

Agricultural Research Stations Committee  
Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2019

Present: Arriaga, Barker, Chapman, Combs, Dawson, Dunigan, Esser (phone), Gevens, Peters, Reichert, Sabatke, Stoltenberg, Straub

Announcements: Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Agricultural Research Station Recognition Awards: Scott Chapman (Service), Ken Albrecht (Research) and Nancy Esser (Staff Recognition).

The minutes of the 10/29/2018 meeting were approved

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- The annual ARS Winter Conference was just completed. It was a good meeting of all the ARS Station managers and the agenda included visits with CALS Administration, CALS-Human Resources, CALS-IT and a special session on "Plain Language Training". The station managers reviewed/edited informational sheets for their stations which would replace the outdated, "Where Good Ideas Grow" brochure. These would be single sheets that could be collated into an "Agricultural Research Stations" folder and used to provide information. These single sheets should provide great flexibility in their use, be easier and more cost effective to print additional copies, and easier to update than the old brochure. The ARS Recognition Awards for Research, Service and Staff Recognition were presented during the ARS Awards Reception and Dinner.
- 2019 Project Information Request Forms (PIRF's) are coming into the stations. It looks like the volume of projects on the stations will be similar to past years with some new projects being implemented.
- We hired a Fixed-Term position for the Peninsular Station to manage the orchard activities on the station. Dan Kielar, a long-term seasonal employee with extensive experience in the station's crop scouting program, will help implement the interim station operations plan as we await a decision on whether we will hire a new station superintendent to replace the soon-retiring Matt Stasiak.
- Internet Connectivity on the stations is an issue we are working on for several stations including OJ Noer, Rhinelander and Arlington. DoIT has proposed a plan to improve connectivity on the Arlington station but it may be cost prohibitive. We are continuing to look at other alternatives.
- We are hoping to replace the old bleacher wagons we have used for field days on the stations. The old wagons are expensive to maintain pose both accessibility and safety issues. The Marshfield station built a new, handicap-accessible wagon that addresses both of these issues. We are in the process of building two additional wagons and hope to continue the process of replacing all of the old-style bleacher wagons over time.

LAND SALE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT – SECOND REVIEW: The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to this document and suggested some additional changes. The Department of Agronomy is meeting in February to discuss this document and is likely to have some suggestions for the final document. This document is intended to provide guiding principles for CALS Administration to use in making any land sale decisions and is applicable to all the research stations. Mike Peters will make the currently proposed changes to this document and post it in UW Box for circulation among CALS departments. Any additional suggestions for changes should be directed to Mike for incorporation into a final draft that may be considered by the ARS Committee members at the next meeting.

WEST MADISON LAND SALE: Funds are needed to replace the old campus Seeds facility that was displaced on campus. A possible sale of land on the West Madison station is being considered to fund this need. The Dean's office will get some appraisals for some marginal land on the West Madison station to determine what the current value of this land might be. The ARS committee stated several concerns about any plan to construct a new Seeds facility on the West Madison station including who would incur any future maintenance costs for such a facility and the need to require any possible buyer/developer to mitigate any water runoff issues that might be caused by any development. It is important to note that no decision to offer any land for sale has been made and that other alternative funding strategies to construct a new Seeds facility are also being sought.

WEST MADISON VISIONING REPORT – NEXT STEPS: Bill Barker is forming a committee to work on planning for a potential Urban Agriculture center on the West Madison station. This was one of the recommendations contained in the West Madison Visioning Report. Mike Peters has been tasked with helping move this committee work forward. Representatives from both Attic Angels and Oak Ridge will participate in this planning.

**OTHER:**

The Ag Research Stations are working with CALS faculty researchers on possible industrial hemp research. There is quite a bit of interest from Extension in having some research done in this area.

**NEXT MEETING: MARCH 8, 2009** from 1:30 to 3:00 in Room 250 AG HALL.