



N.C. Association of  
Cooperative Extension Specialists

## **NCACES Fall Meeting Minutes**

October 27 2023

12-2 PM

NC A&T Farm Pavilion

12:15 Lunch Starting (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken, Salad, Sides)

12:45 Welcome and brief Introductions. (Steve Hall, Board Members)  
**Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

12:45: Business Meeting (Sign Up Sheet Circulating)

Minutes from last meeting (Marissa Cohen)

**Marissa gave an overview of the previous meeting minutes. These were approved by the board at a former meeting. See below as a reference.**

Treasurer Update – Matt Poore

**Matt was unable to attend the meeting, but left us with an update. Steve shared the accounting information.**

Special Projects

Facebook Group (Ann/Dannica/Marissa)

**Marissa and Dannica shared information about the new Facebook page. There are security questions that will need to be answered.**

Update on Bylaws - Betty

**New wording on the by-laws to be more specific on who we can include as members of the group. We have a new objective to foster collaboration between the land grant institutions. All updates are listed in the [Google Form](#) that was sent out in early October. The membership year will now coincide with the fiscal year.**

~~Update on Officer Nominations (Steve, Patrice, Marissa)~~

1:00 Speaker Ray McKinnie, Brief Q&A (Intro Patrice Dollar)

**Patrice introduced Dr. Ray McKinnie, Associate Dean of Extension at NC A&T University.**



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**Dr. McKinnie presented a set of slides “Extending Our Reach”. McKinnie gave a brief overview of the academic programs offered by the NC A&T College of Ag, followed by the research initiatives addressed by the university.**

**We are one system of Extension supported by two land-grant institutions. McKinnie then gave an overview of the Extension programs supported or offered by NC A&T. NC A&T representation across the state used to be divided into East, Central and West, then East and West. Now there is East, West and areas of urban and underrepresented population regions across the state. Dr. Shannon Wiley is the regional director of this region.**

**There are 2 major goals: Transformative Engagement and Responsive Scholarship and Impact. The college is looking at an integrative model for small farms: Small Farms Resource and Innovation Center (SFRIC). All three goals are interconnected (Academics, Research and Extension).**

**Program areas:**

**Climate Smart Agriculture - Dr. Biswanath Dari**

**Small Farm LEadership 360 Initiative - focuses on helping farmers be successful through business and production practices. This program is good for farmers who have inherited land and don’t know what to do with it.**

**Speedway to Healthy (in-person and virtual) - Human Body Walk targeting elementary and middle school youth. This program has reached almost 25,000 youth.**

**Developing Leaders at the Grassroots Level - Grassroots leadership conference and Community Voices, which has helped organizations raise almost half a million dollars.**

**Innovation Station - approximately 4,000 youth reached through STEM Makerspace with 15 workstations.**

**Vision: Urban Food Complex that will be built across from the Farm Pavilion. It will house the creamery, research labs and industrial kitchen and a BLS2 lab. The idea is to have an on-campus complex that can be community-facing. Bring back Aggie Ice Cream!! There is a deep history of NC A&T involvement in dairy science.**

**A new automated milking system (AMS) debuted last year. It is one of the most advanced University-based milking systems in North Carolina.**

**CAES Expansion Budget (\$6.8 million) has expanded the number of opportunities to hire support. 43 new hiring opportunities, including 20 new Area Specialized**



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**Agents to bring concentrated expertise to areas who can work with agents and farmers.**

1:30 Discussion/questions for Ray

**Can you tell us more about how NC A&T is addressing the area of underrepresented populations? This is evolving and may include some of the ASAs. They are hopeful that they are bringing in a concentrated approach.**

**How many agents across the state? Somewhere between 55-56 and increasing to replace retirements and other vacant positions. The slides represented 15 agents in a specific area, not total. The new agents will focus on specific subject matter in regions with need or demand within that area. Agents will need to understand the dynamics on the ground within those specific areas.**

**Comment: there are pockets where we have groups and demographics with great needs that have been historically underserved. There aren't enough agents to meet the demand. We need to focus on creating bigger impacts through synergy and coordination. Having more people in the field will make us a stronger system.**

**This is a strategic effort to expand the offerings within North Carolina, not taking positions away from one university or another.**

**Comment: as an ASA, agents are internal clients, public is external clientele.**

**Dr. McKinnie is interested in becoming a lifetime member of NCACES!**

1:45 Adjourn and Fellowship/Networking

**2023 Executive Committee**

President - Steve Hall  
President Elect –Patrice Dollar  
Secretary - Marissa Cohen  
Treasurer - Matt Poore  
Parliamentarian – Beatriz Rodriguez  
Webmaster – Ann Savage  
Past President – Lee Menius

**2023 General Board Members**

R Andrew Branan  
Patrice Dollar  
Charlotte Glen  
Lauren Greene  
Dannica Wall  
Derek Washburn



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Previous Meeting Minutes

## **NCACES Spring Awards Meeting Minutes**

May 24 2023

12-2 PM

NC State Beef Unit, Lake Wheeler

Networking 11:45-12:15

12:00 Lunch Starting (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken, Salad, Sides)

12:15 Welcome and brief Introductions. (Steve Hall, Board Members)

Member Introductions; Superpowers and How We Use Them, Thanks

**Steve Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting after lunch. He then asked each person to introduce themselves by telling their name, area of expertise, work location and their “superpower”, or a soft skill.**

1:00 Speaker Garey Fox: Vision for CALS and Extension, Brief Q&A

**Garey Fox was our speaker for the meeting. Garey is the incoming CALS Dean. Garey shared that he was very excited to be with our group and began by addressing two common questions he has been asked: 1. How will he be different from Rich Linton, former CALS Dean? and 2. Why is he waiting until August 1 to start in his new role? Garey came from Oklahoma State to learn from and be mentored by Rich Linton. He has opted for a longer transition time so he can tie up some loose ends professionally in his current position of department head for BAE and as a journal editor. His goal between now and August 1 is to learn as much as possible about the college and meet as many people as possible. Garey believes that Extension in NC is top notch and our efforts are very much appreciated. He has visited with the research stations and wants to visit each county Extension office as well. So far, he has already met with the Farm Bureau, Steve Troxler, and the staff at NCDA&CS. He has started connecting with folks via LinkedIn, so if you get an invite to connect with him, it is not a scam! Garey shared that he has a passion for youth programming, FFA, connecting with youth and youth development. He talked about continuing urbanization in North Carolina, as well as managing the impacts of climate change. As the digital age continues to progress, Extension is being looked to provide digital support as broadband access increases and precision ag continues to grow. Garey wrapped up his address by talking about the importance of professional development and employee retention through competitive salaries. He encouraged everyone to invite him to their events and he will do his best to make it out to them as much as possible. He will also be continuing to do listening tours across the state.**



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We then had a Q&A session.

1. What are your thoughts on strengthening the connection/relationship between NC State and NC A&T?
  - a. Garey has reached out to their dean and recognizes this is a partnership. He also has a great working relationship with their administration.
2. What has been your biggest challenge so far?
  - a. Time and learning the university systems at a higher level
3. What advice would you give departments when decisions are made that we don't necessarily agree with or understand?
  - a. Look at things from a different perspective
4. What steps do you want to take to build a team to address mental health in students and employees?
  - a. Mental health touch points at the department head level (open door policy) and creating a touch point culture in the college.
5. Do you see AI as something that we will use in Extension?
  - a. Absolutely; it is coming and will change the way people receive information. One challenge: How do we know the information is valid?
6. What about digital readiness for employees?
  - a. AI initiative through provost's office will be released soon.
7. We are constantly overloaded with emails that may or may not be relevant to us. How will you address this issue?
  - a. Gary met with the new Communications Director for CALS and will be discussing information overload with her as they meet in the future.

1:30 Business Meeting (Sign Up Sheet Circulating)

Minutes from last meeting (Marissa Cohen)

**Marissa presented the minutes from the Winter NCACES meeting to the membership present. Lauren Greene moved to approve the minutes as presented, the motion was seconded and they were unanimously approved.**

Treasurer Update – Matt Poore

**Our accounts are currently in good standing with over \$4000 total. Lifetime memberships helped boost the accounts, but these are one-time payments, rather than continuous income from yearly memberships.**

Nominating Committee



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**Steve Hall encouraged members to sign up for the nominating committee or to join us on the board. Sign up sheets circulated to encourage members to sign up for one or more of the six committees.**

#### Membership

**Matt Poore encouraged members to invite their colleagues to become members of NCACES. Historically, this organization had hundreds of members, but unfortunately these numbers have waned as time progressed.**

#### Special Projects

**Ann had no update on special projects, but did encourage members to join her on the committee.**

1:40 Awards Presentations: Matt Poore and Awards Committee

**Three awards were presented to members:**

- 1. Support of county programs: Lucy Bradley**
- 2. Team program award: Marissa Cohen, Adam Fahrenholz, Lee Menius, Sara Drake**
- 3. Individual programming award: Diedre Harmon, presented by Kendra Phipps**

1:45 Adjourn and Fellowship/Networking

**Steve adjourned the meeting and encouraged members to continue their conversations/networking.**

#### 2023 Executive Committee

President - Steve Hall  
President Elect –Alyssa McKim  
Secretary - Marissa Cohen  
Treasurer - Matt Poore  
Parliamentarian – Shannon Wiley  
Webmaster – Ann Savage  
Past President – Lee Menius

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