

ESCOP CAC Monthly Conference Call
April 13, 2017
NOTES

Participants:

Bret Hess	Clarence Watson
Jeff Jacobsen	Eric Young
Mike Harrington	Alton Thompson
Dave Leibovitz	Jeremy Witte
Gary Thompson	Jim Richards

- **Approval of agenda and March call notes**
The agenda and March call notes were unanimously approved.
- **Budget, DC happenings**
Congress is in recess this and next week. FY17 bills have generally been resolved. An Omnibus Appropriations bill will hopefully pass at the end of the month. The most pertinent issue is the border wall—how much this will impact the bipartisan support of the bill which is needed for it to pass. FY18 is likely to drag into the fall. Budget detail submission is expected in mid-May; bills and reports will be drafted by end of July.
- **Follow up on DC meetings and action steps**
Impact statements on soil heath were compiled. They will be finalized this week. Bret and Fred will share as follow-ups with NRCS. Impact Statements like this are typically turned into Twitter and Facebook posts. Cornerstone will use these in follow-up conversations. An op-ed could also be produced in support of a particular soil health initiative or for soil health research in general. These could also be shared with others Bret and Fred met with to gauge whether there would be value in doing something along these lines again in the future.
- **NCFAR annual meeting**
Jeff Jacobsen attended the NCFAR board meeting as a substitute for Ernie Minton (ESCOP rep) and Bret to present the one ask proposal which they agreed to support. Rick Klemme joined Jeff as did Jason Henderson, Extension director from Purdue (ECOP rep).
- **S&T activities, Science Roadmap**
At respective Spring association meetings, Directors weighed in on joint project submissions for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award; waiting for input from the southern region who hasn't met yet. Tim Fink from SoAR participated with S&T; their publications on Retaking the Field highlight work at land-grants. In Volume 3 and beyond, they are encouraged to look at a greater variety of institutions. There is a \$2,000 "fee" to participate. Jeff shared some additional web-based resources (NIMSS, National Impact Database, etc.). Sarah Lupis is working on creating a message piece that describes better who the ESS is—a new draft will be shared with S&T this month. Bret asked if ESCOP should consider taking advantage of the multistate impact work to get some of those inserted into a SoAR publication. Gary Thompson shared his experience negotiating with them about who and what would be covered—there's some back and forth. Bret will follow up with Tim Fink regarding the possibility of including something on the section in the next SOAR publication.
- **Progress on ESS meeting**
Workshop descriptions are being fleshed out. Trying to avoid having too many panels and trying to increase the diversity of the meeting. Jeff and Alton are working on a couple options. One is to have a panel of Diversity officers. Another option would be to do an IDI with greater

participation of all ESS Directors; would include Pamela Morris and Patrice Ingram as facilitators. Also in discussions with NIFA about potential to discuss Diversity Reviews.

- **PBD report**

Should the CMC be a standing committee of the Policy Board? This is a critical function; raising the stature of the committee might be appropriate. However, because it's a standing committee of ESCOP and ECOP, this group is being asked to comment and share any concerns and questions. Would this change support for the group? Eric believed that the three sections would still pay; the BAA isn't going to pay. Leadership/membership wouldn't change either. Feedback is also being solicited from ECOP and the CMC themselves and ESCOP and ECOP will discuss at Joint COPS.

Mike and Bret will share the Plan of Work with the Section. Reporting by section will change—a new template has been developed that ties back into the Plan of Work. There is not an expectation that all will be completed as some may apply more to another section. We will now do an annual report.

The Plan of Work and new template will go on the next agenda so that directors can offer feedback on what should be reported. Ultimately, Chair and Chair-Elect will be best ones to complete sections on current and emerging issues and actions taken. The goal is to look for synergy and trends.

- Short Updates:

- ESCOP Website

Inventory of old site has been done. Assignments are going out to each regional association. Clemson is working on things behind the scene. We are almost ready to enter a test environment to see how things are working. Next check-in will be early May with Clemson.

- Impact Database Update

Eric will be meeting with Bill during the Southern Region Spring Meeting about this. Sarah Lupis, Faith Peppers, and the members of the writing committee wrote a status update and white paper of recommendations about how to improve the site and process for data entry.

- ESS Leadership Awards

Regions should please share winner's information with the Chair, Mike and Jeff so letters can be sent and Jeff can coordinate award engraving, etc. Regions will coordinate travel arrangements for their awardee—letter will indicate that awardee should contact regional office—look to nomination letter for wording.

- Infrastructure Efforts

Glenda Humiston (UCANR) has a government affairs staff member working on this. An update from PBD will be coming soon. Others are also working on an ask related to this for capacity funding for university infrastructure projects.

- Joint COPS - July 15-19 at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis, 1 Centennial Dr., Kananaskis Village, Alberta, CA. Call the hotel to make reservations! 866-432-4322. please contact Suzette Robinson for help in working with the hotel.
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