

**Multistate Agricultural Literacy Research Committee (W2006) Meeting**  
**May 15, 2017**  
**Embassy Suites**  
**San Luis Obispo, CA**

**Members Present:**

Debra Spielmaker, Utah State University (co-chair)	<a href="mailto:debra.spielmaker@usu.edu">debra.spielmaker@usu.edu</a>
Michael Martin, Colorado State University (co-chair)	<a href="mailto:Michael.j.martin@colostate.edu">Michael.j.martin@colostate.edu</a>
Kellie Enns, Colorado State University (vice chair)	<a href="mailto:kellie.enns@colostate.edu">kellie.enns@colostate.edu</a>
Denise Stewardson, Utah State University (secretary)	<a href="mailto:denise.stewardson@usu.edu">denise.stewardson@usu.edu</a>
Gaea Hock, Kansas State University	<a href="mailto:ghock@ksu.edu">ghock@ksu.edu</a>
Monica Pastor, University of Arizona	

**Guests Present:**

M'Randa Sandlin, University of Hawaii	<a href="mailto:msandlin@hawaii.edu">msandlin@hawaii.edu</a>
Michael Newman, Mississippi State University	<a href="mailto:men1@msstate.edu">men1@msstate.edu</a>
Kimberly Bellah, Murray State University	<a href="mailto:kbellah@murraystate.edu">kbellah@murraystate.edu</a>
Amelia Miller, Michigan Farm Bureau	<a href="mailto:amille2@michfb.com">amille2@michfb.com</a>
Rose Judd-Murray, Utah State University	<a href="mailto:rose.juddmurray@usu.edu">rose.juddmurray@usu.edu</a>

**Members Absent:**

Kathryn Stofer, University of Florida	<a href="mailto:stofer@ufl.edu">stofer@ufl.edu</a>
Jennifer Melander, Nebraska Cooperative Extension	<a href="mailto:jmelander7@unl.edu">jmelander7@unl.edu</a>
Ania Wiczorek, University of Hawaii	<a href="mailto:ania@hawaii.edu">ania@hawaii.edu</a>
Cary Trexler, University of California, Davis	<a href="mailto:cjtrexler@ucdavis.edu">cjtrexler@ucdavis.edu</a>
Carl Igo, Montana State University	<a href="mailto:cigo@montana.edu">cigo@montana.edu</a>
Robert Martin, Iowa State University	<a href="mailto:drmartin@iastate.edu">drmartin@iastate.edu</a>
Kerry Schwartz, University of Arizona	<a href="mailto:kschwartz@ag.arizona.edu">kschwartz@ag.arizona.edu</a>

Mike Martin, committee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Members and guests of the committee introduced themselves.

*Motion by Kellie Enns to approve minutes of the September 19, 2016, meeting in Tucson, AZ; seconded by Mike Martin. Motion passed.*

Gaea Hock started the discussion regarding “marketing” of this committee’s research. Ideas included putting postcards in registration bags. Debra Spielmaker noted that the W2006 listserv is available, and the National Center for Agricultural Literacy (NCAL) wiki page is public. NCAL is now housed at Utah State University with Spielmaker administrating.

Martin asked for committee members’ updates regarding research and projects related to W2006.

Debra Spielmaker

- Conducted farm field days needs assessment with graduate student
  - Created KWL with students prior to field day experience
  - Identified misconceptions and missed opportunities

- Conducting research related to STEM 4H Youth with graduate student. (Not a good agricultural literacy connection; therefore, not published with W2006.)

#### Mike Martin

- Serving as theme editor for upcoming issue of *The Agricultural Education Magazine*
- Working on a consumer study with Colorado Department of Agriculture
  - When consumers start to feel distrustful of agricultural practices, their trust of all sources goes down with the exception of environmental organizations (confirmation bias)
  - Study is conducted every 5 years
- Published conflicts in undergraduate classrooms: horticulture and organics students
- Conducting program review on barriers of school volunteers in metro area
- Working on questionnaire about adults' conceptions of agriculture; studying values
- Using learning center at stock show to look at agricultural literacy in terms of design standpoint

#### Monica Pastor

- Working in Cooperative Extension: Rural leadership program
- Conducts annual summer agricultural institute
- Presents school gardens and safety resources: What do teachers see as issues?

#### Kimberly Bellah

- Teaches contemporary issues in agriculture; general education course (writing intensive)
  - Students write issue briefs on topics they've researched
- Working with K-8 teachers using agriculture to teach across curriculum
- Presenting innovative poster: Agriculture dual-credit courses; use PALS to partner with teacher
- Working with Fall on the Farm through School of Agriculture; possible immersion study for students to follow teachers to discern what information teachers are sharing with students (what do teachers hear at FFD and how do they present it to their students)

*Spielmaker invited and encouraged Bellah to join W2006 committee.*

#### Rose Judd-Murray

- Working on PhD at Utah State University
- Building instrument to determine college freshmen's literacy benchmarks; dissertation focused on agricultural literacy
- Working with Utah AITC to review elementary preservice students' use of agricultural literacy resources. Will share with other state AITC programs for developing evaluation instruments.

#### Michael Newman

- Director of Human Science Literacy at Mississippi State
- Works with Farmtastic program
- Farm Bureau runs AITC program which needs curriculum update; graduate student working on this project

### Gaea Hock

- Increasing water literacy in regards to agricultural use
- Has graduate student doing social engagement/public policy for youth water advocates conference—train youth to speak on water issues both residential and agricultural

### Kelli Enns

- Interested in how researchers conduct pre- and post-tests for use in Ag Adventure experiences (farm field days)
- Collecting baseline agriculture knowledge and skills of College of Agriculture students (80% of students in CSU don't come from traditional agriculture background)
- Coordinated and co-authored National Research Agenda, Priority One from W2006
- Administrators of Masters of Extension Education at CSU (master of agriculture—Plan C professional degree = 36 credits)

### Amelia Miller

- Pursuing master's degree from Utah State University (online)
- Works at Michigan Farm Bureau and AITC: Pilot phase with agricultural literacy mobile classroom; hired teacher to work in lab and teach lessons. Comparing educational methods (modality). Cost analysis = \$150,000 original budget for trailer

### Denise Stewardson

- Directs Utah AITC program
- Can provide populations for research
- Working with Spielmaker and Judd-Murray to evaluate rate of return on AITC program's resources—time, effort, cost—in regards to preservice workshops

Martin: Funders are looking for impact data; can we identify different types of agriculturalliteracy models and the best methods for success?

What is the metric for measurement?

- Use NALOs as a benchmark
- Groups have own agendas and are looking for their specific commodity represented; this is a disconnect between commodities and agricultural literacy, in general

Hock: What are we evaluating, what data are we looking for?

Looking at W2006 objectives, committee hasn't considered the groups, e.g., commodity groups that are being addressed.

Martin suggested taking information from W2006 agricultural literacy poster and writing journal article. It may become a review of literature piece:

- How do populations conceptualize agriculture?
- How do populations conceptualize agricultural education?

Committee and guests adjourned to small working groups.