

ESCOP Committee
March 3, 2017
Westin Alexandria, Alexandria VA
AHS/CARET

Participants:

Bret Hess	Eric Young
Mike Harrington	Karen Plaut
Sarah Lupis	Jeanette Thurston
Adel Shirmohammadi	Parag Chitnis
George Smith	Bob Godfrey
Becky Walth	Conrad Bonsi
Glenda Humiston	David Leibovitz
Dave Benfield	Rick Rhodes
Clarence Watson	Gary Thompson
Jeff Jacobsen	Marikis Alvarez
Saied Mostaghimi	Alton Thompson
Greg Cuomo	Moses Kairo
Ernie Minton	C. Y. Wang
Bill Brown	Jean-Francois Meullenet
David Thompson	Archie Clutter

The Minutes from November were unanimously approved.

Today's agenda was unanimously approved as written. All Agenda Briefs can be found here: http://escop.info/Docs/ESCOP%202017%20Spring%20Meeting_Agenda&Briefs_20170224.pdf

Interim Actions: There were three appointments to the Social Sciences Subcommittee of the Science and Technology Committee. The dues for NC-FAR were approved. The migration of the ESCOP website was also approved, along with the cost. The 2017 Chair's priorities was included in meeting packets—the document serves to summarize organizational structure and priorities and the Chair's priorities.

Bret summarized his efforts with Fred Schlutt (ECOP Chair) to visit various USDA and other offices over the last two weeks. Bret encouraged continued engagement with Ann Bartuska. They met with NRCS to discuss the "Science of Soil Health" project and encouraged them to engage with LGU scientists. They met with the Department of Energy; there is an opportunity to engage with them on rural/farm energy efficiency research needs (also an opportunity for Rural Development). A meeting with DOE-EERE suggests that additional data will be needed for what the DOE is interested in. ERS is interested in recruiting from master's-level programs to train people for work at ERS. To date, they have been working with Ag Econ Department Heads. There was follow-up with Rural Development; they discussed

research needs in rural development, who was recently tasked with collecting additional data on long-term trends on the impacts of rural development activities. The new administration may continue some of these priorities. The Western Region has a project about energy development in rural communities. They met with APLU's urban-serving universities liaison in support of ECOPs urban extension efforts. There were meetings with kglobal and Cornerstone as well that will be described later in this meeting. National Association of State Departments of Agriculture meetings demonstrated how our priorities align—in the future the EDs will make a greater effort to meet with this group when in DC. Met with Deb Atwood from AGRee—good conversation about our initiatives and the importance of capacity funds—capacity makes us competitive. Arthur Scott from National Association of Counties--opportunities for ESCOP to provide information to NACo. Met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to introduce the LGU system, what we could provide to ESA decision making, and needs around socio-economic information for pre-listing and conservation/management. Met with Food and Nutrition services and discussed research opportunities—they have some external funding that they were encouraged to share via email more directly. Met with USDA-ARS; they are interested in getting engaged at the Director's level—participating in planning, especially where they are co-located in campuses, and in infrastructure discussions. Final meeting was with Sally Rocky from FAR to discuss where priorities and programs overlap. Met with Tim Fink from SoAR to explain our priorities. They were supposed to have released their next document on the 2nd, but its anticipated soon. Explained the One Ask and explained how capacity makes us competitive on a global scale. There was recently a call for participants in Breakthroughs 2030. ESCOP should nominate individuals to participate on that study. See this link for more: http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3346109/Call-for-Nominations-Breakthroughs-2030-A-Strategy-for-Food-and-Agricultural-Research-copy?utm_term=0_321b36af61-03c423b1a2-278774317&mc_cid=03c423b1a2&mc_eid=0ee9ad1e55&utm_content=buffer9dc50&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

One overall takeaway from these meetings: ESCOP needs to do a better job of communicating who we are and what we do.

Bret will write a summary of key points from these meetings and priorities for interim steps that are needed from EDs and/or incoming chair. There is also a need for additional meetings that didn't make it into this round and some follow-ups.

NIFA Update: Sonny Perdue has been nominated as Secretary of AGriculture. No budget yet from OMB. NIFA is reinvigorating the state liaison program—check the website for details. It is also a priority to have greater NPL engagement. Tim Connor is leading the Division of Bioenergy. Randy Johnson is leading the Division of Climate. New Advisor to the Secretary is Sam Clovis. There will be a stakeholder input session to identify science priorities in November. Ag Outlook Forum had two sessions organized by ESCOP/ECOP. Several community discussions (tactical

science, etc.) have been and are continuing to occur at various institutions around the country.

SOAR and APLU are reviewing applications for exhibits. 36 applications were submitted and there is room for 24 or so.

Cornerstone Update: Some top line numbers for the FY18 budget have come out. The Appropriations Committee is moving the remaining FY17 bills. The FY18 process—OMB gave some top line numbers last week. March 14th—“Skinny budget” numbers will come out. Anticipate a \$56 billion increase in Defense spending and a \$54 billion decrease in discretionary spending. This equates to ~20% decrease, recognizing that some departments will be held harmless and others will be hit harder. Congresses starting point every year is the prior year budget, not the president’s budget. There could be some painful discussions. This will also make for an interesting discussion around where a trillion dollars in infrastructure spending. Budget is expected anytime between October and May. The Congressional schedule is a little behind because there are Cabinet nominations that still have not been approved. There will likely be a debt-ceiling discussion again this fall which could result in a confluence of activities around appropriations.

Farm Bill hearings have started. A research hearing will take place soon and Cornerstone is in discussion with the committee about that. An invitation will come from them to someone in the system. Chairman Conway contends that the Farm Bill will be done on time, which likely means in early 2018, in time for agencies to implement programs. There was some discussion about impacts to TMDL cost-share programs because of proposed cuts to EPA—Republicans have long had an approach that starving agencies is a good way to prevent regulations and sometimes there is “collateral damage.” It remains to be seen if this congress will make more differentiating decisions.

B&L Update: The Committee has focused on the Single Ask effort. In this morning’s meeting, there was discussion about other efforts including greater engagement with the Council on Government Affairs. There was also some discussion about deferred maintenance and how to tie that to an infrastructure bill. Sarah forwarded an infrastructure Report to the group during the meeting. There was some discussion about a current opportunity around the infrastructure bill—the existing report might not be helpful for that approach since it was written prior to the introduction of the infrastructure bill concept. Mike Harrington and Robin Shepard have been working to develop a return on investment report to show the value of ag research (something the office of the Chief Scientist at USDA was particularly interested in). Mike Harrington asked that everyone please confirm their ESCOP B&L representatives.

S&T Update: The committee informally recommends that ESCOP/ESS take some kind of official position on big data and the implications for funding—this will likely be a subject of conversation at the Fall Meeting in Philadelphia. Several members of

the committee attended the NIFA Tactical Science event last month. There was some discussion about refining the Science Roadmap to update it, make it more relevant and current, and make it more marketable—this might be a budget need in the future. The roadmap concentrates on what to do, not how to do it. There may be a need for a companion document that gets into that. There is also a need for a more future-looking approach. The EDs will have a discussion and a proposal will be brought to the next CAC meeting. Antimicrobial resistance is something that should be discussed, came up in the tactical sciences discussion.

CMC Update: The initiative has grown from an initial effort of gaining a following to now engaging with that community. The priority goal is the BAA initiatives—water, healthy food systems, infrastructure and the One Ask. Kglobal will be developing a series of 15-30 second videos in support of the one ask (that will be useful for longer term). It is critical that Deans and Directors keep their communications specialists at their institution. The videos will live online, be distributed directly to communications specialists, target the general public who care about agriculture, and they will ask those people to contact their congressman. To inform new deans and directors (and existing ones) a video will be produced that summarizes the Ag Is America effort.

Policy Board Update: The next PBD meeting will be in April 4th in Indianapolis, IN. The single ask was the focus of the February meeting. There was considerable discussion about 1890s—“further study and consideration” will be done in the next year. There was some discussion about how to move the infrastructure “conversation” forward. It was decided that a memo will be submitted with recommendations for how to proceed. Penalties for non-payment of APLU dues include higher registration fees, removal from committees and voting privileges, etc. until membership is reinstated.

Public/Private Research Forum and Roundtable: The NREE Advisory Board has proposed to hold a roundtable within the National Academies to hold private discussions (a brainstorming body) about public-private funding for ag research. This might result in forums to address particular, specific topics. The National Academies are discussing what this roundtable might look like, who the 15 members from the public and private sectors might be, what the cost might be (approx. \$25K per participant, per year, for a 3-year commitment). ESCOP has recommended that they continue to communicate with this body because we can provide a larger, more comprehensive picture (vs. what a single institution could provide). It would be appropriate and highlight desirable to have one person represent ESCOP for the duration of the effort (all three years). It is likely that ESCOP will send a single representative (with an alternate). There would be 2 workshops per year. Potential outputs of this effort would be a white paper with recommendations about how agricultural research gets funded, identify science gaps in the science-->commercialization process, and capacity. It was recommended that the updated Science Roadmap include some mention of public-private partnerships.

Diversity Catalyst Committee: See Agenda Brief. Lead 21 is now incorporating diversity and multicultural awareness as a cross-cutting topic.

ESCOP Website Update: See agenda brief.

ESS Fall Meeting: Monday Sept 25- Wednesday Sept 27th. Opening evening reception on Monday. Hyatt Bellview in Philadelphia, PA. Theme: A Question of Balance. Workshops that give participants tangible take-homes. 1) Balance of research and teaching; 2) Balance of mindset and requirements; 3) Alternate funding sources; and 4) data management. Next planning meeting will take place on Wednesday during breakfast.

ESCOP Budget Report: See attached Income and Expense Statement (1/1/2016-12/31/2016). Mike Harrington worked with APLU to develop a standardized process for tracking the ESCOP budget with APLU. We will have an annual budget report at the AHS/CARET meeting and an interim report at the Fall meeting. Note that ESCOP paid \$5K for “bad debt” because one institution failed to pay their APLU dues. Assessment from the Northern Marianas was waived because of natural disaster (typhoon). Non-staff travel supports attendance of a CARET member to the NRSP-Review Committee. ESCOP currently has \$494,446.25 cash balance. This has occurred because we continue to assess the original budget for the CMC effort despite having brought on ECOP and AHS as paying partners. The surplus could support participation in the roundtable discussed earlier. Current ESCOP budget uses the balance of funds to take care of initiatives like the website, etc.

National Impact Database Update: Tim Cross (CES Dean) is now the Chancellor. The new co-Chair is Carla Troutman (SDSU). There is a need to take a serious approach to populating the website with good-quality impact statements. A limited number of people are able to enter material into the database but those individuals—some are communications professionals, but some are not. There was discussion about how to ensure that data in the database is operating to our advantage and not a liability. Bill Brown will work with the committee to develop a report about how to move that effort forward/if it should be moved forward.

Joint ECOP/ESCOP Meeting: of those who responded to the post-meeting survey, the majority of respondents indicated that meeting together every other year might be good. Sarah Lupis will attempt to obtain the results of the post-meeting survey that ECOP distributed. EDs will add this topic to their spring meeting agendas and report back after that.

APLU

Income and Expense Statement

1-1-2016 to 12-31-2016

Include these Projects: 5800, 5810

		Actual
		12/31/2016
Revenues, Gains and Support		
Dues, Assessments & Meetings		
1-4530	INCOME - ASSESSMENTS	\$196,268.00
Total Dues, Assessments & Meetings		<u>\$196,268.00</u>
Total Revenues, Gains and Support		<u>\$196,268.00</u>
Expenses		
Contract Services Expenses		
1-5340	PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$7,000.00
1-5360	CONSULTANTS	\$133,334.17
1-5380	OUTSIDE COMPUTER SERVICES	\$46,000.00
Total Contract Services Expenses		<u>\$186,334.17</u>
Office Operations		
1-6110	CREDIT CARD BANK FEES	\$15.44
Total Office Operations		<u>\$15.44</u>
Travel and Meeting Expenses		
1-6720	NON-STAFF TRAVEL AND REPRESENTATION	\$1,399.15
Total Travel and Meeting Expenses		<u>\$1,399.15</u>
Other Expenses		
1-6930	DUES and MEMBERSHIPS	\$1,400.00
1-6950	BAD DEBT EXPENSE	\$5,748.00
Total Other Expenses		<u>\$7,148.00</u>
Total Expenses		<u>\$194,896.76</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u><u>\$1,371.24</u></u>
Cash Balance 1-1-2016		\$493,105.01
Excess Income from 2016		\$1,371.24
Total Cash Available 1-1-2017		\$494,446.25

ESS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Marikis Alvarez
Jeff Jacobsen

ESCOP Meeting
The Westin Alexandria Hotel,
Alexandria, VA
March 6, 2017

ESS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: 2016-2017

- Monthly calls (3rd Monday/month)
 - Agendas & minutes of all meetings posted.
 - (<http://escop.ncsu.edu/viewCommittees.cfm?comid=5>)
 - Attendance & participation consistent/good.
- Focus of S&T deliberations
 - SOAR publication on: Retaking the field: The case for a surge in Agricultural Research.
 - C-FARE publication: Advancing US Ag Competitiveness with Big Data & Agricultural Economic Market Information, Analysis & Research.
 - NSF data hubs.
 - USDA ARS data practices with Dr. Brian Scheffler; Data Science in Agriculture Summit (10/2016).
 - Links in report.

CHANNELING DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Discussion regarding a “data” workshop during 2017 ESS/ARD annual meeting in Philadelphia is being refined for adoption by meetings’ planning committee.
- Question of advisability of two multistate projects being submitted as a combined nomination for 2017 ESS Award for excellence in multistate research.
 - S&T discussed the question, considering various ramifications of a joint submission & opted to move on these in 2018 call for regional nominations.
 - Topic will be discussed during Spring regional association meetings.
 - It will be brought forward to ESCOP for formal evaluation and to take action.

S&T ENGAGEMENT WITH SUBCOMMITTEES

National IPM Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC)

Approved modifications to the Rules of Operation for the National Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC). Posted on ESCOP Website.

- Fall meeting held during October 18-19, 2016 APLU.
- A state of IPM report is part of this S&T submission.
 - Priority issues & considerations discussed during S&T call.
 - Three members of NIPMCC (Jan Nyrop, Chris Boerboom, Jeff Jacobsen) participated in national conversation called by NIFA & University of Maryland-College Park with public & private sector, selected state & federal officials on Tactical Sciences (Detection & Diagnostics [NPDN, NAHLN], Regulatory System Support [IR-4, FARAD, MUADP] and Deployment of Technology & Systems [CPPM, IR-4, MAUDP, EDEN])
 - More information will be provided by NIFA.

S&T ENGAGEMENT WITH SUBCOMMITTEES

Social Sciences Subcommittee (SSSc)

Social Sciences Subcommittee (SSSc) proposed adding “Leadership” as a sixth discipline to: Ag. Education, Ag. Communication, Ag. Economics, Human Sciences & Rural Sociology. This created a more diverse and inclusive membership with social sciences.

- Regional membership: (NC, NE, S, W, 1890 ARD, At Large).
- SSSc considered the role & function of the Social Sciences & related disciplines with Big Data. It also interfaced with APLU, NIFA, C-FARE & AAFA, Rural Policy Research Institute and the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA).
- Next action for SSSc will be identified & communicated to S&T for consideration.

ESS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marikis Alvarez (ARD; Chair)

Ken Grace (WAAESD)
David Thompson (WAAESD;
Chair elect)
Joe Colletti (NCRA)
Deb Hamernik (NCRA)
Cameron Faustman (NERA)
Adel Shirmohammadi (NERA)
Nathan McKinney (SAAESD)
Harald Sherm (SAAESD)
John Yang (ARD)
Ed Buckner (ARD)

Liaisons:

Terry Nelsen (ERS)
Bob Matteri (USDA ARS)
Doug Walsh (NIPMCC;
Pest Mgmt Subc.)
Edwin Price (ICOP)
Dwayne Cartmell (SSSc;
Social Sci Subc)
Parag Chitnis (NIFA)
Denise Eblen (NIFA)
Jeff Jacobsen (Exec Vice-Chair; NCRA ED)
Chris Hamilton (Recorder; NCRA AD)