

nEXT Generation project



Modifications to nEXT Generation project process

Throughout the *nEXT Generation* project process, we've heard a lot of invaluable feedback both internally and externally. And, as with any successful project of this magnitude, it is important to evaluate our activities and make adjustments where necessary. It is for this reason we are making several changes to the *nEXT Generation* project. The goal of these adjustments are to streamline and ensure efficiency and timeliness. The most significant of these process changes include:

- An Integration Work Group (IWG) will be created for the Options Assessment phase. The IWG will assist the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Executive Sponsors by synthesizing individual workgroup reports and recommending specific options for implementation. The creation of IWG is in response to feedback we have received from workgroup chairs.
- Support work groups, which have not yet launched, will be postponed until approximately March 1, 2017. We will conduct an external operational assessment of the support areas prior to the launch of the support work groups, which will greatly increase their efficiency once they begin their work.
- The Project Management Team (PMT) will assume responsibility for creation of several deliverables previously assigned to work groups, including staff catalogues, position outlines, service assessments, and resource allocations. Work groups will transition into gap analysis, where they will identify gaps in the current structure and recommend ideas to the IWG and PSC. The PMT will involve Cooperative Extension colleagues as needed. This change will allow work group members to focus their time and attention to areas more aligned with their knowledge and experience.

It is important to note that the basic process remains unchanged, and the role of the PSC and the work groups are in no way diminished.

We know this is an intense process, and we truly believe that the critical nature of the work you're doing is essential to determine the future of Cooperative Extension. Again, we are grateful for all your hard work on this project and we think you'll agree that these changes will make more efficient use of your time while allowing us to meet the timeline and deliverables of the project.

If you have additional questions regarding the process changes outlined above, feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

The Executive Sponsor Team (Karl Martin, Aaron Brower, and Steve Wildeck)

This document is drafted for the purpose of summarizing communication points and progress updates related to the nEXT Generation project.