

USAIN Business Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 1:15 P.M. EST

Smathers Library, Room 100 University of Florida, Gainesville

1. **Call to Order:** Philip Herold, USAIN President called the meeting to order at 1:15 P.M.
2. **Review of USAIN Business Minutes of May 6, 2014:** Minutes were approved without changes.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Jessica Page, USAIN Treasurer gave a financial report of the organization. A review of the income and expenses and commitments shows a positive balance confirming that USAIN is in good financial standing.
4. **President's Report:** Philip Herold gave a report to USAIN members and all in attendance following the USAIN action plan and goals. Some highlights of accomplishments were:

- a. **Goal 1: Strengthen membership and increase participation in USAIN**

USAIN currently has a total 144 members including 13 new members for a net gain of 3 members; the 2015 membership survey studied the possibility of USAIN's geographic expansion to include an international scope, increasing membership fees and recruiting of new members; and we continued the development of a new USAIN website.

- b. **Goal 2: Advocate for public policy, legislation, and institutions**

A USAIN representative participated on the Executive Search Committee for the new National Agricultural Library director; USAIN sponsored the Ithaka S+ R agriculture research support study with 19 institutions participating; and with AgNIC, USAIN continued to coordinate digital and preservation projects of agricultural literature and document exchanges.

- c. **Goal 3: Provide Educational and Professional Development Opportunities**

USAIN provided professional development opportunities at the 15th USAIN Biennial 2016 Conference.

5. **Updating the USAIN Website:** Progress continues to be made on the USAIN website re-design. A soft launch of the website was scheduled on April 11, 2016. The E-Commerce portion of the website is still being developed. A demo of the new website was given to attendees showing many desirable features and functions that would support activities of USAIN members. However, it was noted that the website re-design work

using the services of Jesse James Creative was behind schedule. USAIN-EC members will re-evaluate this project to assess if this re-design is a long-term solution for USAIN given the inability of Jesse James Creative to work within the established time-frame.

6. **USAIN 2016 Conference Update:** Val Minson, conference co-chair, acknowledged the contributions of all who have been involved in planning this conference including co-chair Jessica Page and Suzanne Stapleton, the chair of local arrangements. Val reported that the conference has 104 attendees registered. The conference program has two pre-conferences with 43 attendees. The conference will feature 5 invited speaker sessions; 5 special interest group sessions; 4 main tracks of contributed papers featuring 19 presentations; one poster session with 19 participants; 13 exhibitor booths with 18 sponsors; one Alachua Visit Gainesville Grant worth \$4876; and 3 tours with 57 participants. The conference budget has \$57,252 revenue from \$21,327 (sponsorships) and \$35,925 (registrations). The expenses so far total \$52,987 which gives USAIN a \$5000 profit margin.
7. **Announcement of Award Winners:** Sarah Williams, USAIN President-Elect, announced the following USAIN awards following the work of the Awards and Honors Committee. The actual awards will be given at a banquet ceremony at this conference.
 - a. **New to the Profession Award:** The Committee reviewed three applications for the two scholarships. The awardee is Patricia Hartman (Auburn University).
 - b. **Student Scholarship Award:** The awardee is Shelby Hallman (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).
 - c. **Service to the Profession Award:** After reviewing the nominations, Allison Level (Colorado State University) was awarded the service to the profession award.
 - d. **Special Achievement Award:** After reviewing the nominations, Connie Britton (The Ohio State University) was given the special achievement award, an award given out on an ad hoc basis for meritorious service to USAIN.
 - e. **Honorary Membership Award:** After reviewing nominations for this award, USAIN gave joint recognition to three agricultural and natural resource scientists for their work with the Rangelands Partnership: Dr. Karen Launchbaugh (University of Idaho), Dr. George Ruyle (University of Arizona), and Dr. John Tanaka (University of Wyoming). These scientists provide leadership in advancing the field of agricultural information from outside the profession by: obtaining grants to support the Rangelands Partnership, developing a bibliographic database (Range Science Information System) that seeks to bridge the gap between published scientific research and information for non-scientists, establishing the *Journal of Rangeland Applications* to provide syntheses of published research, and contributing to the preservation of historical knowledge

of range land managers and ranchers. For this recognition, the recipients will be given a plaque each and honorary membership in USAIN. There is no monetary award for this membership.

8. **Committee and Interest Group (IG) Appointments and Recognition of Service:** Philip Herold reported that all committee and IG reports have been received. USAIN-EC members reviewed the reports, activities, achievements, plans and progress of each committee and IG. In this cycle, most committees have members who have served the full four-year term. As these members rotate off, attendees were encouraged to consider serving on the USAIN committees and IGs. When the make-up of committees and IGs is finalized, there will also be opportunities to serve as new committee chairs and IG co-conveners and USAIN-EC liaison assignments. Philip thanked all USAIN members who served in various capacities on committees and IGs performing work that makes USAIN such a vibrant organization.
9. **Recognition of the USAIN Executive Council:** USAIN President Philip Herold thanked all USAIN members and USAIN-EC members for their service. He mentioned that he was grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the support he has received in his current role as President. He recognized USAIN-EC members who are completing their service on the Council. He also welcomed new USAIN-EC members that included: Leslie Delserone as President-Elect, Sarah Williams as incoming President, and the directors: Megan Kocher, Necia Parker-Gibson, and Amy Paster.
10. **Planning for the Year:** Incoming USAIN President Sarah Williams mentioned the items she plans to address during her term which will include: continuing to work on the USAIN website re-design; facilitating the Ithaca S+R study and its implications; and figuring out ways of activating and fully engaging USAIN members in professional activities that benefit the Association and all the people we serve.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, April 26, 2016

Claudine Jenda
USAIN Secretary