

ANREP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM EDT

Meeting Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86777836463?pwd=ZnN3ajFvVm0zWWRCaTNIWGNlY0dldz09>

Meeting Agenda

In Attendance:

Bill Warren (Past-President), Erika Lyon (President), Andrea Lazzari (Secretary), Dean Solomon (Executive Secretary), Eric Norland (NIFA Liaison), Dan Stark (Western Region), Georgia Peterson (North Central Region), Danielle Rhea (Northeast Region), Catelyn Turner (Awards Chair), Rachel Pienta, Leslie Boby, Erin Trouba (DEI Committee Chair)

Not Attending: Carrie Stevenson (Southern Region Rep), Kevin Zobrist (President-Elect), Chad Cook (Treasurer)

1. Roll Call/Introductions/Guests

- Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM
- Did short introductions to welcome Catelyn Turner, new Awards Chair

2. Additions to Agenda

- None

3. Assignment of Minute Proofreaders

- Dan Stark & Danielle Rhea

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

- Danielle moved to approve the minutes and Dan seconded the motion. No discussion; motion passed unopposed.

5. Update Reports from outside groups and initiatives

- NIFA – Eric Norland
 - Anticipating significant changes within USDA and across federal government due to presidential election; the changes to NIFA remain to be seen
 - One anticipated change is a reduction in the amount of work surrounding climate change being done
- NREEF – Dean & Bill
 - A brief meeting this month but looking forward to supporting the 2026 ANREP conference. NREEF is also hoping to work with the Professional Development Committee to support opportunities next year
- NEWFI – Leslie Boby
 - December 4th – Quarterly Call – open to anyone; topic is indigenous burning
 - An in-person workshop to be held in California in the spring

- Flyers to come soon
- JCEP – Erika
 - Fall Meeting – discussed structure of the ELC and PILD conferences
 - Association Dinner/Meeting at 2025 ELC, PILD – Does ANREP have an interest in this?
 - Rachel shared that she tried to get a group together at the ELC conference in Tampa earlier this year. She said there was interest but struggled to get financial support from ANREP for this. Another suggestion was to host a cocktail hour or dessert reception instead of an association dinner, since many ANREP members are also members of other associations.
 - Rachel shared that the total cost (for light appetizers only) for the event at ELC in Tampa would have been approximately \$1,000 total, but she anticipates it would be more expensive for future events.
- PILD – Georgia
 - Plans have been altered to eliminate breakout classroom sessions due to space being cost prohibitive. Poster sessions will be occurring.
 - Georgia asked about the possibility of hosting off-site meetings at DC-located departments, etc. as part of PILD this year. Eric had some recommendations of departments and transportation options. They will continue this discussion offline.
- ELC – Erika
 - Registration is open – currently have 77 submissions for oral and poster presentations. Acceptance notifications should have gone out last week (per Rachel).

6. Presidents Report – Erika

- Filled Awards Committee Chair position
- Attended fall JCEP meeting
- Routine correspondence and invoice approval

7. Treasurer’s Report – Chad

- Not present – no report

8. Executive Secretary’s Report – Dean

- Dean worked with Catelyn Turner (new Awards Committee chair) and Terra Freeman (Past-chair) to orient Catelyn to her new role and developed the draft 2025 awards program document for review by the Awards Committee and board.
- Put together the proceedings for 2024 biennial conference including presentation abstracts. This is typically a task for the conference planning committee and staff but time was getting short, so Dean assisted with the task.
- As of October 12, 461 members have renewed or joined for 2024 or 2025 (102 new members to date). Our total membership is 533 (paid for 2023, 2024 or 2025, or life members). On December 15, those who are still delinquent will be removed from the active member list. Dean anticipates that there will be a little over 50 individuals who are dropped.

9. Regional Rep Updates:

- Northeast – Danielle
 - Held regional meetup on November 5th and had a presentation on the new native plant initiative. Approximately 15 people registered and 8 attended.
- Northcentral – Georgia
 - Nothing to report
- Southern – Carrie
 - Not present – no report
- Western – Dan
 - Hosting a breakfast for their Oregon ANREP chapter at their state annual Extension conference in December; anticipates getting some good feedback and ideas there that he will share with the board next month.

10. Reports from Committees:

- EE360+ Grant - Rene Strnad
 - Not present – no report
- Awards Committee – Catelyn Turner
 - Terra sent out an email last week requesting some input
 - 2025 ANREP Awards Program
 - Dean shared that we have never had a nomination for the ‘Excellence in Natural Resources Extension & Service Award’ and the board may want to consider retiring it.
 - He had a similar suggestion for the Regional Collaborator Award, as it has had very few nominations in the history of the award.
 - Erika shared that she heard from state ANREP representatives that they felt the awards were too competitive and it discourages participation. Dean shared that he’s not sure where that belief came from because we don’t typically have large numbers of competitive submissions.
 - Dan and Erika voiced support to encourage people to make submissions to the two awards mentioned above. The group agreed to keep the awards for 2025 and if no submissions are received, they can be removed for 2026.
 - Dean suggested having the Awards Committee do some work to dispel the belief that ANREP awards are too competitive.
- Professional Development Committee – Holly Campbell
 - Not present – no report
- DEI Committee – Erin Trouba
 - Had to leave meeting early – no report
- Communications Committee - Sarah Havens
 - Not present – no report
- Scholarship Committee – Chad

- Not present - no report
- Conference Committee Update – Janice Sitzes, Bob Bardon
 - Not present - no report

11. Old Business

- Orientation for 2025 ANREP Board – Dec. 5 @ 3PM
 - Erika will send out a reminder email to participants
- Approval of budget
 - Georgia moved to approve budget as presented and Andrea seconded. No discussion; motion passed unopposed.
 - Dean mentioned that we are sitting on a large fund balance outside of our yearly expenses. He suggested that the board may want to consider making investments or other actions or activities that could benefit membership long term.
 - Erika discussed the benefit of keeping one additional year of funds in account and investing the remainder. Erika shared that Chad has mentioned looking into hiring an accountant.
 - Rachel shared that it may be beneficial to fund travel (in addition to conference registration) for ANREP's ELC representatives. Dan shared support for this idea.
 - Erika shared it could also be used for opportunities to meet up at conferences. Dean suggested perhaps using it to maintain membership connection during 'non-conference' years.

12. New Business

- None

13. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:56 PM