

**ESCOP Science & Technology**  
**Call Agenda: 4 pm ET, February 27, 2017**  
**215-446-3656, ACCESS CODE: 1442561**

**Committee Members:**

<p><b>Chair:</b> Marikis Alvarez (ARD)</p> <p><b>Delegates:</b> 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><b>Executive Vice-Chair</b> Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED) Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons:</b> 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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**Participants:** Marikis Alvarez, Ken Grace, David Thompson, Joe Colletti, Deb Hamernik, Nathan McKinney, Harald Scherm, John Yang, Alton Thompson, Charles Allen, Travis Park (for Dwayne Cartmell), Bob Matteri, Denise Eblen, Jeff Jacobsen (recorder)

**Please put your phones on mute when not speaking.**

**Notes and Action Items:**

1. Welcome and Roll Call (Marikis Alvarez, Jeff Jacobsen) - **Completed**
2. Approval of January 23 , 2016 Call Notes - **Approved**
3. Finalize Data Management Issues for ESCOP Recommendations (All) **ACTION**  
Data management (Big Data and data) and allied issues remains an active interest area for S&T. Given the on-going development of actions and practices across federal agencies and state institutions there is vast opportunity to provide some key insight from ESS directors/administrators. Directors also referenced the recent call for mini-grants on Digital Agriculture from the NSF-awarded Midwest Big Data Spoke. Therefore, S&T recommends that ESCOP form a Data Management Task Force to:
  - a. Create a nimble, small group (directors, members from SSSc, USDA ARS and technical “power users”),
  - b. Develop key concepts, guidelines and practices relevant to ESS,
  - c. Provide insight from a high level vantage point,

- d. Consider topics of data management, security, high performance computing, data life cycle, analytics, platforms (e.g. GODAN)
  - e. Target competitive and capacity funds managed by NIFA,
  - f. Other as needed.
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- 4. Review of State of IPM from NIPMCC (Report Attached; Doug Walsh NIPMCC Chair, Charles Allen Past Chair) **ACTION**  
Charles Allen provided an overview of the annual meeting attended by over 60 key individuals. Motion made to accept the 2016 State of IPM Report. Unanimously approved.
  - 5. ARS Update (Robert Matteri) **Information**  
Bob Matteri provided updates on: contributions to the data management topic with remote sensing, bioinformatics, meta-analysis, environmental sustainability; Grand Challenge topics that require big teams for networks tied to program plan and financial support (e.g. Dairy, which involves breeds, environment, hydrology); the Washington DC front with a hiring freeze (in general) and some positions being petitioned for exempt status; FY17 budget tbd.
  - 6. NIFA Update (Parag Chitnis, Denise Eblen) **Information**  
Denise Eblen provided updates on: on-going discussion in NIFA with Big Data and data management; holding pattern (similar to #5), may get exemptions with decisions on food safety focus, currently 30 vacant positions; all RFA communications with Secretary Office for review; new announcement on defense budget increase leading to an OMB request to agencies to provide information on 10% reduction; Mention of the Tactical Sciences Conversation recently completed; Future conversations on EFNEP, Positive Youth Development and 1994 Tribal Institutions.
  - 7. Excellence in Multistate Research Award Update (Jeff Jacobsen) **ACTION**  
Additional questions were asked concerning submission of joint projects for the 2017 Call for Nominations. Emails and calls were fielded by Jeff. Given the opportunity to connect with directors at their spring meetings, the regional EDs committed to having the conversation. It was requested that a similar set of questions be asked at each spring meeting. Jeff refined an earlier email sent to EDs and resent it for use at their upcoming spring meetings. This input is to be sent to Jeff who will aggregate and provide to S&T for the deliberations on the 2018 Call for Nominations which will be approved by ESCOP.
  - 8. Other

**ADJOURNED AT 5:00 p.m.**