

**Notes prepared by Deborah Sheely**  
**Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Coordinating Committee meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 27, 2014; 10 a.m., CBLR Room 435**

Members:

Present: Rebecca Brown; Deb Imondi; Kenneth Payne; Linda Sebelia; Kate Venturini

Not Present: Shannon Brawley; Alyson McCann; Marcia Morreira

- Dean Kirby started the meeting with a few comments about the need for this group and the importance of the work to be accomplished. He touched on the need to “regionalize” Extension due to limited resources in any one state, and to be more deliberate about making the best use of URI resources to address the highest priorities for Rhode Island.
- Committee members provided brief descriptions of their background and interests related to the work of the Extension Committee.
- A few questions were raised about what is expected of this group and of Extension more generally. For example,
  - What did Dean Kirby mean when he talked about regionalization?
  - Do university leaders expect Extension to grow campus-wide, or remain focused in CELS?
  - Will the Committee’s work be ongoing or cease upon completion of certain deliverables?
  - Will membership on the Committee rotate, and at what intervals?
  - Are Extension funds are being used to support faculty start-up packages?

Sheely offered to get answers for the next meeting.

- The group also asked that information be provided on current Extension programs/activities, including dollars invested, by the next meeting. Sheely will work on this.
- Linda mentioned that this kind of strategic planning for Extension has been done many times in the past. Sheely will attempt to find the most recent example and share with the Committee.
- The group agreed to meet monthly for the first three months or so, with the understanding that the frequency can be altered as necessary. The group also agreed to meetings of 60-90 minutes in duration, as appropriate.
- The next meeting of the Committee will be scheduled for approximately one month from May 27. Please look for an email from Cyndi Messier.