

Agricultural Research Stations Committee  
Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2019

Present: Arriaga, Barker, Chapman, Combs, Dawson, Dunigan, Esser, Gevens, Luck, Peters, Reichert, Sabatke, Stoltenberg, Straub, Townsend

The minutes from the January 25, 2019 meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- The 2019 Worker Protection Training (WPS) dates have been set up. There are 5 training dates scheduled, offering 11 sessions. Just a reminder, the WPS training is now an annual requirement for all persons working on the Agricultural Research Stations. We will also continue to offer WPS training by our Walnut Street Greenhouse staff that is specific for working in the campus greenhouses.
- The Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (**CAFO**) permit for the Arlington Station has been published and is awaiting approval.
- There was significant damage to the Mead Residence Hall on the Kemp Station as a result of a burst fire sprinkler head. The damages are estimated to be about \$50,000.
- Please note that entering an incorrect Principle Investigator email address when you are completing the Project Information Request Form (PIRF) will result in the PIRF being sent to places unknown.
- The CASE-IH Big Red program, which provides agricultural equipment to the Ag Research Stations, has spurred some interest from John Deere and New Holland dealers. We are now receiving some tractors and equipment from several dealers who represent these companies. We continue to have good access to tractors from these companies. We are unlikely to have any tillage implements available from these programs. It was noted there is a new Mahindra dealer in Monroe, WI that might wish to cooperate with us in the future in a similar manner.
- The West Madison ARS Urban Ag Center Planning Committee is being put together. We hope this committee will begin their work soon.
- The Rhinelander Station suffered significant damage to their plastic greenhouses this winter. We are working on filing an insurance claim to make the needed repairs.
- We are close to having approval for installing high-speed internet capability at Arlington, thanks to an agreement with Spectrum. This would be a fiber based system installed across the station by Spectrum. The final cost is unknown but is estimated to be about \$2000 per site/per month.
- Staff retention is becoming a problem for the Ag Research Stations as jobs in the private sector are paying more than we are. The recent Discretionary Compensation Fund exercise has helped (we were able to include 25 employees in this exercise), but more work is needed to keep our wages competitive. We are also able to make payments to 24 other ARS employees from the Performance Bonus Fund this year.

Dick Straub indicated CALS is requesting \$10 million from our Congressional delegation to fund a West Madison Germplasm/Seed building and other upgrades. The College is working with the Ag Appropriations Committee, our UW Senators, and Rep. Mark Pocan's staff to formulate this request. At the same time CALS is working on getting stakeholder support for the proposal.

The ARS Committee reviewed the proposed "Guidance Principles, Dispersal of Agricultural Lands from Research Stations" policy and suggested one revision before approving it unanimously. Mike will make the necessary update and post the final version to the ARS-UW Box website.

OTHER:

1. If needed Bill Barker will call another meeting of the ARS Committee before summer but at this time there is nothing scheduled.
2. It was noted there will be a meeting among potential users of the improved Arlington internet, but no reason for the ARS Committee to be involved.