

**UWEX/ESP International Committee Meeting  
May 9, 2003  
Meeting Minutes**

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon, May 9, 2003 by Chair, John Preissing. Present: Demetrius Brown, Arlen Albrecht, Marty Havlovic, JoAnn Hinz, Mary Crave, Linda Kuska, Dave Hinds, and Mary Ellyn Bell.

II Recent trips or upcoming trips abroad

Arlen Albrecht mentioned Tom Syverud's recent trip of two weeks to Nicaragua, where he worked with identifying pests and diseases in plants through using a digital camera. These will then be transferred with data and recommendations on those as a kit for Nicaraguans. Kristin Hill recently returned from Haiti where she was involved with community needs assessment and facilitation work. She was there for two weeks under the Partners of the Americas Program also.

Upcoming, John Preissing and Yvonne Horton will be traveling to Nicaragua to work with the National Agricultural University on developing and implementing a community resource development extension component to their university's program.

Also, coming up soon are Rob Burke, Arlen Albrecht and Jim Ressick, who will be going to Nicaragua to participate in a Central American conference. Five people will be going to Russia the first two weeks of June, including the Provost, Marv Van Kekerix, Dean, Carl O'Connor, Assistant State CRD Program Leader, Tom Blewett, CCED Director, Al Anderson and John Preissing. They will be working with Kuban State University on a program to develop a CRD extension program and a CRD academic department. Marty Havlovic is planning to return to Uganda where he is working as a volunteer on a Land-of-Lakes project.

One concept we talked about was the idea of matching seasoned international extension travelers with novice international extension travelers in a way to build up our base and to increase opportunities for people.

III Recent CSREES International Conference

JoAnn Hinz reported that 100 people attended the conference at Michigan State University. She noted that a lot was occurring around the country and she described states such as Michigan State University, Penn State University, Ohio State University, Florida State University and Purdue as having quite extensive international programs. She described Wisconsin as being in the middle of the

pack in terms of the level and depth of the programming that we have internationally. However, our international work did seem to stand out for the number of people participating and the variety of roles and places that they are going and playing did. JoAnn led a presentation on extension's international efforts, basically assisting in a presentation developed by Mary Crave, Marty Havlovic and Arlen Albrecht. JoAnn also led a presentation on diversity, multiculturalism, and international work, trying to draw the linkages; and last, John Preissing gave a presentation on the findings from our international planning retreat held last fall. All three generated good questions and comments and a good exchange of advice.

One additional concept that JoAnn and John discussed was "framework" by the Aspen Institute. Frames basically tries to say that we all walk around with mental frames or concepts of the world as we see it. So when we see a middle-eastern country or a group of Mexican laborers, we have a frame around which we consider that. It may be completely false and against the majority of the reality; however, it is the frame by which we view reality. The Aspen Institute argues that there are ways that we can help to better understand the full picture of a country or a culture. JoAnn and I thought this was a very useful concept and we plan to use it within the context of our own grant writing work for the international events that are coming due in June.

Lastly, the keynote speaker, Gary Weaver, presented interesting insight on the incredibly diverse globalizing world that we live in today and the challenges it poses for all of us, both as citizens and as educators.

#### IV Discussion and International Grants

John discussed with the group the two versions of international mini-grants available through CSREES - to build on a capacity internally and to help our local audiences to understand international work better. The grants are available for \$5,000 to \$10,000, to be matched by our in-kind funds, or it could be in cash. That would mean a project would actually have a value of \$10,000 to \$20,000, depending on what level was approved. In addition, the grants do require partnerships with other institutions, be they within your own system or preferably outside your system.

The grant deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> and JoAnn and John shared two project proposals they were working on. One proposal developed by JoAnn was an International Curriculum developed by Wisconsin Ag professionals for the most part who had worked overseas. The goal would be to provide training and materials for each county extension office on how they can better present international works; and how they can help local audiences be more sensitive to the globalized world. The focus would be on agriculture first and to kick this off we envision an international conference held in Madison of Wisconsin's Ag professionals and interested people. From that we identify a number of themes and strengths and

start to prepare the development of training materials. We are considering inviting the Aspen Institute for this. From this a number of series of manuals would be available for each county extension office.

The second proposal is to provide international overseas training experiences for the North Central regional extension staff, with the primary focus being on graduates of the NELD program. The reason being that the NELD program graduates represent the potential future leadership of cooperative extension. If we can provide them with a key international extension experience that may help in the overall goals of internationalizing extension, both in terms of understanding the issues and in understanding the leadership that takes place overseas. This project is being co-written with Iowa State University and with some support from the University of Missouri. Both proposals need approval from the Dean's office and a detailed proposal ready by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

For the international overseas training experience, a number of additional concepts or ideas were suggested. One being to make sure that the program is inclusive of all of the program areas within extension; that is an agriculture program or just a rural program wouldn't touch the gamut of programming needs of extension. Also, while Costa Rica may be an initial site in this proposal, we would definitely like to consider other parts of the world as part of this proposal.

Finally, Marty Havlovic, Arlen Albrecht and Mary Crave offered to assist in these grants by reviewing the drafts and providing comments and feedback to help strengthen those.

## V WAEP Training Session and International Committee Report

Arlen Albrecht reported that he and Tom Cadwallader provided a presentation to about 25 people on international work. It had two parts, one was the review of our results of the international planning retreat, and the other was Tom's slides and program description of his recent trip to Afghanistan. Together they had great response and also Arlen noted that very few people at the session had traveled internationally before, which is a nice change as often we have the majority of people who have traveled or participated in WAEP sessions.

Secondly, Marty reported that he presented the results of our annual report to the overall ESP business meeting. This was an annual report and Marty was kind enough to present on behalf of our group.

## VI Other

A. Linda Kuska reported that ESP grants should be considered as a possibility for helping people expand their international experiences. At least three different people attended Spanish language training camps through ESP support over the past year.

B. Linda also said that budget proposals are possible to be made to ESP to support and underwrite our work. In the past this budget support was merely for mailings and audio conference time. This year the Northern District is supporting the audio conference time and because of E-mail we have had very little to no budget costs. So, for any funds that are needed at this point would not be budgeted for, although we could make a request. Next year we could likewise make a request. For now, the mini-grants will be funded through matches on time of our staff for the most part.

## VII Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be held most likely in early fall, after the end of summer; however, John Preissing will keep the full committee apprised of progress on both grant applications and it may be possible that a meeting will be called to review the status of the grants and planning for the two activities that the grants are related to. Otherwise people are encouraged to E-mail any other ideas or feedback they have on the two min-grant proposals as JoAnn and John, along with Marty, Arlen and Mary will continue working on these throughout the next few weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.