

May 10, 2005 meeting with Dick Krueger, UofM Extension evaluation specialist, Mary Anne Casey, an evaluation consultant, Dale Hennen, Beth Nelson and Helene Murray

Dale explained that this is a MISA sunset review—at the end of the day the question to be answered is whether MISA should continue. Dale shared summaries of the Sunset Review Committee's discussions and thoughts about the review.

Helene told them we had been charged by the Dean to worry less about documenting accomplishments of the past five years and concentrate on what we'd like to accomplish in the next five years.

Summary of our brainstorming and their suggestions:

We discussed the importance of getting feedback from multiple stakeholders, and that for this group, an in-person meeting with discussion might work best. Interactive, dynamic, builds on relationships. But in order to do this in a timely manner, prep for meeting with pre-meeting homework.

A suggested process might be to:

- 1) Identify participants and invite to participate: possible list of groups: five Sustainers' organizations, 5 regions of RSDP, 5 faculty, 15 current MISA Board members, 6 staff members, past Board members, students, specific program participants (past Endowed Chairs, alternative swine systems task force, information exchange advisory committee members)
- 2) Prepare brief background material about MISA and review, and distribute with questions by email to each participant or participating organization. Questions could be a combination of those suggested in the previous meeting's minutes, but with emphasis on future direction. Participants can answer on their own, or convene their own group to answer questions. Participants have set time (a month?) to answer questions and email back.
- 3) A team synthesizes responses. Composition of this team up for discussion. Pros and cons to using an outsider versus an insider. Mary Anne and Dick both felt it was important to have someone who knows the organization well at least be a part of the team. Team could include a staff member, a rep from Sustainers' Coalition, a faculty member and a farmer.
- 4) Synthesized report sent to all participants for review and reflection, discussions within their organizations/constituencies. (one month?)
- 5) All participants meet. Late afternoon start with break for dinner and work into evening. Facilitated small group discussions about MISA's impact, MISA's challenges, and MISA possible future direction. Small group reports, large group

discussion and attempt to reach some consensus about some possible future direction and emphasis areas.

- 6) If agreement that MISA should continue, then arrange a celebration event for signing of document (to be held at a later date).

Consider videotaping discussion. Can later edit into short piece about MISA mission, stakeholders and future direction.