

International Research and Global Exchange Committee-Summer Meeting Summary
Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Roll call: Quorum present with 18 members; no resolutions passed.

From 10 a.m.-12 p.m.:

- Heard the staff liaison report from Emily Pasi reminding committee members that:
 - Yesterday (7/16) was the last day to submit nominations for the John D. Lange Award;
 - About NAHRO's national leadership conference attendance policy, and
 - The IRGE Brown Bag Luncheon is to take place on Thursday, July 17. The topic up for discussion was human settlements and our relationship with the United Nations as an NGO
- Received an overview of the SERC region's very first IRGE meeting from Dave Baldwin, Miguel Del Campillo and Julie Brewen:
 - The regional committee will align its mission with that of the national IRGE committee and emphasize research as a top priority
- Discussion on NAHRO Delegation to South Africa
 - In September, a NAHRO Delegation comprised of six people including Preston Prince, Saul Ramirez, Dionne Roberts, Regina Stone Mitchel, Jay Ramsey and myself will travel to South African for the South African Housing Foundation's annual conference. NAHRO delegates are scheduled to give 3-4 (not sure?) presentations during the conference.
- World Urban Forum 7 (WUF 7), Habitat III, Millennial Development Goals and UN/-NGO status from Helen Sause, Dan Trozzi and Betsy Morris:
 - WUF 7 presentation and observations included:
 - WUF7 held in Medellin, Colombia, a city which 20 years ago was notorious for being home to drug lords, high crime rates and gangs, has now transformed into a clean, urban revitalized city with a focus on education and jobs for all
 - Helen Sause was a member of the official U.S. delegation and as such, NAHRO delegates were able to spend much of their time with HUD delegates including Secretary Donovan, League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and representatives from other major U.S. foundations
 - Important takeaways from the WUF 7 experience:
 - HUD is building our domestic housing policy off of conversations from international forums like WUF7
 - Actively participating in high level international forums adds credibility to the NAHRO brand in a way not otherwise possible
 - Habitat III/Millennial Development Goals and UN/UN-NGO and how they're relevant to IRGE's research focus
 - Habitat III, a forum held only every 20 years, to take place in 2016. NAHRO had a seat at the table of the discussion during Habitat II and hopes to be a relevant voice again
 - All countries participating in Habitat III are supposed to submit a report outlining the current status of housing and urban development issues in their respective countries. The report is due next month. IRGE has two questions: who is writing the report for the U.S. and how can we contribute? NAHRO to follow up with established contacts at HUD and the State Department

- The Millennial Development Goals which expire in 2015 did not include anything pertaining to housing and community development, but IRGE is excited that thanks to our advocacy efforts and others in our industry, we have successfully been able to include a CD and housing focused goal in the proposed post-2015 UN goals.
 - Important to note that the U.N. has a living document called the Universal Document of Human Rights which outlines inherent rights that all people of the world should have access to—one of them is the right to housing for all. The U.S. has signed on to most parts of the document EXCEPT the right to housing for all. We are one of a half-dozen countries that have not signed on to this right. China is another country that does not believe in the right to housing for all.
 - We urged committee members when speaking to members of Congress about housing and CD policy here in the U.S. to mention this U.N. document as an argument for housing for all.
- Transitioned into the afternoon by shifting focus to the IRGE Work Plan, a model plan for national standing committees
 - Betsey Martens introduced IRGE's first research topic adopted earlier by the committee: (still need to grab name from her)...
 - Our Housing and CR&D committees continue to discuss RAD and its repercussions for the industry years from now. The United Kingdom and Canada have been using this model for decades. We can learn from them and that is what IRGE will do.

From 1:30-4 p.m.:

- Heard presentation on another research opportunity called Communities of Competence from Kerron Barnes
- Subcommittee break out:
 - First time subcommittees have met within the frame work of the new IRGE Work Plan
 - Subcommittees include: Research, Partnerships, Resources, Communications, Study Exchange, Lange Award
 - After subcommittees concluded break-out sessions, subcommittees reported out on goals and direction for remainder of 2013-2015 term:
 - Research: Goal: have a white paper prepared to share with BOG at Legislative Conference Meeting in March 2015. IRGE Research Subcommittee to reach out to CR&D and Housing Committees in October on initial progress of white paper and ask for their questions or direction suggestions.
 - Partnerships: Three goals: Revisit and analyze current partnerships through established MOU's; explore global relationships, and relationships w/ universities
 - Resources: Goal: Understand and determine what partners and funding mechanisms are necessary to support the goals of other subcommittees and the larger IRGE work plan
 - Communications: Goal: Determine how best to get international into the mainstream NAHRO conversations and how best to share our research and insights with members and other national standing committees
 - Exchange: Goal: Differentiate between official exchange, conference attendance for speaking purposes, and informal exchanges, and determine number of official exchanges and when those would happen

Next meeting: Friday, Aug. 8 at 12 p.m. ET. Please let Emily know if you are unable to make the call.