

**ESCOP Chair's Advisory Call**  
**January 19, 2017**  
**MINUTES**

**Participants:**

Jeff Jacobsen  
Bret Hess  
Gary Thompson  
Ann Marie  
Clarence Watson  
Shirley Hymon-Parker  
Mike Harrington  
Marcus Alvarez  
Bill Brown  
Eric Young  
Alton Thompson  
Hunt Shipman  
Sarah Lupis

- **Approval of agenda**  
*The agenda was unanimously approved.*
  
- **Potential Roundtable on Public-Private Partnerships to increase funding for Ag and Food Research - Bret Hess, Anne Marie Thro**  
PCAST (President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology) report cited an imbalance between public and private funding of agricultural research. Basic research is a public sector activity and applied research is a private sector activity. For agriculture research, much work lies in between these poles. Based on this report, Kathy Wotecki asked her advisory group, the NEARU board what to do. They recommended a roundtable "committee" that is less formal, would not issue formal recommendations. USDA doesn't have authority to set something like this up, but a meeting of USDA and the National Academies of Science (NAS) expressed strong consensus to move forward with this if there was support from the Board and the USDA Chief Scientist—the NAS/BAC *does* have this authority and can set something like this up. ESCOP was asked to participate in this round table. In February, a proposal will be submitted to NAS. If approved, members will be asked to join. Overall cost of this effort would be \$1.2M (staff support and travel for members 2x a year and subsidizing groups that cannot afford to pay); comes to \$20-25K per member, per year. This round table is not intended to conduct research. As a nation, what kind of research do we need to make sure gets done in the next 3 years; ideas would not be binding. Other topics could also be discussed.

There was some discussion about the university-industry group. Leaders from agricultural industry and LGUs that meet 2x per year and have robust discussions. Many of the major LGUs are involved as are the major agricultural companies and some smaller ones are involved. This is an invitation-only group. *It was suggested that Ann Marie contact Ralph Tisher; Gary Thompson will make introductions.*

***Ann Marie will share existing documents with this group via Bret Hess. Mike/Bret will share the ESCOP Science Roadmap.***

There was some advocacy for participation at the ESCOP level to avoid conflicts of interest or skewed representation by larger institutions who can afford to be there.

Robin Schun from the NAS would be happy to discuss. As would Chuck Rice, from K-State. Kathy Wotecki would also be a good resource based on her experience with both USDA, the decision, and as a Dean.

- **Updates on the Single Number Ask**

Bill Brown shared that there was a BAC call in the last few days, a 2-page brief has been revised—back page will have funding distribution, which would include a \$2M increase. Each region has met to discuss this. Mike Harrington summarized comments into a document. BAC call suggestion is to take 2% off the top would go to 1980 research and an additional 2% for 1890 extension; \$4M each. The remainder would be split across the 6 lines. It is a SINGLE ASK and not a consolidation. ***Mike will share his summary document with all of the EDs.***

- **Status of the Diversity and Inclusion Workshop at APLU – Jeff Jacobsen**

- 1) ESCOP Workshop will involve 30 people and be announced next week. An assessment will be distributed in mid-February. This will be the basis for the Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2.5 hour workshop that will be conducted by Pamela Morris looking at organizational culture of ESCOP leadership related to diversity and inclusiveness. There will be a reading to do in advance of this March 6<sup>th</sup> workshop.
- 2) Tuesday afternoon of the AHS/CARET meeting will be led by Shannon Archibeque-Engle from Colorado State University and based on the Multicultural Organizational Development Model—where are we and where do we want to go. ***There are still seats available for this workshop—contact Jeff if you are interested.***
- 3) Wednesday of the AHS/CARET meeting is broadly about diversity and inclusiveness and inclusive excellence and will be some general discussion. ***There are still seats available for this workshop—contact Jeff if you are interested.***

- **Progress on the Strategic Alliance meetings – Mike Harrington**

March 8<sup>th</sup> will be Devoted to Strategic Alliance meetings. Bret, Fred Schlutt, and Mike Harrington will meet with leadership. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, they will meet with Sonny and others. They will also be meeting with organizations and agencies in late February. NRCS is a high –priority meeting.

- **Secretary of Agriculture Update**

A formal announcement for Sonny Purdue, former governor of Georgia, came today. Cornerstone has been meeting with the staff responsible for guiding his confirmation process. The goal is to have confirmation hearings and a vote prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in February (President's Day recess). There will be lots of meetings and dialog before then. Hearings likely in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February. There are no known issues with this nomination. Purdue is well-known in agriculture circles in Georgia from specialty crops to row crops to animal agriculture. He seems to lack a specific agenda or baggage. We don't seem to have details on his feelings about research, but Cornerstone will be working to gain additional insights in the coming days.

**Next Call:** Thursday, February 16, 2017, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST.