

URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

JANUARY 31, 2024 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (EST)

ZOOM FOR GOVERNMENT

MEETING MINUTES

The Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (UAIPAC) is established by section 12302 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), Public Law 115-334, 7 U.S.C. § 6923(b)(1), to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture production practices; and other aspects of the implementation of that section of the Farm Bill. This Federal advisory committee operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the UAIPAC was convened for its seventh public meeting on January 31, 2024, from 2:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. The meeting was open to the public and held fully virtually via Zoom webinar.

A [Federal Register notice](#) was published on December 22, 2023, providing general information and public participation details for the meeting. Secondary notices were also sent out to the public directly by the agency.

Committee web page: <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/federal-advisory-committee-urban-ag>

General inquiries: UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov

ACRONYMS

- **DFO** – Designated Federal Officer
- **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **OUAIP** – Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production
- **UAIPAC** – Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee
- **USDA** – United States Department of Agriculture

MEETING AGENDA

Item #	Topic
1.	Welcome & Attendance
2.	Opening Remarks
3.	Addressing Public Comments
4.	Deliberation/Voting on Proposed Recommendations
5.	Closing Remarks

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members			
Name	Represented Industry	Attendance	Attendance Type
Allison Papp	Financial Entity	Present	Virtual
Angie Mason	Related Experience	Present	Virtual
Ted Fang	Urban Production	Present	Virtual
Carl P. Wallace	Non-Profit	Present	Virtual
Jerry Ann Hebron	Urban Production	Absent	
John Erwin	Higher Education	Present	Virtual
Kate Greenberg	Business/Economic Development	Present	Virtual
Kaben Smallwood (Chairperson)	Innovative Production	Present	Virtual
Jeff Young	Higher Education	Present	Virtual
Qiana Mickie (Co-Chairperson)	Related Experience	Present	Virtual
Viraj Puri	Innovative Production	Absent	
Zachari Curtis	Food Supply Chain	Present	Virtual

USDA Staff	
Name	Position/Title
Brian Guse	Director/Designated Federal Officer
Markus Holliday	Coordinator

The general public attendance list can be found here:



UAIPAC_Public
Meeting_1.31.2024_A

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment period was open from December 22, 2023 to February 14, 2024. Written comments can be viewed here: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/NRCS-2023-0021-0001/comment>. Comments are reviewed and may be considered for further discussion at a future public meeting. Oral comments were not accepted for this meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Attendance

Markus Holliday (Coordinator) welcomed and thanked everyone for joining. He also took attendance of committee members to ensure the meeting had a quorum after introducing presenters who provided opening remarks.

Opening Remarks

(via pre-recorded message) **Terry Cosby (Chief)** introduced and welcomed the four newly appointed members and congratulated the Committee on their efforts thus far.

Brian Guse (DFO) called the meeting to order and proceeded to go over the meeting agenda and provide an overview of the purpose and priorities of the Committee.

Addressing Public Comments

Angie Mason (Chair) acknowledged and responded to written comments received from the last public meeting held on November 29, 2023.

Deliberation/Voting

Brian Guse (DFO) provided an overview of deliberation and voting ground rules.

Note: See slides in the Zoom [meeting recording](#) for full recommendations.

Proposed Recommendation #5: 1890 Land-Grant Universities – Invest in Research, Extension and Education in Urban and Innovative Production

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provide funding to 1890 Land-grant Universities for updated curriculum design, materials development, faculty development, student recruitment and retention and Extension program development support for urban, innovative and Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) agricultural production.

Angie Mason (Chair) presented the recommendation and asked Kaben Smallwood to provide background information.

Kaben Smallwood (Member) mentioned the recommendation was proposed because of the need for more directed education for urban agriculture and innovative production. He also mentioned the need for a better trained workforce and the recommendation being a pathway to address the issue through the 1890 Land-grant Universities.

Jeff Young (Member) posed a question to Kaben asking if there was a particular thought behind only including 1890 Land-grant Universities and not all Land-grant Universities because they all have an interest in in serving urban communities.

Kaben Smallwood (Member) responded that there wouldn't be an issue with expanding to other education and research institutions and the broader reach is a good suggestion.

Kate Greenberg (Member) echoed the suggestion by mentioning Hispanic and other indigenous serving institutions across urban and rural Colorado and the country. She also asked for clarification on NIFA funding as it relates to jurisdiction.

Angie Mason (Chair) responded that she understood NIFA had an existing program and the request would be to add language for more support in student offerings for urban and innovative agriculture.

John Erwin (Member) mentioned that he agreed with Jeff Young and Kate Greenberg and suggested an amendment to strike 1890 from the title and body of the proposed recommendation with the intent to include all Land-grant Universities.

Angie Mason (Chair) agreed with John and also mentioned there may also be an opportunity for a separate proposed recommendation targeting community and technical colleges.

Kate Greenberg (Chair) mentioned additional examples of higher education institutions in Colorado that are pursuing skills-based learning and apprenticeships for workforce development. She also mentioned her interest in identifying more non-land grant institutions that showcase valuable workforce development.

John Erwin (Member) pointed out that extension programs may preclude from focusing on community colleges and expressed interest in proposing a separate recommendation to target workforce development in those institutions.

Angie Mason (Chair) offered to work with John Erwin and Kate Greenberg to propose a new recommendation to include any higher education or other learning institutions that may be excluded from the original proposed recommendation.

Qiana Mickie (Member) echoed some of the earlier points made on the expanding the proposed recommendation to include all Land-grant Universities. She also mentioned considering expanding and exploring what the Committee is defining as urban, innovative and CEA agriculture production to help create more realistic opportunities. She also expressed her interest in working with other Committee members on a separate proposed recommendation focused on workforce development.

Jeff Young (Member) added a comment to mention the different types of NIFA funding for Land-grant Universities including capacity funding and grant funding.

Kaben Smallwood (Member) made a motion to amend the proposed recommendation as previously discussed. He also highlighted the need for the Committee to work together and focus on the newly proposed recommendations that were also previously discussed regarding workforce development in non-Land-grant Universities.

John Erwin (Member) seconded the motion and repeated the amendment to (1) strike “1890” from the recommendation title and body and (2) add “capacity and grant” in front of word “funding” on the first line of the recommendation body.

Brian Guse (DFO) called a vote for the motion on the floor to make amendments. During the vote a few members expressed interest in adding additional comments.

Kate Greenberg (Member) acknowledged the live chat feedback received from the public for input regarding the different types of institutions that are serving urban and innovative producers that may or may not be recognized land-grant universities. She also added additional comments concerning the need to explore separate recommendations to ensure inclusion.

Qiana Mickie (Member) expressed interest in having additional time to gather more information and review public comments for possible consideration in the existing and/or any new proposed recommendations that may result from the deliberation.

Ted Fang (Member) also acknowledged the live chat feedback received from the public regarding support for urban agriculture.

John Erwin (Member) mentioned that he was comfortable moving forward with vote so long as there was an understanding to pursue a separate recommendation focusing on workforce development with institutions beyond Land-grant institutions.

Carl P. Wallace (Member) brought up a point regarding how 1890 Land-grant institutions became a focal point for the Committee based on a previous recommendation that originated because of the absence of 1890's scholars and ensuring those students had equal opportunities.

Jeff Young (Member) responded to comment about the exclusions of additional institutions in need if the Committee decided not to make the amendment to strike 1890's from the proposed recommendation.

Zachari Curtis (Member) commented on the remarks from Carl P. Wallace to highlight the original language that was brought to the Committee was intended to acknowledge and take action on some of the historic inequalities that exist regarding institutions and individuals that may not receive equal benefits.

Angie Mason (Chair) suggested the Committee take some additional time to work through the different questions and comments presented during deliberation.

Kaben Smallwood (Member) agreed with Angie Mason and mentioned it would provide an opportunity for the newly elected members to better participate.

Carl P. Wallace (Member) agreed with postponing the vote.

John Erwin (Member) agreed with postponing the vote.

Brian Guse (DFO) called a vote for the motion on the floor to postpone the vote with the included amendments that were previously voted on.

FINAL RESULT:

A majority vote was called to amend the recommendation by (1) striking “1890” from the recommendation title and body and (2) adding “capacity and grant” in between “provide funding” on the first line of the recommendation body. A second majority vote was passed to postpone the deliberation until the next public meeting.

Chairperson Election

Brian Guse (DFO) provided an overview of the Chairperson role followed by calling a vote for the Committee to continue with the Co-chairperson structure. He then opened the floor for nominations for the Chairperson position followed by the Co-Chairperson position.

FINAL RESULT:

A majority vote was passed to elect Kaben Smallwood as the next Chairperson and Qiana Mickie as the next Co-Chairperson.

Closing Remarks

Brian Guse (DFO) thanked the committee members and the public for their participation. He also provided additional instructions on how the public can provide formal written comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 P.M ET.

USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

/s/

Kaben Smallwood

Chairperson, Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee

/s/

Brian Guse

Designated Federal Officer, Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee