

AI Summary of Mid-Year Meeting, January 14, 2026

Quick recap

The meeting focused on reviewing the multi-state project's progress and addressing documentation needs in NIMSS to meet requirements, with discussions centered on standardizing soil testing methods and terminology across states. The group reviewed their mission and current status, including officer transitions and the need for enhanced collaboration and participation in various initiatives. Plans were made for an upcoming in-person meeting in West Virginia, including discussions about funding, venue logistics, and potential collaborative projects focused on soil health testing and analysis.

Next steps

- Shannon: Ask advisors for clarification on travel funding eligibility and process, including whether funding is available to non-experiment station appointees and how to request it.
- Shannon: Inquire with appropriate contacts about updating the NIMSS participant list to remove retired or non-participating members and confirm correct listing of state representatives/heads.
- All interested members: Add themselves as participants on the NIMSS project site if not already listed.
- Vaughn and Bronc: Finalize and distribute the questionnaire to the soil test terminology committee by end of January regarding terminology and definitions.
- Vaughn: Send out current state fertilizer recommendation background information to committee members for verification and updates.
- All members: Volunteer as speakers or suggest topics for presentations and/or poster session for the upcoming in-person meeting; communicate with officers or Eugenia.
- Eugenia: Coordinate with hotels to secure and potentially increase the number of blocked rooms for the June meeting, based on participant feedback and numbers.
- Shannon (or officers): Update the meeting website and communicate revised meeting dates (to reflect 3-day meeting) to all participants.
- All members: Provide feedback on the draft agenda and suggest additional themes or topics for the June meeting.
- Vaughn: Share committee's findings on soil test terminology in March for group discussion at the June meeting.

- All interested members: Consider participating in or proposing collaborative projects (e.g., updating plant sufficiency ranges, manure mineralization rates, soil health test evaluation) and communicate ideas to Jesi or officers.
- Eugenia: Share vendor opportunity documents and details with interested members/participants.

Summary

Multi-State Project Mid-Year Review

The meeting focused on the mid-year review of the multi-state project, emphasizing the need for better documentation and reporting of activities in NIMS to meet Ag Innovation South's requirements. Nathan highlighted the importance of addressing project objectives collaboratively and aligning soil testing methods across states to enhance impact and justify the project's existence. Vaughn was tasked with leading efforts to standardize soil testing language, and the group discussed the need for updated publications and improved collaboration with commercial labs. The upcoming summer meeting in West Virginia was mentioned as an opportunity for further collaboration.

Group Mission and Officer Transitions

Shannon, the chair, outlined the group's mission and current status, emphasizing the need for collective effort to fulfill their objectives. She discussed the upcoming officer transitions and highlighted the importance of updating group information and enhancing multi-state collaborations. Shannon also addressed feedback from previous years, including the need for greater participation in the NIMSS project and the importance of quantifying impact. She encouraged members to provide feedback on the annual report and mentioned the creation of a soil test terminology committee.

SERA 6 Funding and Membership

The group discussed funding for the SERA 6 group, which comes from hatch funding allocated to experiment stations at land-grant universities. Tony explained that while extension staff do most of the work, the funding goes to research stations. Shannon and others noted that having both research and extension representation would be beneficial, and they agreed to reach out to potential new members. The group also discussed the need to keep their participant list updated.

Morgantown Meeting Planning Update

The meeting focused on planning an upcoming in-person meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia, which will now run from Sunday to Wednesday instead of the initially planned two days. Eugenia presented a draft agenda including scientific presentations, vendor sessions, and a poster session, with the venue and travel logistics discussed. Vaughn updated on the committee's work

to develop standardized terminology for soil testing, with plans to distribute a questionnaire by the end of January. The group discussed potential collaborative projects, including updating plant sufficiency ranges, analyzing manure trends, and evaluating soil health tests, with Eugenia sharing research that identified only two effective soil health tests.