



Georgia ANREP
Spring Board Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2020
Rock Eagle

Members Present: Jessica Warren, Bryan Fluech, Yanni Chen, James Morgan, Dr. McCann, Michael Abney, Ashley Hoppers, Heather Kolich, Richard Evans.

Call to Order—Jessica Warren, 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes—Heather Kolich
Move to approve: Michael; Second Bryan. approved

Reports of Officers

Financial Report and Membership Update—Jessica Warren for Kim Toal
-new member waiver process

~\$5700 in account. A few conference registrations coming in, mostly Master Naturalists. ~35 paid members as of last week. Kim will work on taxes and register with secretary of state this week.

PILD cancelled for GA. Jessica went to JCEP in San Antonio. Good session on “burn-out” was standing-room only. Other good session and speakers; beneficial to go.

Bylaws: CEPA and Educators are allowed to join. Must become member before they register for the conference. Write “new member” on ANREP membership form. Membership fee is same as agent for PA and Educator.

Georgia ANREP Conference Update—Jessica Warren/Amanda Tedrow

Using cost recovery worksheet; add 10% to registration to cover costs.

Conference gift is Yeti tumbler with ANREP logo. Goal is zero-waste conference. All encouraged to bring own water bottle. Bring own name tag.

Two different registration forms; one for agents and one for MNEV. Paypal has directional link. Allowing up to 25 MNs to join this year. Mike Mengak has agreed to sponsor.

Pre-conference options: 4-H Forestry Judging Coaches training or kayaking on Broad River.

Several good speakers – office of sustainability, Athens Botanical Gardens, Warnell, UGA Museum of natural history. Agent presentations and posters.

Field trips: Botanical Gardens, biking tour, Warnell Whitehall tour

New Agents and Recruitment – Dr. McCann

All new ANR agents go to Tifton, Griffin, and Athens in March, May (Griffin), and October. Group of ~20. This is a good place to pitch ANREP to new agents. James can go to Tifton; Michael can go to Griffin (55 minutes) and Athens; Heather can go to Athens.

4-H Association meeting in May (LaGrange).

Dr. Irwin is our liaison with Warnell now, rather than Mike Mengak. Dr. Claybo in Tifton, Elizabeth McCarty, also very helpful.

Dr. McCann is trying to encourage Warnell to separate webpages for publications for lay people from those from agents/professional.

70% of searches for publications go to Extension. Over 2 million per year. Bryan requested to add Marine Extension publications. Question from Dr. McCann: Should publications run through UGA or Marine Extension peer review system.

Fire adaptive landscaping booklet is good resource for native grasses (Jessica in response to Ashley question about responding to client requests for native grasses to plant. Fish and wildlife dept will provide publications.) May also have pdf available that we can put on our websites.

Ashley – wants to partner on publication addressing native grasses; Dr. McCann suggested running it through forage department for guidance and collaboration.

Dr. McCann left at 10:40 to join another group. Will be with us again at Conference in May.

JCEP Extension Leadership Conference and JCEP Public Issues Leadership Development Conference Updates (Reimbursement issues) – Jessica Warren led group discussion

Georgia ANREP Strategic Planning Session Review and Action Items

Newsletter: all agents need to be part of contributions. One issue in 2020 so far. The January 2020 issue was sent out to Georgia ANREP membership via email; administration (LPJ, Mike Martin, all ANR PDCs). James created it in Canva; Jessica will take leadership now. Will look for a variety of Natural Resources topics; will reach out to 4-H about marine resource club for article. Target date for next newsletter: June or July. Have stuff to Jessica by May for a July issue. Group discussed and decided to push next newsletter out to EXTALL listserv in compliance with Strategic plan to become a resource for other agents.

Support: Jessica put together talking points to address DEDs and Administration and had a Zoom meeting with Mike Martin and DEDs that went well. Sheldon asked what we need for support other than money; upper-level support of ANREP same as GACAA. Jessica will email talking points to rest of us.

James has Zoom meeting scheduled to speak with PDCs. Mike Abney is backup for James. Will use Jessica's talking points.

Promotion video – Stephanie and Doug Collins. No report.

Discussion: do we want to focus on recruiting new member/agents at District update meetings or New Agent training? Yanni recommended waiting until after new agents complete the pesticide exam. Michal Abney suggested agents will probably be more receptive to a recruitment pitch during a meal.

James will do Tifton New Agent Training in March 19. James has Pecan Production meeting with Doug. Will try to send Doug during lunch break.

Michael will do Griffin in May.

Heather will do Athens in October (with Michael as backup). Check training calendar for dates.

Website Update

Michael had a meeting with Richie Bramen and started on website update and page for canned programs. (January or February). Update officers, photos, making it more user-friendly; buttons across top, conference button, discussed what they want that section to look like. Link to upload canned programs, with approval process through board, comments and dialog for revision; also newsletter archive.

In interim, Heather created ANREP folder in Extension File Sharing site.

Michael stated programs will include a request that if someone uses a presentation, they contact creator so they can get credit for the usage.

The canned programs are part of the process for letting other agents know about ANREP as a resource. Michael also looked at creating a list of NR partners he has used in the past to help with major program collaborations, partners for programs. This could be just another resource for website.

Upcoming Conferences and Dates to Remember

Jessica: Upcoming meeting locations and dates for form for Mike Martin. Need for funds usage approvals.

Leadership conference next year: Kansas City, MO; PILD in D.C.

National ANREP 2022 – no location posted yet. 2020 in Bend, OR. Ashley, Lisa Gentit, Jessica are going from members in room.

Upcoming state conference locations. President has been host in past. However, supposed to have locations and dates set three years out.

Bryan will be president in 2021. Dahlenega suggested – between Ashley and Heather. Ashley said new NGA campus in Blue Ridge. Mountain research education center in Union Co. Discussed Brunswick and Jekyll, using 4-H center; potential conflict with start of camp.

Forsyth CO: conference center at Tech college, can reserve free; hotels may be issue. Resources – quarry, Lake Lanier, Sawnee Mountain Preserve, DNR hatchery. Probably not as much allure as the coast.

Richard volunteered to work with Bryan for Savannah in 2021. Look to Ashley for mountains venue in 2022.

GANREP conference early bird registration ends March 31. Payment by check is preferred due to processing fees.

Yanni volunteered to help judge oral presentations; Bryan will help judge posters. Bryan and Heather plan to present. Ashley said she would rather have presentations and posters.

Michael – announced the Stephens County annual forestry and wildlife management field day. Many good speakers; geared heavily toward wildlife this year. \$25 to attend, many credits available. April 3, 2020. Good opportunity to connect with industry. Rotates around NE district b/c that where the agents were. Some turn-over so will be openings for others to participate in planning team.

Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, Associate Dean for Extension, joined meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Administrative update, Dr. Laura Perry Johnson

This was Dr. Johnson's 5th stop today. Budget update: B-budget units; positive that Extension and research units budgets are so big. State is one of top contributors to budget. Senate version is exactly like it came out of house; optimistic that the 4% cut is what we will see – the cut we were told to plan for. Process is taking a long time. One positive thing; legislature desires to cut our cuts back to the

original cut. Means taking promises from other areas to put back into our budget. FY 21 budget is unknown how it will come out.

Gave districts freedom to figure out how to make budget work: have one agent work two counties or two program areas. Ball is in their court. Hiring pause required to figure out where we would get cut funds from to pay. Districts have been asked to create hiring priority list. Of 50 open positions, only half are fully state funds; other half are county funded. On specialist side, 17 vacancies, mostly ANR. Some are critical, some will be given up to budget cut.

Also in midst of Dean search; Dean Pardue steps down end of June. Search committee seeking input on characteristics for dean; LPJ has sent out survey twice; fill out so we are engaged in process. No one else is sitting around thinking about Extension. We need to represent ourselves.

Ashley; her 14 vineyards in Gilmer and Fannin counties are unhappy about losing Cain Hickey's position. Extension got this position approved through the budget because State Representative David Ralston strongly supported it. Viticulture specialist was not the highest priority on list. We still have Bret Blaau and other specialists for fruit.

Lisa Baxter taking over for Dennis Hancock. We can get through with one for the time being.

Of 17 specialist positions, some got given back in budget cut. Seeking to be more creative in covering commodities.

Jessica – EMA is already planning how to address Corona virus. LPJ – governor has created task force. No one from UGA on taskforce. Go to UGA emergency website for resources. Local response; only local health departments can declare emergency. EDEN has a page on infectious diseases.

UGA tourism expert/ specialist, John Salazar, was recently hired into ag business. He will help with agro-tourism. National ag tourism conference will be in Savannah this spring. Bryan will meet with him this week. HWY 17 is the latest Georgia Grown trail.

LPJ departed at 11:50 a.m.

Tentative date for Fall Board meeting – October or November in Macon. October 6 is good for majority. If Bibb doesn't work, Michael volunteered Jones County for meeting.

Adjourn – 12 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Heather N. Kolich