

**Powell Research & Extension Center (PREC)
Advisory Board Meeting
January 25, 2013
Minutes**

The Powell R&E Center Advisory Board met at the Powell R&E Center conference room in Powell, WY with 32 participants present (participants listed at end of minutes). Kelly Spiering, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m. Attendees then introduced themselves.

The next order of business was the reading of the minutes. It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting be approved. Motion carried.

College of Agriculture/Ag Experiment Station/Plant Science Updates:

Bret Hess, AES Director shared that the search for a UW presidential candidate is still underway. The plant sciences department is currently in the process of hiring a grain breeder that would be stationed at SAREC. So far, three candidates have been interviewed and are being reviewed for hire. It was announced that Valtcho Jeliakov is head of a search committee looking for a candidate to replace Dave Wilson, former professor of agroecology. The Department of Ecosystem Science and Management will be searching for a soil chemist to replace Dr. George Vance after his retirement last spring. In addition, the College of Agriculture is currently seeking a muscle biologist and food microbiologist. Bret mentioned that the state proposed budget cuts would continue to occur at UW over the next several years. A new development within the AES and College of Agriculture is the compilation of research priorities as organized by Gary Moss, AES Interim Research Leader, and advisory board members. In addition, UW asked Wyoming ag associations such as Wyoming Stockgrowers Association and Wyoming Wheat Growers Association to contact producers for input on research topics of interest to them. From the information collected, a four-page document has been prepared to prioritize research goals for AES. Bret stated that UW-AES is hoping to merge Wyoming research priorities with national research goals. If anyone has comments regarding this document, they may be sent directly to AES@uwyo.edu. In addition, the document can be found directly on the AES website. Through the AES and College of Ag's competitive grants program, a variety of research is being funded including drought management economics for grazing, Lysteria research, and cheatgrass management strategies.

Bret also noted that there were some changes in personnel/administrative structure at the Powell R&E Center. He announced that Mike Killen, farm manager, was resigning from his position at the center for a new job in Huntley MT. The position, if approved for rehire, should be advertised beginning in March or April and remain open for applications for approximately 4-6 weeks. Mike kindly agreed to make a list of duties to be assigned to the research associate and assistant farm managers to be completed in his absence and until a new farm manager is hired. Abdel Mesbah has been named the as new research leader for the station. This leaves the station director position vacant.

Donna Brown, Associate Dean and Director of Academic and Student Programs, shared that Plant Sciences Department Head, Dr. Steve Herbert, is currently on sabbatical. Consequently,

Donna, Bret Hess and Glen Whipple will be temporarily managing the Plant Sciences department until Herbert's return.

Updates on Student Enrollment – It was another satisfying year for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. There are still well over 1000 students enrolled.

University of Wyoming Extension Update

Glen Whipple, Associate Dean and Director of UW Extension, gave a brief update on UW extension. He shared that the NW part of the state is now fully staffed but other areas of Wyoming still have extension vacancies. Glen also stated that UW extension is conducting a survey to gain input from stakeholders in regards to areas that they believe need improvement. The survey may be accessed from the UW-Extension webpage for those who are interested in participating.

Powell Research and Extension Update

Abdel Mesbah, Director, gave a brief update on the Center, sharing that a variety of applied research projects were conducted, including those involving irrigation, weed management, and fertility management. There were 110 people in attendance at the 2012 Field Day. We were honored to have UW President Buchanan in attendance. Surveys were distributed at field day with a variety of questions in regards to the format and how those in attendance found out about the event. Of the 40 surveys returned, the great majority of attendees found out about the Field Day by word of mouth. In addition to Field Day, the Powell R&E Center hosted a two day High Tunnel Field Day that had a high number of attendees. Justine Christman joined the staff at the R&E replacing Randy Violet as the new Research Associate. Abdel shared that there are approximately \$37,375 in funding for research projects. He asked the advisory board and local producers to bring forth suggestions for research projects. Any funds not utilized could be re-invested in the endowment fund and would earn interest. He also shared that the Powell R&E Center is encouraging campus researchers to conduct studies in Powell. This year, three campus researchers, Andrew Kniss, Anowar Islam and Jay Norton, conducted studies at the station. Abdel shared that he is no longer residing in the station's house so that it can be used as housing grad students or visiting researchers.

Sheridan R&E Center Update

Valtcho Jeliakov, Station Director, gave a brief update on the Sheridan center. He shared that the center purchased a building from Sheridan College that will house the center. They have plans next year to build a new greenhouse complex. He announced that they have acquired the Adams Ranch which is adjacent to their new building. The 250 acre ranch will put the R&E center at over 500 acres. They also hired two new employees: Jeremiah Vardiman, Research Associate, and Rochelle Koltiska, Office Associate. Four online classes are being offered by researchers at ShREC through UW and include viticulture, tissue culture, organic food production, and medicinal herbs and spices. Valtcho extended an invitation for people to attend the Food Expo being hosted by ShREC in April.

Master Gardeners Update:

Bob Prchal referred to the handout on participation of students in the ongoing educational experience. He said that they had expanded the plant science education to include food

production and how it all fits together. There were 164 students and 31 adults that participated this year, taking advantage of the opportunity to learn the importance agriculture plays in our world. Local first graders took a field trip to the greenhouse and were able to learn how to transplant flowers. The transplanted flowers were allowed to grow and were then given back to the children as a gift for their mothers on Mother's Day. In addition, the children were exposed to "age appropriate plant science" which included learning about insects, weeds, and soil and plant parts.

State Seed Lab Update:

Gil Waibel gave a brief report on the personnel of the Seed Lab as well as sharing that there is an increase in samples received and a decrease in revenue. On Feb 7 at 3 p.m. the Seed Lab Advisory Group is meeting in Powell.

Seed Certification Update:

Mike Moore gave a brief report and noted that there have been no major changes in the seed certification realm. He said that they had a productive and extremely busy season certifying a variety of crops in the Big Horn Basin. February 7-8 is the Wyoming Crop Improvement Association meeting in Powell at the R&E Center.

County Extension Educator's Update

Sandy Frost informed the attendees that it had been a great year with Park County Extension and thanked the community and the R&E center for their continued support.

Dallen Smith extended an invitation to Westi Ag Days held on Feb 5-6 in Worland. All are welcome to attend. He said that there would be a variety of ranching and farming topics and was especially looking forward to a presentation involving grazing management as it relates to sage grouse.

Old Business:

UW-PREC Strategic Plan: A significant amount of time was spent going over the UW-PREC Strategic Plan that was drafted and sent to the advisory board members for review before the meeting.

Several advisory board members indicated that they were unhappy with the chain of command and how it relates the director of AES to the R&E center, Wyoming Seed Certification Service, and the Wyoming Seed Lab. Joe Bridges moved that four advisory board members be selected to make changes to the strategic plan and present those changes to Bret. Brian Duyck seconded and the motion was passed. The motion was then clarified and amended so that seven advisory board members would revise the strategic plan and then present it to the advisory board for approval. The seven individuals were as follows: Steve Jones, Dallen Smith, Brett Belden, DeLloyd Quarberg, Brian Duyck, Cory Forman and Joe Bridges.

New Business:

Research Project Proposal (Big Horn & Wind River Endowment): A proposed research project seeks to look at the agronomic practices to optimize yield and quality of confectionary sunflowers. This project would be conducted at the Powell R&E Center and at an off-station site. Researchers are requesting \$12,000 (two-year project, \$6,000/year) in funding for the project.

Joe Bridges moved that the project be funded. It was then seconded by Brett Belden and passed unanimously.

Student Internship (NWC): Bret Hess shared that Northwest College Students could gain internship experience with area farmers this summer. Vern Dooley is head of this program and should be contacted for more information.

Endowment: Applied Research Fund accounting information was provided and discussed.

Bylaws: Powell Research and Extension Center Advisory Board Bylaws and Mission Statement as adopted in March of 2003 were dispersed. Recommended changes were shown in red for deletions and in blue for additions.

- Section A. – Article 2 – Strike (The Steering Committee will meet one time annually to discuss possible agenda items one to two months prior to the regular meeting.
- Section A. – Article 6 – Strike (Steering Committee)
- Section B. – Article 3c – Strike (To serve as a member of the steering committee.)
- Section B. - Article 4b – Strike (To serve as a member of the steering committee.)
- Section B. – Article 5 – Strike (The Steering committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman REC Director, and four to seven members of the Advisory Board appointed by the Chairman.)
- Section C. – Article 1 – Add one producer member from out-of-state to provide outside perspective and guidance. Add two Ag. industry members.

Change Mission Statement by adding Item E. – (Work with companies and legislature to secure outside funding for producer-based research.

In accordance with Section D. Amendment – Article 1. These bylaws may be amended by the majority vote of all Advisory Board Members as taken in a paper ballot vote. After discussion, it was moved by that the members present give unanimous support of the proposed changes to the bylaws when the paper ballot is sent out to those members not in attendance. It was seconded by and motion passed.

Kelly Spiering was nominated by Maurice Bush for Board Chairman and Brian Duyck seconded. Motion carried. Maurice Bush nominated Peter Kukowski for Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mike Forman. Motion carried.

Field Day for the Powell R&E Center was tentatively set for third week in July (Tuesday or Thursday-17th or 19th) with the same format as last year.

Next meeting – Time and Date:

A time and date for the next meeting was not scheduled.

Participants at this meeting were: Brett Belden (HS), Joe Bridges (Pk), Donna Brown (UW), Maurice Bush (Wa), Justine Christman (UW), Brian Duyck (Pk), Brad Ferguson (Pk), Corey Forman (Pk), Sandra Frost (UW-E), Axel Garcia (UW), Jarrod Glanz (Wa), Bret Hess (UW),

Valtcho Jeliakov (SRE), Steve Jones (Pk), Mike Killen (UW), Darlene Lamb (MG), Bob Martens (BH), Brad May (UW), Abdel Mesbah (UW), Mike Moore (UW-SC), Gary Moss (UW), Bob Prchal (MG), Ron Pulley (Go), Deloyd Quarberg (HS), Keith Schaefer (UW), Mike Schwope (BH), Dallen Smith (UW-E), Seaton Smith (Pk), Kelly Spiering (Pk), Jolene Sweet (UW-SC), Gil Waibel (UW-SL), Glen Whipple (UW-E),

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Justine Christman, UW Research Associate

HS – Hot Springs, Pk – Park, Wa- Washakie, UW-E – Extension, SRE – Sheridan Research and Extension Center, BH – Big Horn, MG – Master Gardeners, Go – Goshen, UW-SL – Seed Lab