

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Update February 21, 2011

Steve Slack and Mike Harrington represented this at the regular BAC meeting held in Washington DC, Feb, 10-11, 2011. During this meeting both the 2011 CR and 2012, the details of which were unknown at that time, were discussed. In fact, the CR was a moving target, changing substantially, with larger cuts being mandated, during the course of the BAC meeting.

An ESCOP B7L call was held on Tuesday Feb 15. Jim Richards provided an overview of the budget situation for 2011 and 2012. The NCRA needs to appoint another member to the B&L Committee

There was also a special BAC call, open to all interested parties, held on Thursday Feb. 17 to discuss the 2011 CR and President's Budget. The BAC did not change discussion from the DC meeting, but did decide to focus the upcoming AHS-CARET efforts only on FY2011 to minimize confusion over the President's FY2012 recommendations.

FY2011 Priorities: 1) restore S-L cut of ~\$30M and 2) restore AFRI cut. Hatch is not part of this discussion due to House cut structure and all continue to agree that discussion of special grants is a moot point. This is the reason for the Extension groundswell right now. Real target may be Senate and possible joint House-Senate reconciliation committee as process continues.

FY2012 Priorities: will be taken up after the real numbers for FY2011 are known. This will likely require reengagement of the Experiment Stations. The 2011 budget resolution may well have adverse effects on the 2012 budget.

One action by Extension, at Cornerstone's recommendation, is to update their data in the budget form sent out earlier as cuts to extension are now deeper and have greater impacts. We need to make certain that the information that Experiment Stations submitted earlier does not get lost in the shuffle as the loss of special grants and AFRI dollars are real impacts as well.

Cornerstone is also working on a focused 1-pager relative to S-L. ECOP is also pushing state Extension programs to generate local (county-based rather than state-based) impacts to make the loss more personal to Congress.

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
April 26, 2011 Conference Call
Draft Notes

1. **Participating:** Slack, Minton, Schulstad, Burr, Harrington (proxy for Jacobsen and Hess)

2. Discussion/reaffirmation of 2012 Budget Priorities

Program	2009 enacted	2010 enacted	2011 CR	2012 request
Hatch	207,106,000	215,000,000	236,334,000	236,334,000*
Evans Allen	45,504,000	48,500,000	50,898,000	50,898,000*
McIntire Stennis	27,535,000	29,000,000	32,934,000	32,934,000*
AFRI	201,504,000	262,482,000	264,470,000	324,655,000**

Actions:

Approved ESS priorities with equal status as follows

- Support Capacity lines at FY 2011 levels (Note the figures in the final CR reflect a 0.2% across the board rescission (Actual figures were Hatch \$237 m, E-A \$51 m, M-S \$33 m)
- Support 2012 President's Budget Request for AFRI - \$324,655,000

Discussions:

REE Action Plan:

A fly-in meeting with leadership from the APLU Commission on Food Environment and Renewable Resources which includes the BAA, Boards on Agriculture, Human Sciences, Natural Resources, Oceans and Atmospheres and Veterinary Medicine will be held in June. REE will be represented by Cathie Woteki, Ann Bartuska (REE), Roger Beachy (NIFA), Ed Knipling (ARS), Kitty Smith (ERS) and a facilitator that Cathie uses. Approximately 50 people from CFERR will be invited. Five representatives from ESCOP will be past and current chairs, the chair-elect, Steve Slack B&L Committee Chair, Tom Burr and regional EDs. This group reflects both leadership and regional representation. ECOP will have similar representation.

The EDs have completed a detailed cross walk of the major initiative of both plans. When the ACOP Strategic Plan is considered there are few if any gaps in the plan.

Request that Budget and Legislative and Science and Technology Committees review REE Action Plan and complete survey. There will be a fly-in meeting. Survey results will be summarized for the REE Fly-in meeting in early June.

ESS Workshop Session:

Initial discussion of session on "Operationalizing the Science Roadmap: From Paper to Outcomes". Ideas include elucidating the costs of the roadmap, looking at potential funding sources next Farm Bill, targets other than USDA such as DOE, etc. Suggest that B&L, S&T and EDs work on plan for session.

Next regularly scheduled call: May 24, 2011, 4:00 pm EDT

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- Change BAC Table 2: language from "Other" to "Maintain" Critical NIFA Programs

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ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
May 24, 2011 Conference Call
Draft Notes

1. Participating: Slack, Minton, Schulstad, Burr, Plaut, Brown, Jacobsen

2. Minutes from April 26, 2011: approved

3. Discussion/reaffirmation of 2012 Budget Priorities

Discussed the numbers for FY12 that were released from the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee on May 23, 2011. Initial reactions to the substantial decreases proposed from FY11 included:

- The numbers constituted a substantial hit on top of the loss of special funds in the FY11 budget.
- Multiple programs were zeroed out that are linked with many other programmatic efforts in the system.
- Already tight state finances make the FY house numbers impact much greater and have the potential to substantially decrease system capacity through loss of faculty and staff.
- The decrease in proposed budget for AFRI is likely to leave little room for flexibility in funding new grants; AFRI is the primary source of extramural support for R&D for most of our colleges.

Actions: The committee reaffirmed the ESS priorities approved during the April 26 conference call as follows:

- Support Capacity lines at FY 2011 levels (Note the figures in the final CR reflect a 0.2% across the board rescission (Actual figures were Hatch \$237 m, E-A \$51 m, M-S \$33 m)
- Support 2012 President's Budget Request for AFRI - \$324,655,000

4. ESCOP: Slack provided an update on ESCOP activities. No actions to record for committee minutes.

Next regularly scheduled call: Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 4:00 pm EDT

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Aug 23, 2011 Conference Call
Draft Notes

1. **Participating:** S. Slack, E. Minton, B. Shulstad (Bob - note spelling!!!), T. Burr, K. Plaut, B. Brown, C. Brooks, B. Hess, J. Jacobsen, M. Harrington, J Richards
2. Minutes from 052411 and 062711 were approved
3. **2012 Budget status:** (Jim Richards, Cornerstone Gov't Affairs) The Senate Ag Committee will take up the 2012 budget bill in the first week of September. The Senate Ag Subcommittee allocation was better than the House but still less than last year. It is essential that each state develops its impact statement and communicates with respective Senate members.
4. **One Line Proposal:** Jim provided a detailed discussion of the one line proposal. Discussed possible changes in programs if such a proposal were implemented. How would new programs be added and old ones phased out? Lee Sommers' analysis of base year suggests that there would be little impact relative to the amount of funding regardless of the year chosen.
5. **B&L Session at the ESS meeting:** There will be a communication to the ESS members shortly after the CLP meeting on Sept 7-8 which will include all details of the proposal and an analysis of potential impacts. This would be accompanied by a survey of the Directors to assess preferences. Lee Sommers, as incoming ESCOP Chair, and Mike Harrington are assuming responsibility for this communication and survey. The survey results will serve as background data to inform the budget proposal discussion at the Section meeting in Estes Park
6. **Roadmap Survey Status:** The Science Roadmap for Agriculture contains 7 challenges each with 6-7 action items. The B&L Committee is conducting a survey to determine what the top 5-10 priorities from among the some 30+ action items. As of this date there have been a total of 18 responses. Mike will send a reminder to the system to respond. The results of this survey will serve as background data for the Roadmap discussion at the Section meeting in Estes Park

September – no call ESS meeting

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Oct 25 conference call notes

Attending: S. Slack, E Minton, K Plaut, C Brooks, B Shulstad B Brown, T Phipps, B Hess, E Gouge, H Shipman, J Richards

BAC CALL REPORT - S Slack/M Harrington

Bev Durgan will rotate off as the chair; Frank Galey (University of Wyoming) is the incoming chair. The BAC will be meeting in San Francisco on Saturday Nov 12 at 11:30 – 4:30 to discuss any remaining issues for 2012, and plans for 2013 and Farm Bill.

IPM CENTERS RECOMMENDATIONS - M Harrington

The IMP Center Directors and associates met recently in DC for their annual meeting to discuss future options. The IPM community proposed consolidation of a number of lines, some of which were zeroed out in 2011 into a single IPM line.

CONSOLIDATION OF BUDGET LINES - M Harrington

The EDs developed a strawman draft document proposing consolidation of various small budget lines. The proposal would move these programs into the 3d programs area, in which funds are awarded on a competitive basis. There is also pressure within Congress to eliminate duplication, and consolidate budget lines.

We will need to work with staff so that the statement of the managers details the expectations for integrated research and extension. Our community will need a unified voice to do this and we will need to work with NIFA on this as they are also looking a consolidation.

Moving water quality in the RREA programs is problematic as these funds are provided on a formulaic basis. Moving lines in to 3b, c would also present problems.

Lee Sommers, Mike Harrington, Doug Steele, Lyla Houglum and Jim Richards will be meeting by phone to discuss principles for consolidation so that all interests are represented and there are no unintended consequences.

- Appropriations Staff communications: Frank Galey incoming BAC chair, Ian Maw and Cornerstone met with staff last week. The staff does not have a complete picture of the one line concept primarily due to the fact that a complete proposal has not been developed. They have legitimate concerns that there could be a lack of protection that could result in the Administration eliminating programs. It is unlikely that they could/would penalize us for such an effort.

Staff has and is considering both the IPM Centers and 406 Task Force recommendations. It is possible that some of these recommendations could be implemented in the FY 2011 budget.

2012 BUDGET STATUS – J Richards

The current CR expires on Nov 18. Ag budget was on the Senate floor last week along with Transportation and HUD. There is an agreement to complete by next Tuesday (Nov 1). There are no amendments either submitted or passed that affect our interests. Both House and Senate subcommittee staffers are working to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions. It is expected that final numbers will be close to those in the Senate.

There was no malice intended by the House in its mark up. The House had a severely reduced budget allocation; however, the Senate had a more generous number with which to work.

FARM BILL STATUS - H Shipman

The CPL will be meeting in San Francisco on Tuesday morning at 6:30 am

Senate and House Subcommittees agreed on a \$23B over the life of the next FB. Likely reduction scenario: \$15 B commodity payments, \$4 B conservation, \$4 B nutrition programs. Details are to be provided on Nov 1. The Super Committee is looking at \$1.2 to 1.5 Trillion in cuts, the specifics of which are to be released on Nov 23 with final up/down vote on Dec 23. It is unlikely that the research title would not be completed by this time.

Mandatory programs i.e. specialty crops, biomass R&D, organic R&E beginning farmers- rancher will be allowed to continue in the final year. Unlikely that these programs would be continued in the next FB due to budget concerns

New programs and changes would take effect in 2013

- **Matching requirements:** Farm Bill rewrite could result is a unified 1:1 matching requirement of for all competitive programs that deal with applied, commodity specific or state specific grants.
- **Unrecovered Indirect Costs:** Would unrecovered ICDC be allowed to count toward the matching requirement? Need to address this as the current rule affecting the mandatory programs came from OMB.
- **Special grants:** There has been some discussion about having something like special grants with in AFRI i.e. very specific programs that would meet the needs that special grants were addressing.
- **Congressional Direction of AFRI programs:** There have been concerns about the types of awards made in the competitive programs to the extent that Congress will seeking more oversight and direction to assure that relevant projects are being funded.

ROADMAP SURVEY RESULTS UPDATE - Mike Harrington

Reminders have gone out to all regions requesting additional input; currently 42 responses and increase of 6 over the results presented at the ESS meeting. Priorities are not expected to change significantly.

Next Call: Tuesday, November 29