

International Research and Global Exchange Committee Legislative Conference meeting
3/8/2014

- There was a quorum with 24 committee members present; additionally, 2 liaisons in attendance—Kerron Barnes and Claude Roy; 5 visitors—Akinola Popoola; Tina Akers-Brown; 3 former colleagues of John Papagni (all from NeighborWorks)
- There were no resolutions

Highlights from the day include:

The focus of the March committee meeting was business planning. IRGE used the day to reflect on our history and how we will proceed strategically moving forward with the understanding that we have limited resources and must be very deliberate in what we choose to pursue.

In the morning, we heard 5-10 minute summaries on IRGE history from Mary Paumen; History of MOUs and Relationships from Betsy Morris; 'What's a WUF' from John Papagni and highlights from our relationship with INTA from Helen Sause.

Before moving to our lunch break, we heard from Saul and Preston in their opening remarks and also framed the strategic planning conversation and our goals for this meeting.

At lunch, committee members were invited to listen to our IRGE hosted brown bag luncheon featuring Assist. Sec. Frederick Barton of the State Department. He discussed with those in attendance how best to use our NGO status to position ourselves as experts in international issues.

Following lunch, we reconvened and began our strategic planning conversation. We reviewed the NAHRO mission statement; committee mission statement; vision; role, and responsibility.

Betsey Martens gave an overview of the history of NAHRO's business plan; how it has developed and its current status.

The committee broke into five teams and brainstormed all of the things we thought the committee should be doing or be involved with. When we reconvened, all of the teams came together and presented their ideas. Next, committee members participated in a dot voting exercise which narrowed down the ideas to less than ten. One of the strongest themes coming out of the exercise was that IRGE needs to place their focus on researching information that our Housing and CR&D deem relevant to their work.

Committee chairs and NAHRO staff will review all of the ideas and focus suggestions in detail following the conference and hold further discussions with committee via our monthly conference call.