

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee**  
**Conference Call**  
**March 26, 2013**  
**NOTES**

**Participants:**

Jeff Jacobsen, Ron Allen, Bret Hess, Carolyn Brooks, Karen Plaut, Ernie Minton, Bob Shulstad  
Bill Brown, Tim Phipps, Arlen Leholm, Mike Harrington, Jim Richards

- **Priorities Survey**

The process document has been revised to reflect ESCOP adoption at the February 2013 meeting. Each region will have a priorities discussion at its spring meeting after which an electronic survey will be deployed via the EDs. An online version of the survey has been created with positive feedback from all reviewers. It was suggested that another question seeking input on budget lines for possible consolidation be added and endorsed by the B&L Committee

Mike will create distribute an agenda brief for the regional association meetings using the survey process document and the link to the live survey link to the B&L Committee members and the EDs. (Both done)

- **Crop Protection Program update (Mike Harrington)**

Working group completed its white paper which was endorsed by the ESCOP and ECOP B&L Committees as well as ECOP, ESCOP and the BAC. The BAC forwarded the paper to the Policy Board which approved and will forward to NIFA. The white paper changed very little from the version that all groups approved last July with the exception of removing the IR-4 Program at their request. At Cornerstone's request, an Executive Summary was created by Mike Harrington, Robin Shepard (Extension ED in the North Central Region), Fred Hutchins (Cornerstone)

Karen asked about why an academic program was included when there are other funding needs to support the development of next generation of scientists across the food and agriculture system. Mike explained that this program was included because this program was part of the President's 2013 budget proposal. Mike also indicated that ACOP is writing a programmatic document that would highlight the need for support for students in the food and agricultural sciences. The paper may recommend a Young Scholars Program aimed at high school students, an Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, as well as graduate and post-doctoral fellows programs.

- **2013 Budget (Jim Richards)**

The President is expected to sign the budget passed by the House and Senate resulting in a 7.61% reduction to our programs. (See Cornerstones Report of March 12). The good news, if there is any,

is that AFRI was increased by \$12 million. The other good news is that no funds have been released so the impact is spread over the whole year rather than losing 14% of funds over the remainder of the year. There are some who apparently view the AFRI increase coming as the expense of capacity programs. However, this was not the case as there was a need to pay for increases in the WIC program.

- **FY14 (Jim Richards)**

The President's Budget for 2014 is expected in early April. Cornerstone and the BAC will release today, a "Call to Action" request for all to engage those "Strong Stalks" who have direct access to members of Congress (pasted below). Cornerstone has developed supporting documents at [www.land-grant.org](http://www.land-grant.org). Our request is that funding be held at not lower than the 2012 levels. All Directors, and especially those in the 18 states with representatives on the House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations Committees, are encouraged to support their respective Deans in making these contacts

House Appropriations Committee: <http://appropriations.house.gov/about/members/>

House Agriculture committee - <http://agriculture.house.gov/about/membership>

Senate Appropriations Committee: <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/about-members.cfm>

Senate Agriculture Committee: <http://www.ag.senate.gov/about>

- **ESCOP Letter regarding PCAST Report**

Mike Hoffman has drafted a letter to Dr John Holdren after discussion with the CAC last week and at the urging of Sonny Ramaswamy (NIFA). Extension has already sent a letter expressing their concerns. There has been some concern expressed that the letter was too heavily focused on maintaining capacity funds. At this point the letter is still in draft form.

**Next Meeting:** April 23, 2013, 4:00 EDT, the call in number is: 970-491-2611.

# BAC Call to Action

113th Congress, No. 1 — March 26, 2013

## FY 2014 Programmatic Appropriations Requests Due in House by April 10

**The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee has notified Members of the U.S. House of Representatives that they have until COB on Wednesday, April 10, to submit programmatic funding requests for the FY 2014 appropriations cycle. We need you to contact your House Members as soon as possible to help us restore the 7.6% NIFA cuts made in FY 2013:**

1. Follow your university's standard procedures for making congressional contacts.
2. The House is in recess from March 25 to April 8, call the district scheduler and schedule an in-district meeting with each of your Members. (For guidance on setting such meetings see: [www.land-grant.org/docs/guides/offices.pdf](http://www.land-grant.org/docs/guides/offices.pdf))
3. Review the BAC's NIFA priorities for FY 2014 (which focus, first and foremost, on restoring the land-grant capacity programs cut in FY 2013). A summary of the priorities is attached to this email. Individual fact sheets are available for download here: [www.land-grant.org](http://www.land-grant.org)
4. Meet with each Member and ask them to support our FY 2014 requests. Find out who to call in their Washington office for follow-up.
5. Meet with your Senators as well!
6. To follow-up on a meeting (or if you are not able to meet with a Member in the district), telephone the Member's Washington office. Ask for the legislative assistant handling agriculture appropriations issues. **Keep calling until you talk to that LA personally.**
7. Ask them to support our programmatic requests for FY 2014. Remind them that the requests are due to the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee by Wednesday, April 10. (As in prior years, the requests are submitted to the subcommittee through an online form followed by a confirmation letter.) **Don't let them eat the seed corn.**
8. Tell them that you will follow-up by email. **And then send the email!** Attach the relevant two-page fact sheets which contain all of the information that they will need to fill in the subcommittee's form. When possible, please copy Jim Richards ([jrichards@cgagroup.com](mailto:jrichards@cgagroup.com)) and Hunt Shipman ([hshipman@cgagroup.com](mailto:hshipman@cgagroup.com)) on your email.
9. Stay in touch with each office until you have confirmed that they have submitted your request. **Please be persistent!**
10. **Strong Stalks Networks can make a difference** and we urge you to set up such a network immediately (if you haven't done so already) to bolster your request. For guidance on how to establish and use a Strong Stalks Network see: [www.land-grant.org/docs/guides/strong.pdf](http://www.land-grant.org/docs/guides/strong.pdf)

Thanks for your sustained assistance. We continue to face an extremely challenging federal funding situation that can ONLY be overcome through sustained, forceful, and cohesive advocacy. We're glad to know that we can continue to count on everyone's assistance in this difficult time.

**Frank Galey, BAC Chair**

**Mark Hussey, BAC Advocacy Chair**

THIS MESSAGE WAS SENT ON 03-26-2013 TO THE BAA AND CARET EMAIL LISTS

**ESCOP B&L**  
**Monthly Conference Call Notes**  
**May 28, 2013**

**Participating:**

Jeff Jacobsen, H. Michael Harrington, Gary Thompson, Bob Shulstad, Bill Brown, Karen Plaut, Ernie Minton, Bret Hess, Jim Richards

**Priorities Survey:**

During the last call, we heard feedback from the regions about the structure of the survey and had a conversation about why Science Roadmap priorities weren't included. The S&T Committee has been ~~doing has been~~ providing priorities for AFRI (programmatic priorities). Roadmap contains broad initiatives which could/should be used to justify bringing AFRI up to \$700M authorization.

Western Region met in late April/early May. Recommend that all budget lines under research and education and integrated program areas be included in the survey. New Draft includes all and allows directors to rank each from lowest to highest priority. There are lines under research and education that many people probably are unfamiliar with. Dollars allocated to each area in FY13, proposed for FY14 should probably be included in the survey as well. Survey is ready to go, after a few additional edits (as suggested above). There is a proposal to move most but not all educational activities under NSF (e.g., STEM). There are still a few educational activities under NIFA. There is concern in Academic Programs about moving these programs to NSF because their identity might be lost. Mike will create an accompanying explanations sheet with the links. Will modify survey to indicate "Please rank each item." It was also suggested that all respondents be required to answer all the questions.

Next steps--survey goes out to EDs who then distribute to directors. Results come back. Then, this committee would review and share results with ESCOP CAC and/or bring to ESS meeting in Kansas in July. Priorities are due in November. Propose sending the survey out tomorrow with a request to respond by June 30th. Mike will create a PowerPoint summary for presentation at regional summer meetings.

The FY14 budget combines several pest management lines. At this time, funding for the combined lines is reduced ?more? than previous totals but there are more programs – do more with less. This is an example of how some lines are complicated and may be difficult to explain.

**Cornerstone Update:**

**Farm Bill:** Congress is out of session this week. House and Senate are out of committee and Senate will be on the floor when they return with the expectation that they will finish the Farm Bill next week. House will be debating later in June. Expect to finish by August recess.

Last week, the junior senator from MT ([Tester](#)) wanted to earmark AFRI funds for classical breeding. Cornerstone offered alternatives, including no earmark for AFRI. Now, it is more of a generic offer related to classical plant breeding, but not as an AFRI earmark. It is now a manageable amendment.

Our issues aren't likely to change in either [chamberhouse](#).

Matching requirement for all AFRI grants. This is in the house bill. Requires a one to one match unless you are a land grant or partner with one on all competitive funds.

**14' Appropriations**--House subcommittee will mark up next Wednesday. The 302b allocation was reduced but not to the FY2000 level as was previously reported. This is a positive. Agriculture has a very generous allocation compared to the other 11 subcommittees. Still have cuts to nutrition programs that will trickle down. There is good support from members for issues we care about. The Ag appropriations bill has the least amount of "political baggage" and the best chance of being enacted. Effort to try and find 3-5 bills that can be enacted outside of continuing resolution and Ag is one of them.

Senate will mark up in 2nd or 3rd week of June. Better allocation than House. Capacity funding needs seem to be recognized by members and staff.

How is the larger land-grant family doing? Doing well. Still some weaknesses. Better than we were (grass tops and grass roots) but still needs to be stronger. Federal funding is the foundation for state and other funding. Want to be the best of everything to everyone--need to focus on who we are and what we need.

In April, when Deans were on the Hill, Yoder (KS) didn't want to hear about agriculture. He wanted to hear about military issues. However, Yoder and his staff have bent over backwards to accommodate our priorities; champions for our issues.

**'13 Budget:** States have received first 2 quarters with 2% reduction out of anticipated 7.71% total reduction. Last 2 quarters yet to provided but the final sequestration % is unknown. With these numbers, Directors should anticipate a 13.42% cut is each of the last 2 quarters. See example below.

		% anticipated reduction		
total allocation	4,000,000	0.0771	308400	total reduction
1st quarter	1,000,000	0.02	20000	1st quarter reduction
2nd quarter	1,000,000	0.02	20000	2nd quarter reduction
3, 4 quarters	2,000,000	0.1342	268400	residual reduction

**ESCOP B&L Committee Conference Call  
June 25, 2013**

**NOTES**

**Participants:**

Jeff Jacobsen - chair	Bret Hess
Mike Harrington	Ron Allen
Ernie Minton	Eddie Gouge
Karen Plaut	Jim Richards
Carolyn Brooks	Dan Rossi
Tim Phipps	Mike Hoffman
Gary Thompson	Emir Albores (NIFA)

**1. Approval of May call notes**

May call notes were approved.

**2. FY14 appropriations – Jim Richards, Cornerstone**

House and Senate mark-ups are big wins, reflection that system is buying into “strong stalks” advocacy efforts. Senate will file bill publically on Thursday. No schedule for going to the floor. House was going to go to the floor this week, but that’s been disrupted. Likely to debate after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July recess.

50/50 odds of getting it done before going into continuing resolution.

7.62% is still the current sequestration estimate. 2.513% across the board and 5.1% was the sequester amount. There could be an additional point added in. ~7.715% or so.

**3. Farm Bill – Jim Richards, Cornerstone**

Last week, things got rough with the Farm Bill. Two amendment adoptions--one on dairy price support program that passed substantially and the “Sutherland Amendment” that put work requirements on SNAP recipients—this lead to many Democrats voting “no” on final passage, along with several republicans, even though many of their own amendments were adopted. Now trying to figure out how to resuscitate the Farm Bill in the House and get it into conference.

If you are talking to your member, encourage action on the bill—but there isn’t much to be done. Need to dispose of the Sutherland Amendment—members are working to figure out how to do that. There is still a desire to pass the bill.

The current Farm Bill expires on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**4. Functional Equivalency**

Concern was expressed relevant to the Pest Management Program. One of the concerns expressed in the white paper was about functional equivalency. The Pest Management Lines have broad ability to run the program; language is very generic. The Department and

stakeholders need to come to agreement about how to run the program with “functional equivalency.”

5. Joint efforts with Extension and NIFA to increase capacity funds and return on investment white paper – Mike/Jeff

Extension has wanted to increase their capacity funding. During the ESCOP CAC call, Hunt Shipman advised that this is not a good time to ask. During yesterday’s ESCOP-ECOP leadership conference call it was decided to write a short piece that summarizes the return on investment and a table that demonstrates declining investment. The overall goal is to demonstrate value and suggest the need for additional investment. There would also be focus on competitive funds and how those are integrated with capacity. This is a paper that would come from ECOP and ESCOP. Mike Hoffman is taking some leadership in the creation of this report. This committee should be aware of this effort and expect to see a document to review sometime soon. The goal is to make a case for investment without putting a specific number on it. The report is for general information. A draft may be available on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

6. **Update on Priorities Survey – Mike**

The survey is currently out and there are 29 responses (out of a total possible 74 respondents). Some regions are better represented than others. A third reminder was sent out today. This committee will get the complete responses. Regions will get a summary and their regional data.



**ESCOP B&L Committee**  
**Conference Call, August 27, 2013**  
**NOTES**

**Participants:**

Bill Brown  
Mike Harrington  
Jeff Jacobsen  
Gary Thompson  
Carolyn Brooks  
Tim Phipps  
Ernie Minton  
Bob Shulstad  
Emir Albores (NIFA)  
Bret Hess  
Karen Plaut

**1. Approval of June notes – J Jacobsen**

June notes were unanimously approved.

**2. Approval of agenda – J Jacobsen**

Agenda was approved.

**3. FY 2014 Budget, Farm Bill**

Congress is in recess so not much has happened. Current House and Senate proposals are back at 2012 levels and an increase in AFRI but nothing has moved due to the impasse over whether SNAP belongs in the Farm Bill. Staff members are working on Farm Bill specifics, even though it hasn't gone to conference yet. A year-long continuing resolution for FY14 is a real possibility.

**4. Priorities Survey Results – J Jacobsen**

There were 51 respondents to the survey. Mike sent PowerPoint summarizing results to group during call; some version will be presented during the B&L section of the fall meeting; please send edits/suggestions for improvement to Jeff.

Academic Programs—transferring those to NSF makes little sense and ACOP is not supporting this.

Could combine all academic programs lines and “plus up.” There are about \$36-37 million to support scholarships, refilling the pipeline and 1890 capacity program but less than \$20 M designated for student support. Some of these programs aren't funded on a regular basis. For example, the national LEADS Fellowship has been \$3.5-4 M for many years; no increases, despite the need for new people. This could be something the BAC takes up.

**5. NIFA Proposed Operations “Tax” – J Jacobsen**

A the Joint COPS meeting in Kansas, Sonny proposed increase in the “tax” to 4% on certain funds e.g. Hatch, Smith Lever, etc. to be consistent with other NIFA programs. NIFA operations are supported by these funds. Sonny asked for feedback and didn’t get any positive comments because it wasn’t clear how the increase would be used. Rep. Lucas (OK) is looking for feedback from the research side before moving this forward in the Farm Bill. There have also been conversations between Sonny and Bruce McPherson. The increase is off the table until NIFA presents a business plan to better describe how the increase will be used.

The general group consensus (by straw poll) is that an increase would not be supported. Mike will send the proposal (with clear explanation of background and current status) to all directors.

**6. Pest Management Update – M Harrington**

A conference call with NPLs in the pest management program was held 2 weeks ago. There is a heightened concern as to how the program would be administered, with special attention to “functional equivalency.” A memo was sent to Sonny expressing concerns about implementation including the importance of not fixing something that isn’t broken. The input provided via the white paper was well received, and now just needs to be respected.

**7. FY 2013 Allocations Inconsistencies – M Harrington**

There are inconsistencies—2-9% cut range for western Hatch allocations. The sequestration was to be 7.62%, applied uniformly. Mike H developed a spreadsheet for the west, comparing cut percentages. This was shared with Western Directors and NIFA. The Million Dollar Table uses 2000 census data, not 2010 data. Meryl Broussard has indicated that NIFA is looking into this further to resolve. The issue has been brought to Sonny’s attention. There are similar issues in other regions; Rubie M. has heard about inconsistencies in the Northeast and Carolyn Brooks indicated similar issues in the 1890’s.

**8. Return on Investment**

There is a agreement between Extension, AES and NIFA that both capacity and competitive dollars are important; not either or. Extension was all set to write an advocacy paper for capacity dollars. Mike Harrington, Mike Hoffman, Daryl Bucholtz, Jeff Jacobsen, Rick Klemme, and Robin Shepard will be working on this. A draft will be prepared by late September and presented at the fall meeting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Affairs Committee**  
**Monthly Conference Call**  
**October 22, 2013**  
**NOTES**

**Participants:**

Bill Brown (SAAESD)  
Bret Hess (WAAESD, Chair)  
Mike Harrington (WAAESD)  
Paula Geiger (NIFA)  
Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)  
Jim Richards (Cornerstone)

**1. Approval of notes—Bret Hess**

Notes from the previous meeting were sent out prior to the call. Approval was tabled until next time for lack of a motion.

**2. BAC Update – M Harrington**

BAC will meet in DC on the Saturday prior to the APLU meeting. At that time, they will deliver preliminary recommendations for 2013. The Water Working Group was approved by the BAC to look at water quality/quantity issues, nationwide. A conference call this morning took place with Jimmy Henning (ECOP Chair), Ron Brown, Robin Shepard and Mike H. Steve Slack was unable to join. A draft memo with the charge (approved by the BAC and Policy Board) will go out to working group members soon. There are 5 representatives from each region and 2 each from the 1994's and 1890s. A conference call will take place on November 1<sup>st</sup> with all of the group members to present and initial introduction on the charge, etc. NIFA has a water priority in AFRI for 2014 but we don't know what that looks like. The 2013 budget has approximately \$4 million that goes to state water quality programs.

**3. 2014 budget, Farm Bill – Cornerstone**

Farm Bill: Process will formally kick off next week; goal to complete before Christmas. There are very few open items of substance relative to the research/education title. Foundation for Food and Ag research, matching requirements, budget submission and funding programs are outstanding.

Government is operational again; however, there is no long-term solution. Not likely to know about FY14 appropriations process until December or early next year. The current CR runs until January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Farm Bill is a second priority for Cornerstone—the appropriations process is much more important. An omnibus appropriations bill would have all the appropriations for the year. Numbers are likely to fall between the House (close to FY12) and Senate (higher than FY13) numbers.

The Farm Bill, if approved, is considered mandatory funding (FY14 dollars). Those funds would come out via RFAs. Discretionary accounts (Hatch, Smith-Lever, etc.) are done through the appropriations process.

**4. 2013 allocations – M Harrington**

Shortly after the summer meetings it became known that 2013 allocations were widely variable from institution to institution in the Western U.S. within the same program, e.g. Hatch, Hatch Multistate). An explanation (via Extension EDs) was distributed.

**5. Moving forward with BAC 2015 priorities recommendations – Bret Hess**

Priorities should be capacity and competitive. There is some need to consolidate lines where it makes sense. Higher education—NIFA grads and Post-doc Fellowships Institutional Challenge Grants and Multicultural Scholars are highest priority. Recommend supporting retention of these higher education programs and potentially stepping them up, as appropriate.

**6. Face to face meeting in February? – All**

This year's meeting would be to talk about the BAC meeting. There may be some support for targeting funding toward things that NIFA is already supporting (discussed climate change as an example). Discussed interest in competitive opportunities to address issues previously covered by special grants.

Discussed potential meeting dates in March in conjunction with the AHS/CARET meeting. Escop will be meeting on Monday March 3 at 1:00 pm

**7. Other?**

What are people going to do with FY14 sequester cuts: Others took first cut internally, and some will likely have to make unit cuts if there is another cut. Others plan to take cuts centrally again. The sequester (5%) is recurring, but may/may not additive. Stay tuned...

**ESCOP B&L Committee  
Monthly Conference Call  
December 19, 2013  
NOTES**

**Participants:**

Bret Hess (Chair)  
Mike Harrington  
Jim Moyer  
Jeff Steiner  
Ernie Minton  
Karen Plaut  
Gary Thompson  
Bill Brown  
Bob Shulstad

**Approval of Notes for August and October**—Ernie moved to approve the August and October meeting minutes. There was a second and no discussion. Meeting minutes were approved by affirmation.

**Approval of Agenda**—There were no suggestions and the agenda was approved.

**Cornerstone Report**—Cornerstone sent out a report this morning that included information on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2014. Pres. Obama is expected to sign this. People were asked to call their members and encourage support of the Senate numbers (increases for Smith-Lever, Hatch, Evans-Allen, 1890s Extension, Mac-Stennis, 1994s, and AFRI). A one-pager describing our priorities was included in that report. Appropriate states are asked to contact their members in the Ag. Subcommittee. House numbers take things back to FY2012. Likely that final numbers will be somewhere in between.

Sequestration is not off the table.

Farm Bill is still up in the air. There is currently agreement for a savings in the Nutrition Title. Research items are complete. SNAP-ED program is okay. There was an effort by an Ohio House member to have Central State University added as an 1890 institution—the 1890 presidents supported this provided that the school was provided with new money (so none would come from them). There was some push back because Central State was not part of a state that discriminated in admissions. Legislation is being introduced to add this school.

**Water Working Group**—A Charge Letter from the PDB was approved. Group has had a couple of conference calls. Steve Slack has participated on these. There is a small “executive” group working on creating crosswalks between various documents on water issues. Conference calls continue to take place.

**Big Idea Discussion**—Mike sent out a summary of the topic. For today, trying to begin the conversation that could lead to a “big ask.” Background is that there were discussions about this at the APLU meeting but nothing specific was brought forward as a “big idea.” At the New Deans/Directors workshop, several agreed that any big idea would be best brought from both research and extension. “Water” is a topic that transcends the science roadmap and is important to many. Goal is to develop specific goals, timelines, etc. relative to water. Food safety and nutrition/obesity were also mentioned as possible “big ideas.” The idea is to ask for both competitive and capacity funds.

Some discussion also about if there was an increase in capacity funds, would directors create new initiatives? Several schools already have initiatives related to water quality issues (Chesapeake Bay, Lake Erie, etc.). Jim R. felt that this type of approach could gain some traction. Water Working Group may be done by February/March. Their report could be the justification for this “Big Idea/Ask.” Would be looking to ask for \$100 Million—or more.

How can this be worked into the White House Report (PCAST Report)? Perhaps an effort across USDA and NSF?

Part of the discussion at the BAC meeting, in 5 years we will have seen small, incremental increases in the capacity lines and maybe some double-digit increases in AFRI—so how do we do something different. This would be a proactive approach to helping the system.

Could directors come up with a better list of “big ideas” (vs. water, nutrition/obesity, food safety)? There was little support for doing an new survey of “big idea priorities.” The existing priorities mentioned are relatively universal, important to all, and consistent with previous recent priorities surveys.

Governors/constituents might be better able to come up with a list. Broad topics like these could be tailored to specific regional issues/priorities. Governors and delegations could help to support these ideas.

Group agreed to see how the Water Working Group report is received (request anticipated via the NIFA budget for FY16) and have a second topic in the pipe, so that if the WWG works, we have another idea to advance.

Discussed the science roadmap—how many programs have changed as a result? Also, has AFRI changed any of their programs to reflect this? Broadly, what changes have occurred as a result of the Roadmap? Have all Department Heads seen the Science Roadmap? It’s not particularly useful as a “well kept secret.” Regional Associations sent out copies to all states.