



NERA

Northeastern Regional Association of
State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting
APLU, 1220 L Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC

March 26-27, 2024

Draft Agenda (3/4/2024) v6

Tuesday, March 26 [2nd Floor Conference Room]

7:00 am – 8:00 am	<i>Breakfast at the Residence Inn</i>
8:00 am – 8:15 am	<i>Walk to APLU</i>
8:15 am – 8:30 am	<i>Check in at the APLU</i>
8:30 am – 8:45 am	<p><i>Call to Order and Introductions</i> – Anton Bekkerman, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Agenda Modification (Additions/Deletions) and Approval • Approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2023, NERA Business Meeting
8:45 am – 9:00 am	<p><i>NERA Executive Committee Updates</i> – Anton Bekkerman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Actions (agInnovation apparel distribution)
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<p><i>Multistate Activities Committee</i> – Puneet Srivastava, MAC chair</p> <p>Items requiring NERA approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE Multistate project proposals <p>Informational items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRSP3 renewal • Administrative Adviser duties • Informational items • agInnovation award nominations (multistate project award, research investigator award)
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<i>All Things APLU, NERA, and agInnovation: A Conversation with Wendy Fink and Doug Steele</i> – Anton Bekkerman
10:30 am – 11:00 am	<i>Networking Break</i>

11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<p><i>Work Session: The NERA Value Proposition. Where are we and where are we going?</i> – Anton Bekkerman and Rick Rhodes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey results • The value proposition revisited • Implementation of the Northeast Agenda
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<p><i>Work Session completion: The NERA Value Proposition. Where are we and where are we going?</i> – Anton Bekkerman and Rick Rhodes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction and summary
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<p><i>Work Session: Challenges in Leadership-Capacity Programs and Funds</i> – Jason Hubbart and Rick Rhodes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplementary materials
3:30 pm – 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	<p><i>Community Update: IR-4</i> – Jerry Baron, Executive Director, IR-4 (virtual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background: The IR-4 Project was established in 1963 by the USDA and land-grant universities to ensure that specialty crop farmers have legal access to safe and effective crop protection products.
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	<i>Station Profile: Penn State</i> – Blair Siegfried
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>Summary and Action Steps</i> – Anton Bekkerman
7:00 pm	Dinner on your own

Wednesday, March 27 [2nd Floor Conference Room]

7:00 am – 8:00 am	<i>Breakfast at the Residence Inn</i>
8:00 am – 8:15 am	<i>Walk to APLU</i>
8:15 am – 8:30 am	<i>Check in at the APLU</i>
8:30 am – 9:00 am	<p><i>OED Report</i> – Rick Rhodes and David Leibovitz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities Update • Budget Status • Horizon Scan
9:00 am – 9:45 am	<p><i>Washington Partnerships and NERA</i> – Anton Bekkerman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis Burke, Christina Laridaen, Senior Associate

9:45 am – 10:30 am	<i>Critical Issues: Preparing for a NIFA Financial Audit</i> – Susan Rice, Division Director for the Policy and Oversight Division, Office of Grants and Financial Management, NIFA
10:30 am – 11:00 am	<i>Networking Break</i>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<p><i>Open Discussion: Preparing for What’s Next</i> – Rick Rhodes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Succession planning • Onboarding • Leading in uncertain times • Research strategies
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	<i>Potpourri and meeting summary</i> – Anton Bekkerman
1: 45 pm	Adjourn
	<p>Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Joint Summer Session (NEED/NERA), Providence, RI, June 3-5, 2024 • 2024 BAA Summer Leadership Meeting (formerly Joint COPS), Providence, RI, July 16-18, 2024 • agInnovation Annual Meeting, Raliegh, NC, September 22-25, 2024