

CAFS IAB Brief Meeting Notes

June 9, 2020

All presentations and project reports accessible on CAFS website meeting page (<https://crsf.umaine.edu/forest-research/cafs/2020-cafs-annual-meeting/>; PW = CAFS3)

Recording of continuing projects and new project presentations are available: [CAFS IAB Video](#)

Due to circumstances from the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting that was scheduled to be conducted in-person in Washington State, was held remotely via Zoom.

Members and site representatives (83) attended the Zoom remote meeting at various times through the day, with an average of 68 members attending at any one time. See attendee contact list in meeting materials folder for those who were able to attend.

Meeting began at 11 am EST. Welcome, introductions, updates, overview of day by Dr. Aaron Weiskittel
Greg Reed, NSF program manager not available until later.

Victoria Hill, CAFS Assessment Coordinator, provided an introduction and background to the members.

At 11:30 am, presenters began their project presentations (see video link, presentation slides, and project reports for details). Final projects were presented first, followed by continuing projects and new projects. Short discussion breaks for questions and review of LIFE form feedback followed every 3 presentations. Dr. Weiskittel encouraged members to provide additional feedback on LIFE forms that will be available until June 16.

Greg Reed was able to join at approximately 2pm.

Greg Reed (see slides/video for full presentation)

- Apologies for being late
- New program manager for I/URC (last Sept).
- CAFS I/URC has most universities and members participating
- Reed background: Elec energy grid
- Encouraged the industry folk as members or to become members. Complimented level of research and talent; Hope they see the value—engage and take advantage of the I/URC
- New website: iucrc.nsf.gov
- New I/UCRC Program solicitation (Preproposals due 7/7/20) NSF 20-570
<https://nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20570/nsf20570.htm>
- Covid DCL <https://nsf.gov/pubs/202/nsf20095/nsf20095.pdf>
- Gave background of program and his role
- Will follow-up on UGA status

Project presentations resumed following the conclusion of Dr. Reed's comments.

At the conclusion of the discussion on new projects, Dr. Weiskittel thanked participants for attending, acknowledged the difficulties of conducting such a large and complicated meeting remotely, and asked everyone to plan on the next in-person meeting scheduled for 2021. He also encouraged industry

members to join the closed door post-meeting discussion (break out room 1) with Victoria Hill, and invited site directors for a post-meeting discussion in a breakout room 2. Full meeting adjourned approximately 5:30pm EST.

Industry Breakout (21 participants)

Greg Johnson Asked for Meeting Feedback

4 Comments

- Difficult situation but well organized and went well. Projects proposed in line from previous meeting suggestions, collaborative nature came thru
- Given length etc went better than most have been on. Happy to see more collaboration
- Well organized, long day, difficult for discussion and look forward to in-person
- Kudos to efforts put into the research and to AW for leading this program forward

Greg Johnson: He and advisory panel will continue to be in touch with AWeiskittel

Feedback from Victoria Hill (Evaluator)

- Bylaws: says one meeting a year. But phase 3 grant requires 2—need to update bylaws. (MF confirmed UMaine has held IAB meetings every 6 months since June 2019).
- Nonmembers: should have them sign an MDA
- New projects/focal areas suggestion: helpful to make sure any new projects are identified at the beginning of each meeting (provide graphic showing synopsis of projects and related focal areas)
- Good job by attendees staying engaged through difficult circumstances
- Encouraged everyone to continue to expand collaborations with projects and sites

Johnson noted that focal areas are still being refined—best fit for projects to be determined

Hill to Meg Fergusson: Reports by evaluator due a week from today—she will be in touch with UMaine on what she needs from us

Meeting concluded without further discussion

Site Director Breakout (22 participants)

- Bob Wagner complimented about how successful Phase 3 appears and the increased collaboration
- Question on how to create more multi-site proposals
 - Aaron suggested that proposals are not set in stone and encourages sites to interact organically
- Increased communications on projects with more frequent meetings
- Increase connections to national forestry organizations like Tom Fox's forest health initiative