

Applied and Extension RIG Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2013

New York, NY

Present: Ben Amsden, Ann Ziebarth, Jennifer Hunter, Cindy Fake, Brandon Greene, Melissa Fry, Gail Brandt, Dawn, Kristi Lekies (co-chair)

The group was welcomed by Co-Chair Kristi Lekies who gave a brief overview of past activities of the RIG including invited speakers, field trips, and panel discussions. There is approximately \$1250 in the treasury. Co-Chair Lori Garkovich was unable to attend this year.

Ben Amsden, Ann Ziebarth, Jennifer Hunter, and Cindy Fake were invited as panelists to address the topic, "What is the Place of Applied Sociology in a Changing World?" as a continuation of last year's panel discussion which was well-received by attendees. Given the small number of attendees this year, a general discussion was held about activities of the RIG, changes in Extension and colleges/universities, and plans for next year's conference.

Field trip ideas. Ideas were discussed for a field trip at next year's conference which will be in New Orleans:

- Fisheries and Extension
- Andy Deseran, conflicts and communities
- Disaster recovery
- Rice fields
- Louisiana House, Baton Rouge, LSU, demonstration house for environmental sustainability (Claudette Reichel)
- Trip along bayous
- Co-sponsoring with the Diversity RIG
- Involving local Extension agents (helping with field trip, speaking to group, showcasing work, etc.)

Applied work of non-land grant institutions. We discussed ways small colleges are doing outreach and applied research, as well as the benefits to the institutions and to students. The possibility was raised of having a session on higher education and outreach at the conference, such as an idea session.

Annual conference ideas/discussion. The group discussed ideas for next year's conference and ways to increase attendance and participation.

- Call for papers to RIG members
- Drawing attendees from smaller schools
- We can look at a 100-mile radius of New Orleans and invite people from county level Extension positions, LSU ag faculty, 1890's schools, tribal colleges, NCRS

field staff, Tulane University, private organizations, community development organizations, and other organizations with an applied focus

- Highlighting sessions of interest
- Bridging theory and practice
- Shirley Laska, University of New Orleans
- Offer one-day registration and lunch
- Inviting Extension agents on field trip (chance to showcase what they do, validation of work). We should look for interesting projects.
- Book *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers
- Session on difficult issues (e.g., prisons, health care)
- What are benefits of attendance? Opportunities to talk about work (promotion and tenure)

We discussed developing a model for recruitment to conferences so we can test out ideas to see what works: workshops, paper sessions, social gatherings, etc.

Melissa Fry offered to be a co-chair for the next year and will serve with Lori Garkovich.