

ESCOP Science & Technology
Call Notes: 4 pm ET, March 27, 2017
215-446-3656, ACCESS CODE: 1442561

Committee Members:

<p>Chair: Marikis Alvarez (ARD)</p> <p>Delegates: Ken Grace (WAAESD) David Thompson (Chair-elect; WAAESD) Joe Colletti (NCRA) Deb Hamernik (NCRA) Cameron Faustman (NERA) Adel Shirmohammadi (NERA) Nathan McKinney (SAAESD) Harald Scherm (SAAESD) John Yang (ARD) Ed Buckner (ARD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED) Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder)</p>	<p>Liaisons: Terry Nelsen (ERS) TBD (OSTP) Robert Matteri (ARS) Doug Walsh (Pest Mgmt Subcom) Edwin Price (ICOP) Dwayne Cartmell (Social Sci Subcom) Parag Chitnis (NIFA) Denise Eblen (NIFA)</p>
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Please put your phones on mute when not speaking.

Participants: Marikis Alvarez, Joe Colletti, Adel Shirmohammadi, Nathan McKinney, Harald Scherm, John Yang, Ed Buckner, Robert Matteri, Doug Walsh, Parag Chitnis, Tim Fink (SoAR), Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Notes and Action Items:

1. Welcome and Roll Call (Marikis Alvarez, Chris Hamilton) - **Completed**
2. Approval of February 27, 2017 Call Notes: **Amended to replace Charles Allen with Doug Walsh for the Pest Mgmt Subcom; notes approved as amended.**
3. "Retaking the Field" discussion with Tim Fink (tfink@supportagresearch.org) of SoAR (see: <http://supportagresearch.org/retakingthefield/>) **Information/Group Discussion**

Tim Fink presented background on SoAR, which was formed by Dr. William Danforth to advocate for additional agricultural research support, including full funding of AFRI. Twenty-six organizations from a wide variety of ag-related fields are currently part of the coalition and there is no fee for membership. Funding to date has mostly come from Dr. Danforth, with small amounts from other donors. The "Retaking the Field" publications exist in two volumes so far, pulling together success stories on AFRI-funded research programs that staffers and others can use to share benefits and importance of agricultural research. To date the target for stories has

been to connect state activities with the various elected officials on the appropriation committees. SoAR will develop more thematic (e.g. commodity specific) Volumes for future stories. Starting with Volume 2 there has been an assessment for each contributing institution to help with publication/distribution costs. SoAR hopes to continue to develop a database of stories. Research and Extension impact databases are good sources for future stories. **Jeff Jacobsen will contact Tim to send more links and email addresses to add sources of impact stories.** Jeff encouraged Tim to consider all sizes of institutions, not just the large ones that were included in Vols 1&2, to benefit SoAR's strategic focus further. Tim encourages call participants to reach out to him with outstanding stories from all institutions for the future, themed volumes they plan to publish.

4. ARS Update (Robert Matteri) **Information**

Robert Matteri will be taking over next week as the Pacific West Area Director and JL Willett will become the Acting Director of the Midwest Area. Policy and budget uncertainties are still in place for USDA-ARS due to the Continuing Resolution in place until the end of April. The federal hiring freeze is still in place, as well. Robert also mentioned that an ARS workshop on addressing a grand challenge approach to large scale, multidisciplinary projects will be taking place soon in Maryland.

5. NIFA Update (Parag Chitnis) **Information**

Same budget uncertainties exist as for ARS, except for AFRI which will be funded at FY2016 levels. NIFA science priority discussions are taking place with staff; stakeholder input activities will take place in November. NIFA-funded Capacity program report is now available: <https://goo.gl/bzVFuT>. **Jeff will forward the NIFA update email to Committee members (done).**

6. ESCOP Science Roadmap update/marketing one-pager (Jeff Jacobsen) **Information**

Bret Hess, ESCOP Chair, has requested a one-pager descriptive and advocacy document to share with stakeholders and partners on what is ESS/ESCOP, to include excerpts from existing 2010 Science Roadmap with new, emerging issues, as well. We hope S&T will be willing to provide input and feedback on this document, once we create a mock-up, sometime in April. The Committee was supportive of this effort.

7. Other **Information**

- a. Update: At the March ESCOP business meeting, Marikis discussed our continued interest in data management and the desire to have a small team integrate S&T ideas into an ESCOP Task Force or Working Group that will advance our interests in data management practices and policy (reference S&T Call Notes from February). The fall ESS meeting will also include data management as a Best Practices session.
- b. Regional spring meetings are in the process of discussing updates to the 2018 Excellence in Multistate Research Award, to include how to handle the multiple project submission issue that arose this year.
- c. ARS in Beltsville just hired someone to work on big data, possible resource for future discussions.
- d. Next call scheduled for Monday, April 24 when many members may not be able to join. Our May 22 call will be reserved for choosing the national Excellence in Multistate Research award winner.

Call adjourned at 4:58 pm.