

**ESCOP Chairs Advisory Committee
Teleconference Notes
August 18, 2008 [4-5pm Eastern]**

Participants:

Bruce McPheron, Chair
 Steve Pueppke, Vice-Chair
 Ron Pardini, Past Chair
 Dan Rossi, Executive Vice-Chair (NERA)
 Carolyn Brooks (ARD)
 Eric Young (SAAESD)
 Arlen Leholm (NCRA)
 Mike Harrington (WAAESD)
 Craig Nessler (Chair-NRSP Review Committee)
 David Boethel (Chair-Budget and Legislative Committee)
 Greg Bohach (Chair-Science & Tech. Committee)
 Jim Richards (Cornerstone)
 Rubie Mize (NERA-Recorder)

Action Items:

Who	Action	Status
All	Send strategic plans (docs. or links) ASAP to Mike Harrington as the EDs prepare their input for the USDA Science Roadmap.	Done
Mike Harrington/DC Coston	Share draft of proposed framework for the roadmap with the directors.	
Mike Harrington	Send out Budget and Legislative Committee's short preliminary survey of budget priorities	Done
Dan Rossi	Re-send NIFA Priorities Survey e-mail to Carolyn Brooks	Done
Arlen Leholm/Dan Rossi	Invite and arrange travel of Multistate Research awardee-NC229 to the NASULGC Annual Meeting	
Dan Rossi	Follow-up award plaque with CSREES	Done
Rubie Mize	Check with Eddie Gouge if NC229 rep.'s registration will be waived and how NASULGC will pay ESCOP's share (50%) of the travel cost	Done
Mike Harrington	Send out survey on the USDA-REE Energy Research, Education, and Extension Strategic Plan	Done

Notes:

1. Report from the Chair – Bruce McPheron

Chair McPheron continued his monthly calls with Colin Hefferan. There are a few issues that remain, such as the submission of formula funded projects in grants.gov that continue to be problematic.

2. Review of Action Items (from the 6/18 and 5/19 calls) – Bruce McPheron

All tasks/assignments have been completed.

3. FY09 Budget Update and Farm Bill Status – Jim Richards, Cornerstone
No approved FY09 budget yet and may remain like this for a while. On the Farm Bill implementation, the EDs were asked to provide their input to the BAAPBD Implementation Advisory Committee.

4. Farm Bill Implementation Assistance Committee – Nancy Cox/Eric Young
The deadline for the EDs to submit their recommendations on the framework for the roadmap is Friday, August 21. Strategic plans should be submitted to Mike Harrington ASAP. Mike Harrington and DC Coston will share the draft with everyone.

5. Budget and Legislative Committee Update – David Boethel/Mike Harrington
A short preliminary survey on budget priorities will be sent out to the directors. Results will be used at the Sept. ESS meeting.

6. NIFA/AFRI Priorities Survey – Greg Bohach/Dan Rossi
Greg Bohach reported that the survey was released on August 12 and the deadline is Sept. 5. The committee will meet on Sept. 12 to discuss and summarize the results. A report will be given at the Sept. ESS meeting and will serve as a basis for a workshop.

Carolyn Brooks requested that the e-mail be resent to her so she could follow-up with the 1890 directors.

7. System Communication and Marketing Implementation Committee Update – Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm

The article was published on the July 31 issue of USA Today. Arlen Leholm is working with Mr. Schofield on the next article. Questions were raised on how often and how widely Podesta should report to the system. It was suggested that an annual report to ESS might be sufficient. All, but 13 stations, have paid their marketing assessments.

8. NRSP Review Committee Update – Craig Nessler/Eric Young
Craig Nessler reported that the committee met, and there were no major changes to the NRSP Review Committee's recommendations. The committee members commented that they want to see increased partnership and well defined business plans in NRSP proposals. NRSP7 will begin to transition to an IR4-like project with reduced off-the-top funding. The committee had been successful in steering the NRSPs to reduce support from off-the-top. This should free up some new funds for new projects. The directors will be asked to vote on the recommendations at the ESS Sept. meeting.

9. Follow-up to the National Multistate Research Award – Dan Rossi
It was agreed at the March ESCOP meeting that CSREES will provide a plaque that will be permanently displayed at the CSREES building. Dan Rossi will follow-up on this. Arlen Leholm will make the travel arrangements for a representative of the awardee-NC229 to attend the NASULGC Annual Meeting. Half of the travel cost will be borne by NCRA and the other half by ESCOP. Rubie Mize will check with NASULGC if registration will be waived as the NC229 rep. will only attend the awards ceremony and how the ESCOP share of the travel cost will be handled. NCRA may have to cover the total cost and ESCOP will reimburse half through NASULGC.

For next year's announcement, the submission of the winning project will be included as an example. As in the 2008 announcement, the review criteria will also be included.

10. Follow-up on Regional Rural Development Centers Partnership Meeting – Bruce McPheron/Dan Rossi

Chair McPheron, Eric Young and Dan Rossi attended a very productive meeting with the directors of the Rural Development Centers on August 11-12 in Washington, DC. It allowed the attendees to have a frank discussion of the center's collective portfolio. It was a validation of the good work that the centers do but their scope is too broad. The centers should be more involved in RFA development so they can inject community development ideas, say in specialty crops. The meeting was a good opportunity to assess where the centers are. The Northeast will finish its review in the fall. The West and the North Central will have new directors.

11. ESS September Meeting Agenda – Bruce McPheron/Dan Rossi

There will be a Best Practices topic on reallocation of resources and dealing with budget cuts. Mark McLellan will be one of the presenters.

12. 2008 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop Update – Steve Pueppke/Arlen Leholm

Workshop preparations are on track. Registration reminders have been sent out.

13. Other business

Mike Harrington reported that a survey of the USDA-REE Energy Research, Education, and Extension Strategic Plan is on its way. The results will be used for the second energy summit this coming October.

Chair McPheron closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their time and giving the ESCOP-CAC calls priority in their busy schedule. He thanked specially, the chairs of the ESCOP committees and the work that they do for the system. This is Chair McPheron's last ESCOP-CAC call. Steve Pueppke will take over as ESCOP Chair after the ESS September meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rubie G. Mize

August 25, 2008

**ESCOP Chairs Advisory Committee
Teleconference Notes
October 20, 2008 [4-5pm Eastern]**

Participants:

Steve Pueppke, Chair
 Arlen Leholm, Executive Vice-Chair (NCRA)
 Clarence Watson, Vice-Chair
 Bruce McPheron, Past Chair
 Dan Rossi (NERA)
 Eric Young (SAAESD)
 Mike Harrington (WAAESD)
 Craig Nessler (Chair-NRSP Review Committee)
 David Boethel (Chair-Budget and Legislative Committee)
 Jim Richards (Cornerstone)
 Jerry Arkin (Chair – Communication and Marketing Committee)
 Chris Hamilton (NCRA-Recorder)

Action Items:

Who	Action	Status
Mike Harrington/DC Coston	Share draft of proposed framework for the roadmap with the directors.	Done
Mike Harrington	Send 2011 survey to directors	
Arlen Leholm	Arrange an informal get-together with Colien Hefferan during the November NASULGC meeting	Done
Arlen Leholm/Dan Rossi	Invite and arrange travel of Multistate Research awardee-NC229 to the NASULGC Annual Meeting	In process
Arlen Leholm/Jerry Arkin	Take decision to inactivate the ESCOP C&M committee to the ESCOP Executive session in November	
All EDs	Finalize SCRI letter	
Steve Pueppke/Arlen Leholm	Send final SCRI letter to CSREES	

Notes:

1. Report from the Chair – Steve Pueppke:
 Chair Pueppke and Colien Hefferan had their first monthly call in October. Steve mentioned that two important issues came out of their recent discussion. First, Colien indicated a desire for more conversations about common interests. As such, Arlen will organize a dinner with Colien and a few others from ESCOP on Sunday evening during the November NASULGC meeting in Chicago. Second, they discussed the possibility of putting on an event to celebrate the new USDA research institute/structure that would include SAES directors.

2. Review of Action Items (from the 8/18 call) – Steve Pueppke:

Arlen will continue to work with NC-229's AA regarding travel for the project's rep to the NASULGC meeting in November. He will also draft a letter of recommendation from Steve to present to NC-229. All other items have been completed.

3. Agenda for Executive Committee Meeting in November – Steve Pueppke and Arlen Leholm:
The four EDs will review the agenda during their meeting in Baltimore. **As of 10/26, a draft agenda has been sent out with a call for agenda briefs.
4. FY09 Budget Update and Farm Bill Status – Jim Richards, Cornerstone:
The government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution and will likely do so until the new administration takes office. Also, the REO directors will be announced soon. Finally, Jim presented a few options for dealing with the 3D activities and the IPM issue.
5. Budget and Legislative Committee Update – David Boethel/Mike Harrington
The pre-meeting survey reconfirmed the directors' desire to enhance formula funds over competitive ones. The 2011 survey is ready to send and will be about 20 questions, providing new and different information to determine the next \$100M program.
6. System Communication and Marketing Implementation Committee Update – Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm:
During their 10/13 teleconference, the committee voted to disband the ESCOP C&M Committee. They will take this action to the Executive Committee meeting in November. Dan Rossi suggested that the group go inactive as needed and avoid a potential need to change terms with the ESCOP Rules of Operation.
7. 2009 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop – Clarence Watson:
The 2009 meeting will be held at the Sheraton Oklahoma City between September 14 and 17. Unlike previous fall workshops, this meeting will begin on a Monday and end with the banquet dinner on Wednesday evening in an effort to keep the final sessions well-attended. The ESS business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday morning and all other sessions will run through late afternoon on Wednesday. Regional meetings will be scheduled for Monday afternoon from 3 to 6 pm. Rooms will also be available on Thursday, should regions decide that Monday will not work. Breakfast will be served on Thursday morning as usual.
8. Other business:
It was decided to hold off on sending the SCRI letter until after the EDs had another chance to discuss it during the NMCC meeting in Baltimore.

Chair Pueppke closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and participation.

Respectfully submitted by:
Christina Hamilton
October 26, 2008

**ESCOP Chairs Advisory Committee
Teleconference Notes
December 15, 2008 [4-5pm Eastern]**

Participants:

Steve Pueppke, Chair
 Arlen Leholm, Executive Vice-Chair (NCRA)
 Clarence Watson, Vice-Chair
 Bruce McPheron, Past Chair
 Greg Bohach (Science and Tech Committee)
 Dan Rossi (NERA)
 Eric Young (SAAESD)
 Mike Harrington (WAAESD)
 Tim Sanders (Cornerstone)
 Chris Hamilton (NCRA-Recorder)

Action Items:

Who	Action	Status
All	Please review and send Mike feedback on the B&L priorities document	
Dan Rossi/B&L Members	Appoint new B&L chair elect from the NE Region to replace David Boethel	
Arlen Leholm	Discuss tying the System Committee to the Policy Board with Jack Payne	
Arlen Leholm/Steve Pueppke	Release new multi-state award announcement	
Arlen Leholm	Appoint ESCOP rep to ECOP (Leroy Daugherty)	done

Notes:

1. Report from the Chair – Steve Pueppke:
 Not much to report. Steve could not make the December call with Colien, but they will speak again in January.
2. Review of Action Items (from the 10/20 call) – Steve Pueppke:
 All action items have been completed.
3. FY 09 Budget Update, Farm Bill Update, and Presidential Transition Issues - Tim Sanders:
 Not much happening lately since we're still awaiting the new administration. A stimulus package with the purpose of attracting jobs may be finalized in January and ready for the new president's signature on January 20, 2009. In regards to the Farm Bill, Cornerstone is working with authorizing committees related to IPM. Finally, Tim noted that President-Elect Obama's transition team is one of the most active, smooth, and impressive teams he has seen during his career.
4. Budget and Legislative Committee Issues - Mike Harrington for David Boethel:

Mike has sent the 2010 Priorities document; please review and send feedback as necessary. David Boethel will be ending his 2-year term as the Northeast B&L chair and a new chair elect needs to be appointed as soon as possible.

5. System Marketing Assessment and other issues - Arlen Leholm for Jerry Arkin:
It was decided that the annual marketing assessment will remain at \$300,000 for the time being. Arlen and Steve will prepare and send out the new marketing assessment letter. Also, Arlen needs to pull the System Committee back together and would like to tie this committee to the Policy Board. This suggestion will be brought to Jack Payne prior to the 3/10/2009 Policy Board meeting.
6. Multi State Awards - Dan Rossi:
Dan will send a draft letter to Arlen and Steve for comment. Arlen/Steve will send the final letter with a description of the award and instructions on how to apply.
7. Other business:
Dan reminded everyone that ESCOP needs to appoint a rep to ECOP. Arlen will discuss the issue with Leroy Daugherty.

Chair Pueppke closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and participation.

Respectfully submitted by:
Christina Hamilton
December 16, 2008