

Agricultural Research Stations Committee  
Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2018

Present: Barker, Chapman, Dawson, Dunigan, Esser, Gevens, Laboski, Luck, Parrish, Peters, Stoltenberg, Straub

The minutes from the January 16, 2018 meeting were approved.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

- Mike shared a handout listing the number of research projects, principal investigators and outreach activities conducted on the stations in 2017. This handout has been posted in the ARS BOX account along with a copy of the “Strategic Plans for ARS” report.
- Some surplus vehicles, currently parked at the West Madison Station, have not been approved for use at the stations yet. UW Fleet is working with UW Legal Services to have these approved.
- Safety Training: We provided sprayer training for ARS employees and research technicians recently. These sessions were held at Arlington and Hancock. We also provided Chainsaw Safety Training at Arlington recently. An additional Chainsaw Safety Training session will be held April 3, 2018 at the Kemp Station. ARS will be conducting six Worker Protection Standard training on three upcoming dates. This training is an annual requirement for anyone working on the Ag Research Stations. It was suggested we add an additional date after June 1 for new student workers.
- Marshfield received a Superior Quality Milk Quality Award recently. This is the fourth year in a row the station has received this recognition.
- Rhinelander recently completed upgrades to the Greenhouse #4 head house (mold remediation). Some other upgrades are planned including extending a permanent waterline to Greenhouse #4 which will be paid for in part from funds generated by a tree harvest on the station. We are currently recruiting for a Research Gardener position.
- Kemp – we are putting new roofs on the boathouse and adjacent covered boat slip. This is being done largely through a donor gift.
- Hancock – We are replacing two roofs on buildings with funding from the state roof maintenance program. Hancock recently held their annual meeting with researchers and their technicians to plan and review procedures for the upcoming growing season.
- West Madison – Two of the three crop driers were upgraded this past year and a fourth drier was added to the station with the help of funding from the Agronomy department. CALS is adding a storage cooler to the station.
- Arlington received the “Yahara Pride” designation for their efforts to improve and maintain water quality in the Yahara River shed. We are upgrading the crop drier controls with the help of funding from the Agronomy department. Mike will be meeting on April 18 with specialists from DoIT to explore improving internet service to the station. There is a proposal to access wireless service from the Deforest State Patrol tower.
- Dairy Forage is reducing its supervisory staffing by one Ag Supervisor position.
- OJ Noer internet service is planned for an upgrade this summer.

ARS Committee Charge and Function – The committee discussed several versions of the Charge and Function of the Agricultural Research Stations Committee. There was a fair amount of discussion on the need to complete periodic reviews of the station or to rely on the annual station reports to determine if a review was needed. At the end of this discussion, Bill Barker agreed to review and revise the language

contained in the 2012/13 version of the ARS Committee Charge and Function to present to the committee at the next meeting.

Space Allocation on Ag Research Stations – Storage space and work space (not research plot space) on the stations is at a premium and a growing issue on some stations. Past historical space assignments are posing issues, especially with retiring or vacant faculty positions in departments. Research program expansion or new programs often do not have adequate storage or work space available to them. Julie Dawson described this problem on the West Madison station which has seen a great increase in horticultural research on the station. The committee discussion provided these general directives:

1. Active research should have priority over long-term storage
2. The ARS Director and Station Superintendents should be empowered to control space and make space assignments on the stations.
3. Researchers should request space, along with a justification of the need for storage or work space on the stations. A process for requesting space should be developed.
4. If no agreement can be reached between station users, the CALS Dean's Office will have the ultimate authority to assign space.

Mike Peters will draft a policy for review at the next committee meeting.