

NIMSS Oversight Committee Conference Call

January 20, 2011

ATTENDEES:

NERA: Rubie Mize,

NCRA: Chris Hamilton, Joe Colletti, Bill Ravlin

SAAESD: Eric Young, Donna Pearce, Bill Brown

WAAESD: Mike Harrington, Harriet Sykes, Colin Kaltenbach

NIMSS Update – Rubie Mize

- Extension Advisors can now perform all functions that Research Advisors can do in NIMSS – approving proposals/participants, authorizing annual meeting, submit/approve reports, view reviews, etc.
- Judy had finished converting the system to the Object Oriented Programming Style (OOPS) for the Participants>>>View Participation info function. This conversion made searching through the database faster as we now use the same codes throughout the system when searching participant's info that are viewed in different tables, and totals now tally among all the different tables. She will continue converting to OOPS all participant functions [draft/edit, approve, and remove/delete].
- Judy is working on the Appendix E “Edit” Form to remove the 7 program areas for Extension, leaving only the option to enter KAs.
- KAs/SOI/FOS will be changed to dropdowns, so the selection can be highlighted when completing Appendix E, instead of opening the link to the USDA webpages.
- We need to discuss how Extension wants to use the data in NIMSS. How will data be searched and displayed? What about the training component? Should each region train their extension counterparts?

Comments:

- Research Summary table is incorrect. The same numbers show up across the table for SY, PY, & TY
- Formulas are wrong. The table is not showing the total from the breakdown.
- Also included in the database are the temp projects that were never approved.
- The temp projects can be deleted or convert status to “inactive”
- Is there a way to have an option in NIMSS that people who are originally signing up for NIMSS can choose both Research/Extension if they have dual appointments? Yes, one way would be to have an option that allows each region to choose wither Research/Extension or both

Discussion on the future of NRSP1 –

The proposal describes what we have proposed in terms of the advisory committee:

“General oversight, policy development, proposal preparation and budget recommendation will be provided by a Management Committee composed of: four Administrative Advisors, one of each representing each of the four SAES regions; an ARD Director; the NIMSS Manager; the four System Administrators; two director's administrative assistants who use NIMSS routinely; and two communicators/writers to advise the impact reporting program. The Administrative Advisors will elect one of their representatives to be the Lead Advisor and Chair of the Committee. NIFA will name one or more non-voting representatives to the committee.

- NIMSS is managed by each of the Regional Associations serving the State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES). The Regional System Administrators handle the day-to-day tasks related to maintaining the system and answer queries from their users. The Northeast Region is responsible at the national level for upgrading and troubleshooting of the system.”
- We have received three peer reviews. One recommends approval and two recommend approval with revision. There is a concern that we do not present a business plan for explaining long term funding for the program. There is also a request for better explanation of the relationship between NIMSS and REE-Port and a better explanation of the proposed impact reporting component. I will attempt to address these concerns and send a revised proposal to the NRSP-1 Committee soon. I would like to be able to forward everything to the regions by the end of the month. (Dan Rossi)

Comments:

- The new proposal would eliminate the NIFA component and database and will primary support NIMSS and add a component of Impact Statements
- Advisory Committee listed above will replace the Oversight Committee
 - Budget request \$50,000 with \$20,000 set aside for Impact writing
- Suggested that the project committee ask extension to have an liaison Extension Director like Robin Shepard or Ron Brown to serve on the committee
- Budget is enough for programmer salaries, but tight on the Impact writing side

Future Meeting:

- Next NIMSS Oversight Committee conference call is Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 12 noon WDT; 1:00 pm CDT; and 2:00 pm EDT.

Teleconference adjourned @2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Pearce, January 21, 2011