

ESCOP CAC Teleconference – Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 4 pm ET

To join:

Web/mobile: <https://zoom.us/j/844816628>

Phone: 1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 844 816 628

<http://escop.info/committee/cac/>

Participants:

Deb Hamernik, George Hopper, Gary Thompson, Fred Servello, Jim Richards, Maggie Earle, Doug Steele, Jeff Jacobsen, Rick Rhodes, Dave Leibovitz, Mike Harrington, Vernie Huber, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Agenda/Minutes

1. Welcome and roll call - Deb and Chris – See Participants above
2. Update from Doug Steele, APLU
 - a. Enjoyed Deb and Jeff's visit to DC this week.
 - b. The BAC met via teleconference yesterday to finish drafting the One Ask formulation for next year. They decided to go with \$100M and added \$25M to the AFRI request (total \$125M). All is ultimately contingent on the final Executive budget, however. Will go with whatever the highest amount ends up being. (Original number was \$419M, so add the \$25M to that for the final amount.)
 - c. Fund allocation for the AMR program was also discussed, but they don't want to use AFRI to " earmark" any specific programs, so they looked at the ESCOP Science Roadmap to work with NIFA and establish priority areas.
 - d. The Farm Bill was approved as we know, but the government shutdown slowed the appropriations process somewhat. Not too much guidance available on this just yet.
 - e. Deferred maintenance funding, as shown by the Sightlines report, is still a big concern. There is still no new funding for it and we are waiting for a better understanding of support. The One Ask supports the 5 Capacity lines and AFRI, thinking that deferred maintenance will be an addendum to that, perhaps. There is no new money, though, which is concerning, so we'll need to wait and see what the final level of support will be.
 - f. Two Strategic Realignment informational webinars are set for next week, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We started with 47 lines, went down to 3, now down to a potential 1-line, although trust concerns exist in the system over the 1-line approach. The 3-line around research, Extension, and teaching fits well for many, but PBD recommendation is still pending stakeholder feedback. It's possible the PBD may wait for next Farm Bill before acting, depending upon what the system thoughts end up being.
3. Approval of today's agenda – Deb
4. Cornerstone Report – Jim Richards, Maggie Earle
 - a. Nothing to add from Doug's update above.
5. ESCOP/ECOP DC Visits – Deb, Jeff
 - a. Visits occurred this week with Rick Klemme and Ed Jones from ECOP.

- b. They met with Doug at APLU, who had brought in representatives from a few science societies. Also met with Senate and House Ag staffers, as well as Tim Fink from SoAR to end the day.
 - c. Wednesday ended up being a snow day in DC and federal offices were closed. They did have a conference call with Sally Rockey and her group from FFAR, and met with Robin Schoen, Director BANR (NAS Board on Ag and Natural Resources). Ended the day with Scott Angle from NIFA.
 - d. The main goal of these meetings was to discuss how can we all work together to advocate for more funding and be more effective across research, Extension and teaching. We also asked about Farm Bill implementation and heard a lot about advocacy 101 from staffers. They indicated that we need to do a better job of telling our stories at the local level, such as how research, Extension, and teaching have improved lives, particularly when talking to state officials. We need to tell this to our CARET reps next week, as well.
 - e. House and Senate were on recess, so the meetings were casual and allotted more time than normal, which resulted in very productive and frank discussions. This schedule might be something for George, etc. to consider next year and beyond, if the visits can align.
 - f. Jeff and Deb will share their notes and talking points for the group soon.
 - g. They will try to fit in more federal agency visits after the CARET/AHS meetings next week.
6. Strategic Realignment Update – Ernie, Mike
- a. Mike called attention to the two webinars set for next week, Tues and Thurs, 4 pm ET. Regional associations may wish to send reminders out to their directors so that they can provide feedback to the committee.
 - b. Recommendations from the committee on strategic realignment will most likely be out around Joint COPs in July, with informal ones around the April PBD meeting.
 - c. Informal committee discussion to occur Tuesday morning during CARET/AHS sessions.
 - d. Many questions on how the realignment will work/be implemented have been coming up.
 - e. Infrastructure discussion occurred also; Sightlines found we are falling behind by \$300M a year. Clearly we aren't investing enough to keep up. We should keep up with this important conversation.
7. ESCOP Business Meeting Agenda Topics for CARET/AHS – Deb, Jeff, All
- a. Agenda was updated during the call based on projected attendance.
 - b. Chris will distribute to the ESCOP committee soon after this CAC call.
8. Other ESCOP Committee Reports (new information as needed only, please)
- a. B&L (Ernie, Mike) – No additional updates to add.
 - b. S&T (Laura, Jeff)
 - i. Had a January meeting, canceled Feb meeting, currently reviewing reports, recommendations, and planning documents around public/private partnerships and Capacity funding to see if there are any recommendations for presentation or to advocate for.

- ii. Jeff displayed the new Roadmap info postcards in registration packets for CARET/AHS
 - iii. Handed out Chair's Priorities document and Grand Challenges Briefs during DC visits this week. The success stories were especially popular; staffers enjoyed seeing specific state programs, etc. These materials seem to be working very well. Good for conversation and to be able to leave something behind with the people we meet with.
 - c. CMC (Rick)
 - i. A subcommittee on where CMC should go was convened by Mark Latimore and chaired by Steve Loring. The committee has a June timeframe for providing their initial recommendations. There are 5 attributes to this charge:
 1. Evaluate past accomplishments of CMC
 2. Assess the needs of CMC member sections
 3. Develop recommendations on incorporating quantitative and qualitative metrics for success
 4. Strategies of engaging directors systemwide
 5. Explore the right structure for CMC: where does it belong, membership, better define roles, and align activities with section and budget provided
 - ii. Will meet during CARET/AHS on Sunday, 3/3, 1-5 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please invite anyone you think would be interested.
 - d. DCC (Ali, Rick)
 - i. Ali Fares is the new DCC committee chair and Rick is new lead ED
 - ii. DCC met by call 1/22
 - iii. Request for award nominations have been widely circulated through ESS
 - iv. DCC is seeking opportunities for ongoing director training and would like to be on the Nashville fall joint ESS/CES agenda. George indicated that the meeting planning team is working on agenda and DCC trainings have been part of the conversations.
 - v. DCC chair nominated Jeff for NIFA partnership award for establishment of DCC. CAC membership congratulated Jeff on this nomination.
 - e. NRSP RC (Fred, Rick)
 - i. They are currently reviewing renewal of NRSP3 and NRSP10. Both received excellent reviews and materials for both are currently out for regional review and feedback.
 - ii. Next meeting is on May 29, 2019 at the airport in Warwick, RI
 - iii. Fred discussed the committee initial thoughts on both NRSP3 and 10
 - iv. A review of the NRSP Guidelines is occurring. More effective communication with project directors is needed, especially regarding reaching sustainable maintenance budgets for proposals and other NRSP-RC questions and concerns. Any suggested edits will go to ESCOP, then on to ESS for a final approval vote.
 - f. NIDB (Eric) – Mike mentioned on behalf of Eric that all EDs have been asked to forward recent NIDB communications to their directors.
- 9. Items of Regional Significance (ARD, NC, NE, S, W; as needed)

- a. No updates from ARD, NC, NE, or S regions
 - b. W: Mike announced his retirement June 30, Bret Hess will come in as ED in an interim capacity. More information to come on this.
10. Fall ESS 2019 Joint Workshop Update – George, Eric
- a. Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop, joint with Extension, September 23-26, 2019, **Marriott at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN.**
 - b. Theme will be “Leading the Future: Changes, Opportunities, and Relationships”
11. Other, as needed
- a. Impact Writing part of NRSP1 (Jeff, Rick)
 - i. Funds are left over from Sarah’s resignation and available for the impact writing portion of NRSP1.
 - ii. Jeff, Rick, and Steve Loring are currently working on ideas with Sara Delheimer on how to best use this money to do more with the impact program.
 - b. Rescission of the LGU match waiver for a number of the NIFA grants programs (Rick)
 - i. An SCRI (Specialty Crop Research Initiative) grant proposal related email was sent by an NC director (not an S regional director as initially indicated) regarding the new match requirement. Other regions engaged with their directors to determine impacts. Directors are very worried about this development and we are wondering how ESCOP should proceed on this issue, since it will adversely affect both small and large LGUs.
 - ii. There is no fix for this on the horizon for 5 years. It’s unclear how it was inserted into Farm Bill; staffers had included it to even playing field, although it does include non-LGUs also.
 - iii. Vernie indicated that in 2014 we were successful in including an exemption to matching requirements for all LGUs and partners. There has always been a matching requirement, but it’s usually been waived. Because of many complaints (by non-LGUs and others), the House decided to go back to pre-2014 requirements for a very narrow AFRI, Senate said no. Now, these requirements are drafted as pre-2014 w/out the exemption (adopting the Senate version). As a general rule, all programs require a match and the Secretary can waive the requirement for matching funds, if research is of national significance and not commodity-related.
 - iv. SCRI, however, is managed by SCRI commodity groups themselves, who thought the waivers for LGUs reduced the amount of research done at other institutions and entities. SCRI grants will be a more specific issue to deal with and will take appropriations action. NIFA confirms match is in force, no waiver authority for SCRIs.
 - v. Jeff indicated that perhaps LGUs were not as informed on this as we should have been; we weren’t given a chance to weigh in on this and some other topics, which is problematic.
 - vi. What should be our plan for moving forward? 2019 is done and not changeable, so we need to work on 2020. Specialty Crop Coalition has been able to pull this match in the past, so it’s important for us to tell them this is problem.

Cornerstone has been in recent conversations with them. We need advocacy from LGUs on this as well, such as letters, visits from LGUs, etc.

- vii. Jeff requested Vernie map out key players, what needs to be done and when, etc. Vernie suggested we send him information on specific programs, and they will work through the issue administratively.
- viii. Gary suggested that doing this in an organized way, rather than one program at a time, would be more effective. Vernie will confer with Hunt Shipman and other Cornerstone members and proceed from there on a plan of action.

Call Adjourned at 5:11 pm ET.

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Recent ESCOP Appointments:

- None since last CAC call.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ESCOP Committee Meeting, during CARET/AHS Sessions, 8 am to 12 noon, Monday, March, 4, 2019. Hilton Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Room TBA.
- ESCOP Committee Meeting, during Joint COPs, July 22, 2019, 1-5 pm MT. Park City, Utah. Location TBA.
- **Note new location: Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop, joint with Extension, September 23-26, 2019, **Marriott at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN.**