

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Conference Call Notes
Jan 26, 2010**

Attending

Mike Vayda NERA, Mike Harrington, Thomas Burr NERA, Orlando McMeans ARD, Carolyn Brooks ARD, Bob Schulstad SAAESD

Need for Vice Chair/Chair-elect

The chair serves for a 2 year term. The chair rotates around the 4 geographic regions such that the 1862 Directors have a seat on the BAC. The 1890-ARD have a seat on the BAC. Rotation: WAAESD, SAAESD, NERA, NCRA. The next chair should come from the NCRA.

Policy Board action on BAC recommendations

Up until this year, the BAC has operated relatively independently which resulted in a large number of “lines” or requests each year. Cornerstone has repeatedly indicated that the large number of lines make their job very difficult if not impossible for some lines. Their advice and that of Congressional staffers has been to focus our requests to a few lines.

The BAC is a standing committee of the PBD and as such it is to make recommendations to the Policy Board. The PBD reduced the number of targeted lines to a total of eight from a possible 18 lines (see below). Cornerstone is charged with advocacy for these eight lines.

Table 1. NIFA Targeted Budget Lines for FY 2011	
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative*	\$500.0 M
Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)**	350.0 M
Hatch Act.....	240.0 M
Evans Allen	55.0 M
1890 Institutions Extension	50.0 M
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	35.0 M
Extension at the 1994 Institutions	8.0 M
1994 Institutions Research.....	5.0 M

Status of budget white paper

No update for Extension

Status of federal budget

Capacity funded programs expected to remain level, a significant increase in AFRI probably at least \$200 million.

ESCOP B&L Conference Call
Notes 5/4/10

Participating: Cheryl Achterberg, Eddie Gouge, Tom Burr, Jim Richards, Steve Slack
Bob Shulstad, Mike Vayda, Carolyn Brooks, Dan Rossi, Mike Harrington

2011 Budget Update – Jim Richards

- Congress is uncertain regarding the budget and appropriations and will probably pass a continuing resolution
- The Senate is pending a supplemental that may include funding for Haiti, Pell grants, and black farmers
- Congress may take up the budget before Memorial Day. The budget process may go straight to Congress and bypassing the appropriations process.
- Will not know about the budget until Christmas or possibly spring.

406 Issues - Mike Vayda

Several sectors have voiced concern especially CES including water quality and IPM
Jim Richards indicated – there is no inclination in Congress to go with this request

AFRI

- What happens to AFRI budget if 406 funds are restored?
- There will be \$155M in 2010 awards that will be mortgaged into the 2011 AFRI program. If there are no increases in AFRI there would significantly less money available for new awards. See accompanying spreadsheet that was also distributed for our last meeting
- Is there really 60% for fundamental research in RFA's? Many of the integrate projects would seem to favor applied research.

Earmarks - Have the legislators been requested to not ask for earmarks? The House will not do earmarks beyond one or two. Senate will do earmarks

Farm Bill Input Process

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee has responsibility for obtaining input for the ESS.
This would be done via an online survey The modified survey is to go out by 5/7.

Mandatory Programs - Specialty crops Beginning farmer rancher, Biomass R&D, Organic Ag

- These four mandatory programs in NIFA will terminate in 2012 unless reauthorized in the next Farm Bill; i.e. action must be taken to retain these programs.
- Cornerstone to seek them in another format - (1) baseline allocation; (2) aligned with groups that need funds,
- Must do something regarding matching funds – there are questions in the survey regarding matching requirements.

BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) - charged with developing input on 2012 Farm Bill

- Arguments must be made early - does not require a wait.
- Richards indicated that the House Subcommittee had the perception that supplemental funding for Hatch was used for earmarks.
- Hope is that the big picture decision is made for long-term.
- Clean-up - there are still going to be earmarks if goes into AFRI

- The ESCOP Survey will be basis for a coordinated response from ESS; responses will be assimilated into one document to be passed on to ESCOP and ESS as well as the CLP

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Conference Call Minutes
May 25, 2010**

Participating

Eddie Gouge, Bill Brown, Mike Vayda, , Hunt Shipman, Jim Richards, Eddie Gouge, Bob Shulstad, Mike Harrington, Bret Hess, Jeff Jacobsen

Budget Update – Jim Richards, Cornerstone

House Ag Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up its bill Tuesday June 29. The climate is very austere in light of deficits, spending, etc. No information on the Senate at this time. Congress adjourns on July 2 for recess.

Committee Leadership

Mike Vayda will become Dean at the University of Arkansas effective July, but will attend the joint COPs meeting to present the NRSP-RC and the B&L Committee reports. The NERA has indicated that it is best to have the chairmanship rotate to someone who has more experience on this committee, thus the position would move the North Central region. Steve Slack (Ohio State) has agreed to serve as chair.

Status of Farm Bill Survey - Mike Harrington

There are 31 responses to the survey as of today and 75 visits.

Discussion of initial Survey Responses

- Clear support for increasing AFRI authorization
- Clear support for continuing the mandatory programs but reducing or eliminating matching funds requirements
- Suggest that Animal Health and Disease funds be folded into AFRI

Related issues for 2012 budget (appropriations requests)

- Formula programs are critical to states allowing focus on local and regional issues that are not supported within AFRI
- These funds are heavily leveraged > 5:1 nationally

Job Jar

Who	What	Status
Mike H	The EDs will send a copy of the current summary and encourage Directors to complete the survey.	
Mike H	Check with Eric Young and Clarence Watson about endorsement of recommendations for submission to the CLP on July 15 th .	
Mike H	Develop initial set of recommendations from the survey for distribution to the B&L Committee by Friday June 25	