



agInnovation Monthly Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC) Call NOTES 5/10/2024, 12 noon CT, 1 pm ET

Attendees: George Smith, Jeanette Thurston, Matt Wilson, Steve Lommel, Anton Bekkerman, Bret Hess, Cindy Morley, Jennifer Horton, Nathan Slaton, David Leibovitz, Rick Rhodes, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Call recording and AI Summary: <https://fathom.video/share/n9CwvKzAs93hdtwC32uTdk3T7SgvZo9y>

Call Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and introductions, as needed – Chair George Smith
 - None, since everyone on the call already knows each other.
2. Request: Research Strategy Roadmap (RSR) input on progress and path forward
 - Overall, great progress on Roadmap so far.
 - Formalized three Roadmap Pillars, brainstormed outcome for each Pillar.
 - Significant conversations on our Vision Statement.
 - Working groups will review Pillar 1-pagers and collect feedback on their outcome goal statements.
 - Other stakeholders to consider for feedback on Roadmap? Note that it will be initially presented at the July BAA Leadership (formerly Joint COPs) meeting and at the NCFAR Hill Lunch and Learn event in September. **Action Item:** Think about who else to socialize the RSR with and send ideas to Jeanette. She will send a reminder to everyone with this request.
 - Thoughts on messaging alongside the BAA Decadal vision document:
 - Anton: Insight into this process would be useful. BAA document is very high-level and broad. Research side, agInnovation's RSR will put more detail (i.e., outcome goals) on what we hope to accomplish.
3. Request: Chair Smith will review his current plans for the remaining 5 months and seek CAC recommendations
 - Seeking Ideas for additional groups George can meet with; please send on to him and Jeanette.
 - Anton: What do the organizations you've met with want to see from us? George: With NGOs and other federal agencies, they want to see that our goals align with theirs (e.g., NSF's CASABio). Our 10-year RSR is fundamental to this effort. Unsure how commodity groups/industry feel as we have yet to engage with them. The RSR will be very useful in these future discussions.
4. Discussion: Getting LGU research in the vernacular of USDA Leadership
 - George mentioned that when meeting with USDA leadership, very little is mentioned about the great work LGU's do; comments by USDA leadership are typically focused on ARS.
 - Perhaps we should brainstorm on ways to have our researchers' work included. Giving them some talking points might be a good start.
 - Having a bank of regional and national stories available to tell could be useful.

- Rick also mentioned the plan to soon start an agInnovation standing committee on communication, which would help with this effort.
 - Jeanette mentioned she and George are hoping to have conversations with former USDA leadership, i.e., Cathy Woteki former USDA Undersecretary for REE/Chief Scientist, on the issue and glean guidance/recommendations.
 - Please send any additional ideas on this topic to George and Jeanette.
5. BAA Summer Leadership Meeting (formerly known as Joint COPs) agInnovation Business meeting agenda items request.
- The meeting will be a hybrid meeting, Zoom and in-person, and open to all agInnovation membership. Tentatively scheduled for July 16th from 8:30 to 11:45 am. We will send out a save the date once it's confirmed.
 - Perhaps keep the discussion to just a few topics?
 - Discuss RSR initial roll-out and implementation plan (e.g., communications, track, and measure progress to goals, etc.
 - agInnovation Communication Committee formation
6. Other Business, as needed.

Call adjourned at 12:37 pm CT.