

Minutes for NCR-194 Research on Cooperatives
Wednesday, November 13, 2002
Sheraton Westport
900 West Port Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri

Administrative Advisor:

Sarahelen (Sally) Thompson
Department of Agricultural Economics
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Chair:

Roger Ginder
Department of Economics
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011

Vice Chair:

Robert Cropp
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI 53706

Secretary:

Evert Van der Sluis
Department of Economics
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007

Treasurers:

Michael Boland and David Barton
Department of Agricultural Economics
Kansas State University
Manhattan KS 66506

Members in Attendance:

Michael Boland, Kansas State University
Bob Cohen, Ohio State University
Michael Cook, University of Missouri
Bob Cropp, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives
Joan Fulton, Purdue University
Roger Ginder, Iowa State University
Peter Goldsmith, University of Illinois
Steven Guebert, Farm Credit Administration
David Hahn, Ohio State University
Shermain Hardesty, University of California - Davis
Brian Henehan, Cornell University
Sue Hine, Colorado State University
Mary Holz-Clause, Iowa State University
Phil Kenkel, Oklahoma State University
Gregg Lawless, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives
Darrell Mark, University of Nebraska
William Nelson, Cenex Harvest States
Frayne Olson, North Dakota State University
Joe Parcell, University of Missouri
Chris Peterson, Michigan State University
Ashwini Rao, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives

Anne Reynolds, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives
Sally Thompson, Purdue University
Eric Thor, Arizona State University
Evert Van der Sluis, South Dakota State University
Kimberly Zeuli, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives

Members Absent:

Bruce Anderson, Cornell University
James Baarda
David Barton, Kansas State University
Michelle Beshear, CoBank
Sanjib Bhuyan, The State University of New Jersey – Rutgers
Harvey Brooks, University of Alberta
Fabio Chaddad, Washington State University
Paul Christ, Afton, MN
Joe Coffey, Midlothian, VA
Ron Cotterill, University of Connecticut
Kenneth Duft, Washington State University
John Foltz, University of Idaho
Murray Fulton, University of Saskatchewan
Allan Gray, Purdue University
Steve Halbrook, Farm Foundation
Wes Harrison, Louisiana State University
James Haskell, USDA Rural Business-Co-op Services
Bill Heffernan, University of Missouri
Julie Hoagland, USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Services
David Holder, USDA-CSREES
Robert King, University of Minnesota
Mahlon Lang
Stephen Lauck, CoBank
Randall Little, Mississippi State University
Thomas Little, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
William Nelson, North Dakota State University
Jay Noel, California Polytechnic State University
Brian Oleson, University of Manitoba
Emmanuel Onunkwo, South Carolina State University
Burton Pflueger, South Dakota State University
Dick Poorbaugh, Pennsylvania State University
Bruce Reynolds, USDA/RBS/CS
Timothy Richards, Arizona State University
Richard Rogers, University of Massachusetts
Jeff Royer, University of Nebraska
Richard Sexton, University of California – Davis
Edward Smith, Texas A & M University
Thomas Sporleder, Ohio State University
Thomas Stafford, USDA Rural Business –Cooperative Services

David Swanson, Doherty Rumble & Butler
William Thomas, University of Georgia
Mike Thomsen, University of Arkansas
Randall Torgerson, USDA Rural Business –Cooperative Services
David Trechter, University of Wisconsin – River Falls
Ruby Ward, Utah State University
Dave Weatherspoon, Michigan State University
Robert Weaver, Pennsylvania State University
Lionel Williamson, University of Kentucky
Timothy Woods, University of Kentucky

BUSINESS MEETING

Agenda:

1. Approval of Past Minutes
2. Financial Report
3. Report from Nominations Committee
Election of Officers
4. Report on past NCR 194 activities
5. Organization of future activities
6. Other business

NCR 194 Annual Meeting, 2002

Chair Roger Ginder called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. He reminded the audience that NCR-194 conference papers and presentations be sent to Michael Boland, who agreed to make them available for access on the Internet. Ginder also thanked Bob Cropp and Anne Reynolds for taking care of the conference announcements.

Approval of Past Minutes

A motion was put forth, seconded and accepted to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2001 annual meeting.

Financial Report

Michael Boland gave the financial report. As of October 30, 2001, NCR-194 had a balance of \$726.48 (report attached), the same as on October 12, 2001.

Report from Nominations Committee

Joan Fulton reported on nominations for executive officers. The nominations committee consisted of Joan Fulton, Kim Zeuli, and Roger Ginder. The committee's nominations were:

1. Chair: David Trechter
2. Vice Chair: Evert Van der Sluis
3. Secretary: Michael Boland
4. Treasurers: Michael Boland and David Barton

Motion made and seconded to approve the list of nominees and to cast a unanimous ballot. Motion approved.

Bob Cropp announced his retirement as of January 3, 2003, but indicated that he will continue working.

The nominations committee also nominated Phil Kenkel to coordinate with the executive committee the reauthorization process of NCR-194 for the period from October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2008. The request for reauthorization deadline was December 20, 2002.

Sally Thompson stated that member participation in NCR-194 would need to be explained in the reauthorization request. She stated that lack of interest in NCR-194 among individuals with backgrounds in Rural Sociology could reduce its chances for getting reauthorization approval. Thompson suggested that as a reflection of the output produced by NCR-194 members and to meet the deadline for reauthorization, it might be advisable to de-emphasize Rural Sociology as an area of interest among the group's members.

Joan Fulton suggested taking the route of least resistance to achieve reauthorization, with or without emphasizing Rural Sociology.

To facilitate the reauthorization process, Sally Thompson noted that she – as the Administrative Advisor of the group – would need to send a letter to each state Agricultural Experiment Station Director or other organization with potential NCR-194 members to ask them to provide the names of individuals to represent the institutions in NCR-194. Thomson stated that she would need a list of Agricultural Experiment Stations with NCR-194 involvement. Thompson noted that the Agricultural Experiment Station directors had agreed to utilize this system for reauthorization requests of regional research groups.

Joan Fulton indicated that she would provide the existing list of Agricultural Experiment Stations to Thompson.

Eric Thor stated that the objectives of the Farm Bill are changing and that these changes will have an impact on the research agenda of NCR-194.

Michael Boland noted that there has been a reduction in funds available through the Rural Business Cooperative Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Joan Fulton noted that even though there was a lack of resources at the Rural Business Cooperative Services, the request for reauthorization of NCR-194 would still need to be submitted. Fulton stated that the new farm bill emphasizes value-added agriculture and rural development, and that therefore the request for reauthorization of NCR-194 would also need to emphasize these areas.

Sally Thompson indicated that she would stay in close communication with David Trechter and Phil Kenkel to facilitate the renewal proposal.

Motion made and seconded to approve the reauthorization procedures. Motion approved unanimously.

Report on past NCR 194 activities

Chris Peterson reported that he is working with a Ph.D. student on compiling an inventory of research publications available on the Internet relevant to U.S. cooperatives, and published from 1995 to the present. Peterson and the student found that 113 research products were available on the web. About 25 percent of the 113 articles were found on the NCR-194 or American Agricultural Economics Association websites, and about 40 percent were listed on the various Centers for Cooperatives web sites. Thirteen of the 113 articles had been published in refereed journals. Peterson noted that the number of agricultural cooperatives-related articles authored by researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture had decreased in recent years, presumably because of the Department's resource constraints. Peterson stated that a critical role of NCR-194 is to address the national and regional research agendas.

Several meeting participants expressed surprise over the small number of research publications found. Participants suggested. Peterson agreed with these observations and said that further work would likely uncover additional research publications.

Michael Boland commented that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has allocated funding for use by a research committee with the task to list the number of Ph.D. degrees received by type of food and agribusiness interest.

Michael Cook asked whether Peterson's compilation of research activities included an investigation of NCR-194 member websites.

Peterson noted that the most recent volume of the Journal of Cooperatives is that of 1999, and that two most recent issues were not available on the web. He also wondered whether cooperative leaders not affiliated with academic institutions would know how to access the research publications.

Organization of future activities

With regards to the planning for the 2003 annual meeting, Chairman Ginder asked for input on whether or not the meeting should be held to coincide with the annual Farmer Cooperatives meeting.

Joan Fulton suggested that the default would be to plan the meeting to coincide with the Farmers Cooperatives meeting. She advised keeping the door open for other possible times, so as to maintain the group's ability to respond to developments that might be relevant to the group. She asked for the executive committee to readdress this issue well before the planning to the 2003 meeting.

Fulton noted that one of the ways to readdress 2003 meeting planning would be for the Executive Committee to communicate with members by way of the list serve. She also suggested communicating on a regular (for example, monthly) basis so as to improve internal communications among NCR-194 members.

Motion made and seconded to hold the 2003 annual meeting of NCR-194 jointly with the annual Farmer Cooperatives meeting, but that the Executive Committee would need to revisit this issue prior to the planning for the 2003 annual meeting, to keep open the possibility to have to respond developments that might be relevant to the group. Motion approved unanimously.

Other Items

Brian Henehan asked whether the Journal of Cooperatives remains viable.

Chairman Ginder stated that the Journal is still a relevant research outlet that serves the purpose of NCR-194 and others interested in agricultural cooperatives. Ginder stated the Journal remains open to receiving, and encouraged audience members to submitting manuscripts. He noted that the Journal currently has a distribution of about 612.

Michael Cook suggested publishing the Journal electronically through the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)

William Nelson provided an update on foundation funds. He noted that the CHS Cooperatives Foundation, the Cooperative Foundation, the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE), and the Ralph Morris Foundation have funds available for cooperative activities. Nelson stated that it would become more difficult to secure funds for conducting research on cooperatives. Nelson argued for a more effective use of foundation moneys by not only funding research activities, but also by disseminating research results – such as those reported at the NCR-194 meeting – directly at directors programs. He also reported that the National Institute on Cooperative Educators (NICE) had been discontinued. He stated that an internal committee within NCFC had been formed to change some of the organization's priorities, and also that the NCFC would not be in a position to be in charge of publishing the Journal of Cooperatives. Nelson stressed the need for improving relationships between industry and academics.

Bob Cropp announced that about 100 individuals were expected to attend the 2002 Farmer Cooperatives meeting, and that support for this group remains as strong as in prior years.

Chairman Ginder mentioned that he has had discussions with the American Agricultural Economics Association about creating a section within the AAEA concerned with Research on Agricultural Cooperatives

Business meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Research Reports

The following research reports were presented. The entire papers may be found on the NCR-184 web site (<http://www.agecon.ksu.edu/acc/ncr194/default.htm>):