

ESCOP Budget & Legislative Affairs Committee
Monthly Conference Call
January 28, 2014
NOTES

Participants:

Bret Hess (WAAESD)

Jim Moyer (WAAESD)

J. Ernest Minton (NCRA)

Tim Phipps (NERA)

William (Bill) Brown (SAAESD)

Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)

Mike Harrington (WAAESD)

Eddie Gouge (APLU)

Jim Richards (Cornerstone)

1. Approval of December 19 call minutes

Minutes from the December 19th meeting were unanimously approved.

2. 2014 Budget Update – Cornerstone

The omnibus bill returned funding to slightly above pre-2012 levels (Hatch, AFRI). Top line was also above FY12. Given the environment, these were excellent numbers.

3. Farm Bill Update – Cornerstone

Detailed report will be coming out tomorrow on the Research and Education title. The Farm Bill was filed last night and is slated for House consideration tomorrow. Likely to pass. The entire major domestic livestock industry, excepting sheep, are all in opposition to it because the Senate wouldn't move on things that were important to them. Still, likely to pass because Farm Bill exhaustion has set it and members just want to be done with it.

We got everything that we wanted—mandatory funding, matching requirements, etc. Central State University in Ohio will be the next 1890—setting what may be a bad policy precedent. Central State Univ. won't get funding for the next 2 years. After that, funding is unclear but existing funds may be spread further.

Final decision on matching funds is that all competitive programs have a 1:1 unless you are a Land Grant or an entity that partners with a Land Grant. Exceptions are possible if the research is in agreement with NREE Advisory Board recommendations.

The Ag Research foundation received \$200M which requires a 1:1 match.

4. Crop Protection update - M Harrington

There has been an IPM committee that has been operating independently of the system. They have been using an online collaboration site to develop feedback to the recommendations that were put forward by the Crop Protection Working Group. Now, Mike is expecting to see final response/recommendations from them very soon. They have had some unrealistic expectations: have a National IPM Coordinator as the advisor to the Secretary of Ag, for example. The next step will be for ESCOP and ECOP to appoint members to a committee and create some rules of operation. This will bring them into the existing process. The group realizes there is more to be gained by working within the system. May be difficult to appoint a committee that is

representative without being too large and unwieldy. There is also a non-profit (IPM Voice) that lobbies on behalf of pest management.

5. Water Work Group update - M Harrington

Robin and Shepard (ECOP) and Mike Harrington have convened a small, executive group. This group came up with a working document that breaks things into 5 subheadings. Numbers of projects for each subheading from CRIS are included in the report. The document was shared with the larger committee comprised of some 30 members (Steve Slack and Jimmy Henning are co-chairs). Mike and Robin are drafting a straw-man document that will be shared with the group in the next week or so.

6. Big Idea Survey follow up - B Hess/M Harrington

Need to work more closely with ECOP BLC to avoid sending mixed messages. Also, Crop Protection and Water Working Group are two initiatives that are currently underway—might want to look at these documents to see if there are guidance for a “big ask.” We would be best served making sure that this comes as a joint initiative with ECOP. By splitting things between competitive and capacity we would also gain support from professional societies. The water effort may be premature—goal is to have that done by Joint COPS. Also, don’t know what NIFA will do with AFRI on Pest Management or Water. Seems like the NIFA RFAs are done at this point and they are not likely to be shifted. Looking to influence the next budget/appropriations cycle.

Cathy Wotecki was at the Univ. of NE recently and a listening session was organized around her interest in the innovation institutes that were called for in the PCAST report. There seems to be a compelling reason to think about these institutes, but they might supplant other things that we have as priorities. How do we think about this and talk about this? If we get \$150M per year for these innovation centers, that might *BE* the next big ask. These are only helping a few institutions. Topic areas were discussed—no surprises—food security, safety, climate change, bioenergy (maybe). Concern that they will be authorized but underfunded.

Also, can’t predict what USDA will do with the PCAST report.

Have also heard talk about moving to a “watershed” level of management—integrated watershed/drainage for ag and forestry production.

Group discussed best way to formulate a “big idea/ask”—should it come from an existing effort (like the IPM or Water Working Group)? Also talked about finding new ways to carry all “big issue” conversations forward—if industry, stakeholders, etc. made a pitch it carries more weight than when the LGUs “preach” about it.

Most support for organizing around water and using the Water Working Group report as a starting point (better than something related to IPM this year—train has left the station on that). Will revisit during face to face meeting with concentration on water—discussion on details that will need to be considered—begin planning now. Rick Klemme and Robin Shepard will be asked to join this discussion. Will also ask the BAC chair to join conversation to keep them informed.

7. Follow up on Roadmap implementation - Possible survey of ESS: What are you doing differently? What has changed?

Mike will develop a simple survey and get some feedback via email from the B&L committee members and then bring a draft to the face to face meeting.

Future Meetings:

- Monday, March 3, 2014, 7:00 am (in-person breakfast meeting). Location TBA.
- Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 4:00 PM Eastern Time; 970-491-2605

ESCOP Budget & Legislative Affairs Committee
Face to Face Meeting
Omni Hotel, Washington DC
March 3, 2014
DRAFT NOTES

Participants:

Bret Hess (WAAESD)
Ernie Minton (NCRA)
Bill Brown (SAAESD)
Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)
Jim Moyer (WAAESD)
Mike Harrington (WAAESD)
Jim Richards (Cornerstone)
Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)
Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)
Robin Shepard (NCCEA ED)
Jimmie Henning (ECOP Chair)

Budget Priorities for 2016: For the last several years ESCOP has had two budget priorities, increasing both capacity and competitive funds. The other unwritten priority is to lose no ground. There was discussion of moving forward with another priorities survey; however, the same responses would be expected.

The Big Audacious Ask: The B&L Committee further discussions on the possibility of bringing forward a Big Ask; that is an audacious initiative, which *all* could endorse. Such an initiative might include performance targets, timelines and deliverables and would necessarily include both competitive and capacity program funding. Several possibilities have been advanced including water. This effort should be in conjunction with our Extension colleagues and would require the endorsements of the ESCOP and ECOP B&L Committees, ESCOP and ECOP, the BAC and the Policy Board.

BAC Priorities: The BAC met by conference call on Feb 18 to finalize the system's FY 2015 appropriations requests for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). No changes to priorities as stated to the seven core priorities: AFRI, capacity funds for Hatch, Evans-Allen –McIntire-Stennis, Smith-Lever, 1890 Extension and 1994 Research and Extension. First priority is to lose no ground relative to 2014. Cornerstone expects 2015 to potentially be a difficult budget year. In keeping with past practice, The BAC position is to endorse the President's Budget or our 2014 numbers whichever are higher. Click [here](#) of 2015 NIFA Budget details and Cornerstone's Report is here

All documents related the federal budget and the Farm Bill are located at the land-grant.org website. The BAA priorities are documented in a one-pagers (two-sided) at www.land-grant.org/documents.html

ECOP Liaison: Rick Klemme Chair ECOP Budget and Legislative Committee, was added as a liaison.

ESCOP Budget & Legislative Affairs Committee
Monthly Conference Call
March 25 2014
NOTES

Participants:

Bret Hess (WAAESD)	Bill Brown (SAAESD)
Jim Moyer (WAAESD)	Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)
Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)	Mike Harrington (WAAESD)
Ernie Minton (NCRA)	Eddie Gouge (APLU)
Karen Plaut (NCRA)	Robin Shepard (NCCEA)
Gary Thompson (NERA)	Alice Gomes (Cornerstone)
Tim Phipps (NERA)	Paula Geiger (NIFA)

- I. **Meeting notes for January and February were approved.**
- II. **Welcome Rick Klemme – ECOP B&L Chair, ECOP Liaison – Bret Hess**
- III. **Follow up on Face to Face meeting in DC – Bret Hess**
 - **Status of Pest Management funding in 2014 –M Harrington:** The major issue is that placement of this program under “Research and Education Activities” means that 30% indirect costs could be charged resulting in a huge loss to the E-IPM Program the majority of which is personnel and program delivery. The Committee recommended a letter to VPRs be drafted (for the Policy Board transmission) urging a one-time waiver of IDC on the E-IPM program for this year.
 - **Formation of Pest Management Coordinating Council – M. Harrington:** The IPM Working Group White Paper was reviewed by a group of IPM Professionals with a number of recommendations. A memo was sent to Jimmie Henning (ECOP Chair) recommending the formation of a joint ESCOP-ESCOP National Pest Management Coordinating Council that would function under the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee.
 - **Water Work Group update - M Harrington:** Robin Shepard (ECOP) convened a small, executive group which developed framework document (attached) that breaks things into 5 subheadings. Robin and Mike drafted straw-man outline document that has been shared with the group. A face to face meeting is planned for May 1-2 after which Robin and Mike will finish a strawman draft for consideration by the work group. A final draft is expected to have been vetted by the respective Budget and Legislative Committees in June and by the BAC at/by Joint Cops meeting in July. The work group product will be forwarded to the Policy Board.
- IV. **2015 President’s Budget Proposal – B Hess:** The President budget was released during the annual Hill visits. The BAC – PBD recommendation was to support the President’s Budget or FY14 figures, whichever was higher. The capacity lines were held at the 2014 level and a \$9 million increase in AFRI was proposed, raising the proposed line to \$325 million. There is a **Consortium (professional societies, Universities, NCFAR)** that is proposing a 15% increase in AFRI to \$360 million. The BAC and the Policy Board endorsed this proposal. The budget also proposed **3 Innovation Institutes** (\$25 m each) as envisioned in the PCAST Report. It is unclear if these will be funded.

V. **The National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science (NAAAS) – B Hess:** NAAAS requested to have BAA sign onto a letter in support of appropriations for the expanded Section 1433 program, which would amount to an ask of \$10 million in FY15 to help support Continuing Animal Health and Disease, Food Security, and Stewardship Research, Education and Extension Programs. The BAA Policy Board of Directors voted to concur with the BAC recommendation not to actively join the animal science advocacy effort.

VI. **Joint Survey with Extension - See page 3**

VII. **Joint ESCCOP-ECOP ROI white paper – M Harrington:** A draft outline prepared by Mike Hoffman, Daryl Buchholz, Robin Shepard and Mike was discussed. Extension has wanted to go forward with a request to increase capacity funds but the timing and conditions may not be right. The current idea is to write a document that highlights the excellent work that is done by the system and to also show how funding has eroded. Selected Directors would be polled for high impact stories that could be highlighted in something like the “Formula For Success” that was developed several years ago.

VIII. **Other**

ARS Budget Cut: Karen Plaut asked whether there had been any discussion about writing a letter in support of restoration of the ARS budget which was cut in the President’s Budget for 2015. To the knowledge of call participants, such action has never been taken by the BAA.

Indirect charges on Commodity Group Research Funds: Many universities have inquired about indirect charges on commodity group research projects. A survey of western universities indicates that none do so at this time. It is also important to point out that most such groups have provisos in their operating rules that prohibit charging of indirect costs on their projects.

Future Meetings:

- Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 4:00 PM EDT; 970-491-2605
- Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 4:00 PM EDT; 970-491-2605

Joint Survey with Extension - Big Audacious Idea Survey follow up - B Hess/M Harrington

We agreed to work closely with ECOP BLC to develop a survey on the Big Idea. Water would be one possible area but there may be others that could come from the survey. The survey could be quite simple:

Background: We have seen incremental increases in capacity funds and competitive funding programs. Many have asked why this is and what can be done about it? Part of the reason may be that we have too many priorities so Congress doesn't know what we want. However, over the last 5-6 years that list has been shortened considerably such that we've been very consistent in our "ask" - increase capacity and competitive programs.

Capacity programs and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) are funded in "such funds as necessary" meaning that they are subject to annual appropriations. AFRI is authorized at \$700 million but the appropriated amount is currently less than half of this figure. There are also several so-called mandatory programs (have specific funding that *must* be spent) provided in the Farm Bill including the Specialty Crop Research Initiative, Beginning Farmer Rancher Program and Organic Research and Education Program. Any of these competitive programs are open to all applicants.

The question is what is our "We are going to cure cancer" initiative behind which everyone can rally? In other words what is the "Big Audacious Idea" or hot button issue that will resonate with decision makers/appropriators and provide new resources? We propose that new resources for such an effort be split between capacity and competitive programs similar to what was proposed by the CREATE-21 effort. We must also recognize that Congress would likely allocate most of the funds into competitive programs. We must also recognize the need to be accountable by providing measurable deliverables or outcomes against which progress would be measured.

We also need to find new ways to carry all "big issue" conversations forward—if industry, stakeholders, etc. made a pitch it carries more weight than when the LGUs "preach" about it.

Q1 Water has been suggested as a Big Audacious Idea.

Would you endorse this? y/n

What areas might be included?

Please list up to five measurable program deliverables or outcomes against which success would be measured.

How much money is needed to achieve successes?

Do you currently or would you invest some existing resources in this program? y/n, if yes how much?

With whom should we partner?

Q2 Please provide another "Big Audacious Idea"

What are your reasons for endorsing this?

What areas might be included?

Please list up to five measurable program deliverables or outcomes against which success would be measured.

How much money is needed to achieve successes?

Do you currently or would you invest some existing resources in this program? y/n, if yes how much?

With whom should we partner?

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Monthly Conference Call
April 22, 2014**

Minutes

Participants:

Carolyn Brooks, (ARD)
Ernie Minton (NCRA)
Gary Thompson (NERA)
Bill Brown (SAAESD)
Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)
Eddie Gouge (APLU)

Ian Maw (APLU)
Robin Shepard (NCCEA)
Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)
Emir Albores (NIFA)
Mike Harrington (WAAESD)
Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA)

- **Call to Order and Roll call – Mike**

- **Approval of agenda and March meeting notes**

Agenda and minutes from March were unanimously approved.

- **Cornerstone report – Hunt**

Currently there is 2 week congressional recess so things are quiet. House appropriations bills are being worked on for FY15 Legislative Branch and Vets Construction bills have passed through the House. Ag bill is supposed to be in the 2nd wave but may be delayed. The Defense bill has been delayed pending numbers for troop drawdowns in the Middle East.

Farm Bill implementation: lots of work in agencies, especially with producer education and commodity program implementation. Extension has been working with USDA on producer education programs. USDA agencies are working on rules and regulations for all parts of Farm Bill implementation.

During CARET/AHS meeting, BAC had deferred a decision on the AFRI number, expecting flat lines in the President's budget (which happened, excepting AFRI which had a modest increase). The BAC usually goes with the higher number (President's budget or last year's numbers). Some groups decided to advocate for AFRI at \$360m. The BAC and the PBD decided to concur with the recommendation for a higher number because it didn't seem helpful to be out of sync with others. In future years, the BAC will work with those other groups (AFRI coalition, etc.) sooner to better coordinate efforts.

- **Roadmap Survey – Mike**

See:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?PREVIEW_MODE=DO_NOT_USE_THIS_LINK_FOR_COLLECTION&sm=YNTfiKdvVEdd%2bpUvRTPCNPIR52aOovKx83n4aouilQ0%3d

The goal of the survey is to find out what actions have been taken by station directors relative to the science roadmap.

A link to the roadmap will be included in the survey or cover letter.

B&L members are to review and comment. Goal is to provide preliminary information at ESCOP meeting in July and final results at the Fall meeting.

- **Joint Priorities Survey with Extension, “Big Audacious Ask” – Mike:**

One idea would be around water. The survey would ask for other ideas as well as specific outcomes and milestones that could be used to create support for a long-term program. Goal is to include competitive and capacity funding, but those details will have to be worked out. Robin Shepard reported that the ECOP BLC has not had much discussion on this particular item. Will need to see how Sections can work together. ECOP has other priorities (e.g., health care) and there will be a need to balance this and other initiatives at various levels (national down to individual institution).

Water idea is a good idea; can envision support from across the system. Having the discussion will be valuable regardless of the actual outcome as this will be a bit of a “futuring” exercise to help inform things at institutions and in the broader community.

- **Pest management IDC letter Status – Mike**

Mike drafted a letter to the VPs for Research urging them to absolve the Extension IPM programs of the 30% indirect costs. ESCOP and ECOP endorsed. The letter is out for endorsement from the BAC and likely the PBD.

- **Joint ROI white paper with Extension – Mike See attached “Formula For Success”**

Initially there was a paper that focused on the need for capacity funds. However it is crucial to stress to decision makers the importance of both types of funds; this mix is what makes our work successful. The ESCOP and ECOP B&L committees would work together on this. Could update the existing formula document with new stories, etc. or create totally new document. Mike has also spoken with Julian Alston (UC Davis) who has written extensively on the ROI of public funds. He has agreed to provide feedback of any writings.

- **Other**

- There was some discussion of an proposed competitive program (new money) within the Hatch Program. The specific programmatic focus was not mentioned. Concern about mixing these two types of funding. Capacity funds are extensively leveraged but that message is not getting through. Mike will follow-up with Cornerstone about this.
- Water “letters of intent” were due recently. Curious about proposals submitted—integrated or more hypothesis-driven research? Keep ears open and report back.

Next Call: Tuesday, May 27, 2014; 970-491-2605.

ESCOP Budget & Legislative Affairs Committee
Monthly Conference Call
June 3, 2014

NOTES

Participants:

Bret Hess (WAAESD; B&L Chair)
Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)
J. Ernest Minton (NCRA)
Karen Plaut (NCRA)
Bill Brown (SAAESD)
Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)

Mike Harrington (WAAESD)
Eddie Gouge (APLU))
Ian Maw (APLU-ACOP)
Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA)
Robin Shepard (NCCEA)

- **Welcome and roll call – Bret**

Bret welcomed everyone to the meeting and Sarah Lupis called the role. A copy of the membership list is attached to these notes, by request.

- **Approval of Agenda – Bret**

The agenda was approved by affirmation.

- **Approval of April Call Notes - Bret**

The notes from the April call were approved by affirmation.

- **Cornerstone Update – TBD**

Cornerstone representatives were not available for an update.

- **Discussion of water work group progress – Mike/Robin**

BAC will discuss the proposal tomorrow. Immediately following, a proposal will go to the PBD and they will need to respond in a week. The proposal will then go to Sonny R./NIFA.

The Water Working Group was formed in Nov/Dec2013 by the BAC. ECOP, ESCOP, and Water Resource Institutes are all represented. In Phase I the group looked at drivers, “National Issues of Significance.” Phase II focused on the Essential Elements—structure and organization of LGUs around this effort. The effort has been framed as “US Water Security” which encompasses both quality and quantity.

An in-person meeting/conference call was held in early May to finalize the white paper. Robin Shepard reviewed the WWG document that was emailed to the group. The WWG White Paper was written for NIFA and an internal audience. A version for an external audience would be a next step.

There was some discussion about the need for state and regional levels/scales. Also, there was some discussion about the separation of 1890s and 1994s as separate regions. Some members cautioned against over-splitting up of the “family.”

There was some discussion about the budget presented, especially the fixed costs. The WWG felt strongly that some of the management of the system should not be calculated as a percentage and a certain base level of funding was needed to support the structure of the system—this enhances the capacity of the LGUs.

It was suggested that some language be added about coordination. It was also asked that the BAC discuss the regional/association compartmentalizing. Robin Shepard noted these items and will carry them forward.

The B&L committee unanimously endorsed the WWG White Paper (Karen P. moved, B. Shulstad seconded).

- **Pending Surveys - Mike**

During the last call, Mike sent out a draft survey about the Science Roadmap implementation. Comments were received and that survey will go out to all Regional EDs/ADs for distribution.

A Big Audacious Ask survey was considered. At this point, there is no interest in doing this survey because the WWG effort and Crop Protection are moving forward as priorities. ECOP is also interested in exploring a health and nutrition initiative (Healthy Foods, Healthy People) for FY17 and will begin that discussion at Joint COPS.

Mike H. mentioned the need to measure success with all of these initiatives.

Mike will send out the survey information to Bob S. Each of the sessions will be asked to demonstrate what information from their Roadmaps (ESCOP Roadmap Goal #4) addresses the Healthy Foods/People initiative.

- **Next Call**

Tuesday, June 24, 2014; 2:00 PM Mountain Time. 970-491-2605; there is no passcode.

A call may be scheduled sooner if necessary.

ESCOP Budget & Legislative Affairs Committee Membership List

Chair

Bret Hess (WAAESD)

Delegates

Jim Moyer (WAAESD)

Barry Bequette (ARD)

Jeffrey Steiner (WAAESD)

J. Ernest Minton (NCRA)

Karen Plaut (NCRA)

Tim Phipps (NERA)

Gary Thompson (NERA)

Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD)

William (Bill) Brown (SAAESD)

Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)

Executive Vice-Chair

Mike Harrington (WAAESD)

NIFA Liaison

Paula Geiger (NIFA)

Ven Neralla (NIFA)

Representatives

Dina Chacon-Reitzel (CARET)

Tim Sanders (Cornerstone)

Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)

Jim Richards (Cornerstone)

Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - Board of Human Sciences)

Caird Rexroad (ARS)

Eddie Gouge (APLU)

Glen Hoffsis (APLU Board on Veterinary Medicine)

Ian Maw (APLU-ACOP)

Jeff Jacobsen (NRCA)

Robin Shepard (NCCEA)

ESCOP Budget & Legislative Affairs Committee
Monthly Conference Call
June 24, 2014

NOTES

Participants:

Bret Hess (WAAESD; B&L Chair)
Carolyn Brooks (ARD)
J. Ernest Minton (NCRA)
Karen Plaut (NCRA)
Tim Phipps (NERA)
Bill Brown (SAAESD)

Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)
Mike Harrington (WAAESD)
Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA)
Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)
Rick Klemme (ECOP B&L)
Paula Geiger (NIFA)

- **Welcome and roll call – Bret**

Bret welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- **Approval of Agenda – Bret**

The agenda was approved by affirmation.

- **Approval of June 3 Call Notes - Bret**

The notes from the June 3 call were approved by affirmation.

- **Cornerstone Update – Hunt**

The Eric Cantor loss created turmoil in the House to the extent that the Ag appropriations Bill was pulled from further consideration. The research title was completed but there may be amendments. Last week in the Senate there was an attempt to combine 3 bills: Ag, Transportation and Commerce-Justice. Others were bogged down. The outlook is unfavorable until after July 4; however, the Senate is expected to move the Ag bill.

- **NRSP-7 Update – Mike/Bret**

NRSP-7, Minor Use Animal Drug Program, was funded by appropriations and/or earmarks until 07-08. The project has received off the top Hatch funds when other funds dried up. The project submitted a one year request to the NRSP-Review Committee for \$325,000. The rationale for the one year request is that there was discussion of combining with NRSP-4 however this will not occur. After review and much discussion, the RC approved the one year request but stipulated that for any future off the top funding request to be considered, the project must obtain at least twice as much external funding.

This may be a terminal year for the project unless they are successful in obtaining additional funds. At this time, the amount of money coming to the project is insufficient to cover the cost of a single drug approval. The NRSP-7 Committee has developed a request for approximately \$6 m which would provide realistic support for the project. Unfortunately, it is difficult to rally the diverse stakeholder groups e.g. sheep goats, llamas, catfish, deer etc.

(and also need to include the AVMA and vet practitioners) in a concerted effort to get congressional funding in spite of specific language in the Farm Bill.

It is unclear where funding would come from in a zero sum game

Questions:

How many drugs has the program approved?

When was the project last reviewed? 2012, 2014

Are AHD funds used to support the project? (Note: not all AHD funds go to experiment stations)

- **Water Initiative Update**

At the May Executive Directors' meeting in DC Sonny Ramaswamy requested the water initiative for possible inclusion in the budget. A call was held with Sonny and representatives from the Policy Board, the BAC, the ESCOP and ECOP B&L Committees, Ian Maw, Robin Shepard and Mike Harrington.

Robin did a wonderful job describing the Initiative as currently envisioned by the Water Working Group (WWG). The general consensus is that Sonny was somewhat "cool" to the proposal but indicated that there might be sections that they would use (perhaps the education section). The WWG proposal is not a cafeteria from which components can be picked.

Sonny spoke a great deal about what NIFA was planning – e.g. plant and animal breeding, the nexus of food and health, addressing aging infrastructure in the Food and Ag Defense Initiative, enhancing infrastructure and capacity at minority serving institutions but provided no details. Much of this may already be on paper so making large changes in the NIFA budget priorities may be difficult due to the relative lateness in the process. This strongly suggests that the BAA timetable for priority setting must change so that we are prepared when the process begins rather than 6-8 months late.

He also mentioned several times that he had heard about priorities from "members of the family" so it is unclear with the current BLC-BAC PBD-Cornerstone priorities process is being circumvented.

- **Pending Science Roadmap Survey- Mike**

Mike provided an update on the current response to the survey; the results of which indicated broad usage of the Roadmap in decision making. Mike will send current results to the Committee in advance of the joint COPs meeting.

- **Next Call**

No call in July - Joint COPs meeting

Next call Tuesday, August 26, 2014; 2:00 PM Mountain Time. 970-491-2605; there is no passcode.

ESCOP Budget & Legislative Affairs Committee Membership List

Chair

Bret Hess (WAAESD)

Delegates

Jim Moyer (WAAESD)

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Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)

Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - Board of Human Sciences)

Eddie Gouge (APLU)

Glen Hoffsis (APLU Board on Veterinary Medicine)

Ian Maw (APLU-ACOP)

Jeff Jacobsen (NRCA)

Robin Shepard (NCCEA)

ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee
Monthly Conference Call
November 25, 2014

Participants:

Gary Thompson (NERA; B&L Chair)
Karen Plaut (NCRA)
Tim Phipps (NERA)
John Wraith (NERA)
Bill Brown (SAAESD)
Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD)

Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)
Mike Harrington (ED-WAAESD)
Jeff Jacobsen (ED-NCRA)
Rick Klemme (ECOP B&L)
Paula Geiger (NIFA)
Ian Maw (APLU)

Welcome new members – John Wraith and Saieds Mostaghimi

Approval of Agenda – approved by acclimation

Approval of June 24 Meeting notes– approved by acclimation

Cornerstone Report - none

APLU-Orlando BAC and ESCOP Meeting Recap

Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) - Gary Thompson represents this committee on the BAC. At this point there are plans to advocate for the traditional 7 capacity lines and AFRI. However there is increasing discussion of a one line approach for NIFA. From discussions with NIFA on the Water Security Initiative it was too late (late May) to get a new initiative in the President's Budget which means that the BAA and BAC must adjust its timetable accordingly having any new initiatives ready in December 1.5 years out.

1994 R&E Funds - There was affirmation of support to increase R&E funds to the 1994 institutions.

Crop Protection/IPM – there were unintended consequences with the consolidation of the pest management lines into a research and education line. This resulted in the Extension IPM Programs being eligible for 30% IDC. In spite of a waiver request memo developed for the Deans/Directors, some 55% of universities allowed these charges to be implemented. The result is that some states had to let faculty/staff go. For example, Alaska terminated 3 IPM Staff. Options are to place the program under Extension 3-d or make the program whole by adding \$3 million to the line. The latter option may make it easier to increase funding to this critical area.

Water Security Initiative – This is the next big audacious ask. I was recognized that it may take several years to implement. Mike Harrington and Robin Shepard are developing a one pager for the AHS-CARET meeting.

Healthy Foods, Healthy People – At the recommendation of the Extension Task Force, The Policy Board authorized formation of 5 action teams and possible 6th. Nominations are currently being sought. We suggest another call for participation be sent.

Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) - Gary Thompson represents this committee on the CLP.

Plant Genetic Resources Treaty – Gary presented background on the treaty for discussion. The CLP passed unanimous recommendation to sign the Treaty and the Policy Board also endorsed the Treaty.

Setting ESCOP BLC Priorities for 2015-6 - Our priorities have been increasing capacity (Hatch, 1980 Research, McIntire Stennis, AFRI. The Directors generally support this approach.

ECOP BLC Priorities - Rick Klemme reported that for FY 2015 priorities remain on the seven lines with interest in building capacity and competitive funds for crop/pest management, water and health.

December call is CANCELLED

Next Call Jan 27, 4 pm EST