director. Station staff (Director, Associate Director, or "Other") can also select objectives and approve them on the participant's behalf.
- Added rolled-over forms to the In Process page with a "Review & confirm" button. Also fixed the My Participation review banner, which was showing white text on a white background.
- Rolled-over forms on renewal proposals now show the review banner. Before, they only showed for active projects.
- Added a "Review Rolled Over Participation Forms" Action Item link to the homepage.
- Added New Submissions / Rolled Over filters and pagination to the All Pending page, and fixed the Send Reminder button.
- Added a monthly reminder email to participants listing their rolled-over forms that still need review.
- Pending Participation Forms with no activity for 6 months are now removed automatically.
- Added an RSA-only Remove action that removes a participant without sending notification emails.
- Fixed an issue where rejecting a Participation Form marked it as Removed instead of Rejected, which kept the participant from resubmitting.
- When station staff approve a form by editing and saving it, it is now finalized instead of being left in the retired "awaiting NIFA" status. I also cleaned up 292 forms on active projects that were stuck in that status.
- Migrating Participation Forms from a user's profile now sends the rollover email instead of the generic submission email.
- Participation Forms and emails now show objectives by number (1, 2) instead of internal IDs.

Projects and Proposals

- Added a Rejected Proposals page for RSAs under the Project Proposals menu. Rejected proposals used to disappear from every list, so you couldn't tell a rejection apart from a deletion.
- Fixed terminated projects showing up on the My Proposals "Rejected" tab.
- Removed "Pending NIFA Approval" from the status dropdown on the project edit page.

Emails and Contact Forms

- Added a "Send me a copy" checkbox to the directory contact forms.

- Fixed CC addresses being dropped on the Administrative Advisor contact forms.
- The Meeting Submitted for Approval email can now be edited from the System Emails admin page, and its formatting is cleaned up.
- Station Directors of removed or rejected participants are no longer included on project emails like Project Terminated.

Bug Fixes

- Fixed project pages loading forever for users listed as both their station's Director and an Associate Director or "Other."
- Fixed an error when sending Technical Response review reminders.
- Updated the API documentation page.