

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Call
Tuesday, January 26, 4:00 pm EDT
Call in Number 970-491-2602

NOTES

- **Call to order – Gary Thompson**

Gary Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

- **Roll call – Mike Harrington**

Gary Thompson	Ernie Minton
Karen Plaut	Bill Brown
Saied Mostaghimi	Tim Phipps
Tom Holtzer	Mike Harrington
Paula Geiger	Jon Wraith
Jim Richards	Hunt Shipman
Jeremy Witte	Ian Maw

- **Approval of minutes and agenda – Gary Thompson**

Tom Holtzer moved to approve the minutes; Jon Wraith seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved. The agenda was approved unanimously as listed in these notes.

- **Cornerstone Update**

President's Budget scheduled for release on February 9th. Cornerstone will update briefing documents after that. Things have been quiet since the last call, partially due to the weather which has shut down government for several days. There was some discussion regarding the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research. Neither Hunt nor Jim had anything to report. They will look into this and report on it during the next call and/or at the AHS/CARET meeting.

- **NIFA Update**

NIFA budget is still scheduled for release on February 9th. There will be a briefing after that, but specific timing is not known. Some 2016 RFAs have been released and more will come in February and March. There was some discussion about RFAs addressing industrial hemp. Paula reported that there was some discussion but she doesn't know the outcome. She will follow up with Tom Holtzer (CSU).

- **Water Security Meeting**

Mike Harrington and Robin Shepard met with NIFA leadership on January 20th. Any new funds for water will come through AFRI. The NRSP/off-the top mechanism is valid and has support from AES; but this mechanism does not include Mac-Stennis funds. Mike and Robin stressed the importance of AES-CES cooperation and the role of the regional water centers, as presented in the Water Working Group report. Carolyn Brooks and Shirley Hymon-Parker met with NIFA last week and heard similar things—new funds will come via AFRI.

There is some question about director support for major initiatives if new multistate money (ala a joint AES=CES NR(E)SP activity) was made available (from capacity funds) for both AES and CES.

There might be resistance from some who are looking for additional capacity money to simply catch back up with capacity funds—this could be setting a precedent that some don't want to see.

The best case scenario would be for NIFA to increase AFRI funding to the maximum allowable.

- **ECOP B&L partnering activities**

It was decided that the ECOP and ESCOP B&L groups should remain separate but meet together occasionally.

1. **Joint ESCOP/ECOP B&L meeting at Joint CARET/AHS meeting (March 6-8) – Mike Harrington**

ESCOP will be meeting on March 7th from 8:00-noon in the Westin Hotel, Arlington, VA. There will be a joint meeting of ESCOP/ECOP in association with this event. Questions remain: When to have the meeting, where to have it, and what agenda items to cover? Likely that only a few members of ECOP will attend and those few people could join the breakfast meeting (March 7th, from 6:30-7:45 AM) that ESCOP B&L usually has. A succinct agenda would be needed—perhaps a discussion of the capacity vs. competitive funding white paper could be one topic. It was decided that it was premature to discuss the next Farm Bill. Healthy Food Systems might be a good topic as well. Might also discuss the topic of initiatives in general.

2. **Joint ESCOP/ECOP – Shared vision document: Competitive & Capacity Funding – Gary Thompson**

Before Christmas, Gary shared a “strawman” document with the group. The idea is a good one, but the document was focused on capacity funding and had a strong extension perspective. If the idea reflects a shared vision (bringing AFRI to its authorized level and increasing capacity funds) then it's a good one. Does this group want to work on a shared document? It was recommended that any document produced for legislators should be 1-page and very succinct. ECOP will likely go forward with this document, with or without us. Hunt Shipman indicated that the document will only have utility if it is comprehensive and not solely focused on Smith-Lever. Some existing documents might be a good starting point—committee members are encouraged to send this to Mike and Gary, including the APLU document(s) that address this subject. Hunt will distribute the “numbers document” to the committee.

- **Competitive Programs Transaction Costs – AFRI Focus**

1. **Survey(s) – Mike Harrington and Rama Radhakrishna (social scientist/survey specialist from PSU)**

The overview/proposal was included in the pre-meeting handouts. The primary goal is to support increasing AFRI budget to fully authorized amount. The outcome would be to understand the cost born by institutions. There were questions about benchmarking against AFRI (vs. other agencies), but also concern about biting off too much.

Decided to pilot a survey on a few folks to test questions and assess benchmark question. The goal here is to evaluate the questions and ensure that responses are what we are looking for. About 20 investigators would be included in the pilot. A student worker would analyze the preliminary results.

Mike and Rama developed some questions and those were put into Survey Monkey. A preliminary evaluation of the questions was conducted with a small focus group at PSU. Some substantial feedback was received. PSU has started the IRB approval process.

The hypothesis is that the transactional cost is pretty high. If that is so, then why increase competitive funding? The cost is the same if 3 or 20 proposals are funded. If more proposals are funded, this lowers the overall cost per proposal. The PCAST Report contains some of this data and it was not used in our favor. Concern was expressed about these numbers being used against us. Would we be told to reevaluate our model for how we do things? It might be difficult to justify additional AFRI funding based just on this factor. The overall consensus of the committee was not to continue efforts in developing and piloting this survey.

Next Meetings:

March 6-8 – Joint CARET/AHS Meeting, Washington, DC

March 7 – ESCOP Meeting (8:00 – noon)

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Call

Tuesday, March 22, 4:00 pm EDT

Call in Number 970-491-2602

Draft Agenda

Call to order – Gary Thompson

Roll Call – Mike Harrington

Attending:

Chair: Gary Thompson (NERA) Moses Kairo (ARD) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Tim Phipps (NERA) Jon Wraith (NERA) Bill Brown (SAAESD) Jim Moyer (WAAESD) Mike Harrington (WAAESD)(ED)	Rick Klemme (ECOP Liaison) Bob Holland (NIFA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Jeff Jacobsen Tom Holtzer
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Approval of minutes and agenda – Gary Thompson

- Minutes from February 23 telephone conference call and March 3 face-to-face meeting in Alexandria, VA and agenda approved as submitted.

Cornerstone Update – Jim Richards written report

- Thanks for everyone’s efforts to deliver the message to your congressional delegations.
- Committee deadlines have passed for Member submissions for Appropriations requests. No hard count yet, but generally received positive feedback on submissions.
- Hunt Shipman and Jim Richards met with Agriculture Subcommittee staff last week to go over APLU’s request. Jim will be meeting with them again today.
- First appropriations bill will be the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill in the House. It is scheduled to be marked up in its Appropriations subcommittee tomorrow.
- There is no schedule yet for the Agriculture Appropriations bill, but it will likely be sometime in late April.

NIFA Update – Bob Holland and Paula Geiger

- REE mission area leadership testified before the House Ag Appropriations Committee on Wednesday March 18. The proposed increase in AFRI to \$700 was well received with overall positive responses from the Committee, which recognizes the need to support additional projects and that many meritorious grant applications go unfunded. See: [View the March 18 hearing on YouTube](#)

- Expect clarifying language on Responsible Conduct of Research requirement, which should parallel the guidance from other federal agencies such as NIH and NSF. Clarifying language as to “who” is required to complete RCR training is expected.

NIFA Capacity Programs Evaluation – Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington

- NIFA has awarded a one-year contract to TEconomy Partners, a subsidiary of Battelle, to conduct an evaluation of the Agency’s capacity funds across the portfolio. See Hoffman memo (attached) for additional details.
- First step will be conference call with all Executive Directors on Friday March 25, 2016. The discussion points will focus on how to engage the broader LGU community, most likely to include webinar sessions. They are still in the planning stages for this activity and as such, this represents an opportunity for input from the community.
- Bill Brown stated that this could be an important and positive action for both research and extension, especially if the focus is on leveraging the capacity funds. Jon Wraith suggested that annual reports are a good source of such information. Karen Plaut noted that this should be an iterative process and that we need to ensure that TEconomy is properly educated about our institutions and not to assume that they understand the LGU, AES, and Extension systems. Jeff Jacobsen raised the question of “why,” since this is not a required request from OMB or GAO. Mike Harrington pointed out that having an independent voice saying good things about our funding could be a strong positive.
- Rick Klemme stated that Friday’s conversation is important and of considerable value for our continued discussions on the advocacy of “both-and” of capacity and competitive funding. There is value in positioning for collaborative, issues oriented proposals and that this is an opportunity to demonstrate the interlinkages and integration within our system as well as the collective impact. He thought that it might be useful to hold-off the “both-and” discussions within the B&L committees until we more fully understand the nature of this study.
- Bob Holland thought that the October completion date might be optimistic given the comprehensive breadth of this study.
- NEXT STEPS – learn more about the survey and engage fully with NIFA.

ECOP/ESCOP BLC Joint Meeting: Review and next steps – Gary Thompson

- Gary provided a brief overview of the joint meeting. Rick Klemme is summarizing Jane Schuchardt’s notes for further discussion.

Final Note – Gary Thompson

- Should we be looking outside of USDA for support of agricultural initiatives? e.g. NIH – health; NSF – food energy and water. Gary will contact Mike Mishkin (NSF Program Director leading the “new” NSF-NIFA Joint Plant Biotic Interactions (PBI) program area) to see if he or someone else from NSF is interested in participating in a future committee conference call to discuss the view from NSF on joint programs with NIFA and funding from that agency that impacts agriculture.
- The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee is also encouraging NIFA to expand and partner with other agencies. It might be useful to get a report from the STC at a future call.

From: Hoffman, William - NIFA [mailto:WHOFFMAN@nifa.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 2:06 PM

To: Schuchardt, Jane <Jane.Schuchardt@extension.org>; Shepard, Robin <robin.shepard@ces.uwex.edu>; Nancy.Bull@uconn.edu; Ron Brown <brown@ext.msstate.edu>; Houglum, Lyla <lyla.houglum@oregonstate.edu>; Lorenza Lyons <lwyons@ncat.edu>; Eric Young <eyoung@ncsu.edu>; Harrington,H. Michael <Michael.Harrington@colostate.edu>; Brooks, Carolyn B <cbbrooks@umes.edu>; Jacobsen, Jeffrey <jjacobsn@anr.msu.edu>; rossi@aesop.rutgers.edu

Cc: Ramaswamy, Sonny - NIFA <sonny@nifa.usda.gov>; Holland, Robert E. - NIFA <rholland@nifa.usda.gov>; Broussard, Meryl C. - NIFA <MBROUSSARD@nifa.usda.gov>; Maxwell, Karl - NIFA <kmaxwell@nifa.usda.gov>; Thurston Enriquez, Jeanette - NIFA <JThurston@nifa.usda.gov>; Hewitt, Barton - NIFA <BHEWITT@nifa.usda.gov>

Subject: Evaluation of Capacity Programs

Dear Extension and Research Executive Directors,

Last week at the CARET meeting, Sonny signaled our intention to conduct a process and outcome evaluation of our capacity programs. Representing nearly half of NIFA's budget, it is imperative that we demonstrate return on investment for this large and impactful portfolio of grants.

Results of the evaluation will be used to:

- Demonstrate the value of the programs to stakeholders and to strengthen USDA's Research, Education and Economics (REE) focus on evidence-based decision-making
- Identify research gaps and areas of improvement; and
- Leverage the visibility and accountability of capacity programs by an independent review.

One of the major components of the evaluation could be a large-scale survey sent to our land-grant partners. It would likely solicit: (1) feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of capacity programs; and (2) collective impacts from research, education and extension programs. Such a large scale survey might be preceded by a preliminary survey.

This evaluation is in the early design phase. Getting the thoughts of the Executive Directors for Research and Cooperative Extension on its design ***represents an imperative early step for the effort.*** It will likely be followed by gathering broader input from the Land Grant University system.

I hope that all of you, our Karl Maxwell, and I can get together on a teleconference before the end of the month to discuss this study. Would a Doodle Poll be the best way to determine the best time get the research and extension directors together on a call? Alternatively, if you already have separate research and extension executive director calls planned and we could prevail upon you to put us on the agenda that would work as well.

I hope to hear your thoughts about this matter soon.

Bill Hoffman

Chief of Staff

USDA/REE/NIFA/Office of the Director

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Call

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 4:00 pm EDT

Call in Number 970-491-2602

Draft Agenda

Call to order – Mike Harrington for Gary Thompson

Roll Call – Mike Harrington

Attending:

Moses Kairo (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ARD) Ernie Minton (NCRA) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Tim Phipps (NERA) John Waith (NERA) Bill Brown (SAAESD) Tom Holtzer (WAAESD) Mike Harrington (WAAESD- ED)	Rick Klemme (ECOP Liaison) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Becky Walth (CARET)
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Approval of minutes and agenda – Mike Harrington

- Minutes from March 22, 2016 and agenda approved as submitted.

Bill Brown has agreed to accept the B&L Committee Chairmanship in September.

NIFA Update –Paula reiterated items in the Cornerstone report below

Cornerstone Update – written report only

- House Appropriations Committee marked up the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. The allocation for the agriculture bill is \$451 million less than the FY 2016 enacted level, however our APLU priorities either maintained FY 2016 levels or increased. AFRI sees an increase of \$25 million. Due to a House Budget rule, the House is prevented from hearing appropriations bills on the floor until May 15.
- The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee will mark up in the coming weeks. The Senate is currently hearing the Energy and Water appropriations bill on the floor and expect to pass it this week. Then they will move on to the Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill.
- The Appropriations process will continue to move rapidly and both sides are expected to pass a few bills. But the process will come to a complete stop in the middle of July when Congress adjourns for the political party conventions and the August recess. Both chambers will return in

September and will likely begin negotiations on a Continuing Resolution to get passed the elections. Congress will again recess for campaigning and elections in October and will resume a lame duck session sometime after the elections.

NIFA Capacity Programs Evaluation –Mike Harrington

- Mike provided an update of the March 25 EDs conference call (See attached talking points)
- Karl Maxwell, a Program Specialist in the Office of Planning and Accountability, is providing leadership from NIFA for this effort.
- The EDs stressed the importance of minimizing the work burden especially taking advantage of existing reports and databases.
- With the exception of Ron Brown, Eric Young and Mike Harrington, no one of the call seems to be aware of the econometric studies, including those from ERS, which demonstrate a 30-40% annual rate of return for capacity programs. It is troubling that OMB, OSTP and others don't value any of these studies. Mike sent a number of references to Karl to be forwarded to the TConomy folks

The Deferred Maintenance Strategy Committee has been appointed and will be meeting May 25 at APLU

From: Hoffman, William - NIFA [mailto:WHOFFMAN@nifa.usda.gov]

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To: Schuchardt, Jane <Jane.Schuchardt@extension.org>; Shepard, Robin <robin.shepard@ces.uwex.edu>; Nancy.Bull@uconn.edu; Ron Brown <brown@ext.msstate.edu>; Hougum, Lyla <lyla.hougum@oregonstate.edu>; Lorenza Lyons <lwyons@ncat.edu>; Eric Young <eyoung@ncsu.edu>; Harrington, H. Michael <Michael.Harrington@colostate.edu>; Brooks, Carolyn B <cbbrooks@umes.edu>; Jacobsen, Jeffrey <jjacobsn@anr.msu.edu>; rossi@aesop.rutgers.edu

Cc: Ramaswamy, Sonny - NIFA <sonny@nifa.usda.gov>; Holland, Robert E. - NIFA <rholland@nifa.usda.gov>; Broussard, Meryl C. - NIFA <MBROUSSARD@nifa.usda.gov>; Maxwell, Karl - NIFA <kmaxwell@nifa.usda.gov>; Thurston Enriquez, Jeanette - NIFA <JThurston@nifa.usda.gov>; Hewitt, Barton - NIFA <BHEWITT@nifa.usda.gov>

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I hope to hear your thoughts about this matter soon.

Bill Hoffman

Chief of Staff

USDA/REE/NIFA/Office of the Director

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Affairs Committee
Tuesday, June 28, 2016 4:00 pm EDT
Call in Number 970-491-2602

Participants:

Gary Thompson (NERA)	Mike Harrington (ED-WAAESD)
Ernie Minton (NCRA)	Tom Holtzer (WAAESD)
Karen Plaut (NCRA)	Paula Geiger (NIF)
Moses Kairo (ARD)	Ian Maw (APLU)
Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD)	Jim Richards (Cornerstone)
Bill Brown (SAAESD)	Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)
Jon Wraith (NERA)	Jeremy Witte (Cornerstone)
Jim Moyer (WAAESD)	Jeff Jacobsen (ED-NCRA)
Glenda Humiston (WAAESD)	Rick Klemme (ECOP)

- **Approval of April Minutes – Gary/Mike**

April minutes were unanimously approved with one correction to the attendance list.

- **Cornerstone Update – Jim Richards**

Jim reported that the Republican and Democratic national conventions are coming up in a couple of weeks. Senate is working on a couple of bills that aren't directly relevant to us. House was derailed last week because of a sit-in on the House floor. Next substantive action will be the continuing resolution in September which will run through December. Post-November election there will be either an omnibus in December or a CR that runs through the spring. Cornerstone has been working with the subcommittee staffers to make the case that the omnibus should include additional increases.

- **NIFA Update – Paula Geiger**

NIFA has a new congressional affairs person. NIFA is currently receiving feedback from webinars on various directives (e.g., equipment purchases, etc.).

- **Capacity Program Review**

There are 2 scheduled seminars highlighting the evaluation of the capacity program portfolio—next Thursday June 30 and Thursday July 7th. Ian stressed the importance of participating in those webinars as this study moves forward as he sees this as an opportunity for positive change. This program review is a way to highlight the positive impacts of the capacity programs.

The EDs met with the study coordinators and folks from TEconomy. There is some concern about potential work burden for any survey that may be done. There are existing databases—National Impact Database and the Multistate program database that are ready sources of information. Existing studies demonstrate a 20-50% annual return on investment of capacity funds. There is a need to explain how these programs benefit the individuals who participate in them, especially local and regional examples.

Mike will send the list of ROI references to the whole B&L group.

- **Farm Bill Survey – Mike**

As of today, we have 38 responses. Vernie Hubert was very helpful in the preparation of the survey. Additional reminders for AES directors to complete the survey will be sent this week. The results will be summarized for the CLP and also presented at the Joint COPS meeting and further discussed during the fall meeting.

Comments on the survey results should be sent directly to Mike by 7/1/16.

- **Deferred Maintenance Strategy Committee – Mike**

This committee met on May 25th. Tom Coon from Oklahoma State University chaired the committee and the meeting was well attended. Two issues were raised during the discussion and subgroups were formed to address “the mechanism for funding” and “facilities” (new vs. renovations). There were questions about matching funds. This is a coordinated strategy with representation from NIFA and ARS on the committee. The charge of the committee is to make recommendations to the Policy Board.

- **Permissions for equipment purchases on capacity funds**

There was considerable discussion by the committee on this topic. Equipment purchased through competitive funds has already undergone programmatic and budgetary review/approval. In contrast, equipment purchased through capacity funds does not currently receive OGF M review/approval. Approvals will be required for equipment purchases on capacity funds of >\$5000 with a life expectancy of >1 year. The stated intent is that the review and approval process will have a turn-around time of no more than 30 days; however, a test case has already resulted in >90 days with no resolution. National Program Leaders are charged with approving programs and not finances, thus the two-step approval process would require NPL programmatic approval and OGF M financial approval. There is considerable concern that this will be a protracted and cumbersome approval process. Furthermore, requests for equipment purchases tied to the respective state’s Plan of Work have been proposed. Jeff mentioned that this issue will involve capacity funds in the broadest context with a lengthy list of programs and that FY2017 funding would be impacted (policy to be enacted October 1, 2016). Saied raised the question of “when would they turn down a request” and that the respective institutions already have a system of checks and balances on equipment purchases. Karen noted that delays are a major issue and the process should be streamlined. She also suggested that authority could be delegated to AES directors in combination with the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) at each institution to comply with the policy. Saied suggested that we seek guidance on what would need to be considered when making such decisions.

Slides and notes from the NIFA webinars have not been posted nor has a notice been sent that these materials are widely available. Paula will investigate.

Gary, Mike, and Jeff will draft a statement that will be distributed to the committee for feedback prior to emailing the statement to Bob Holland.

- **Joint COPS**

Joint COPS is coming up on July 19th in San Antonio, TX. The B&L Committee will present the results of the Farm Bill survey at that time. If responses come in on some of the other topics, those could be incorporated into the report.

Public Value Statements will be a big part of the discussion. Mike and Robin Shepard have been asked to submit on water and the IPM issues.

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Monthly Conference Call
August 30, 2016**

NOTES

Participants:

Gary Thompson
Mike Harrington
Ernie Minton
Tim Phipps
Saied Mostaghimi
Jeff Jacobsen
Rick Klemme
Hunt Shipman
Vernie Hubert
Paula Geiger
Cheryl Achterberg
Sarah Lupis

- **Approval of minutes and agenda –Gary**

The agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.

- **Cornerstone update –Hunt Shipman, Vernie Hubert**

Nothing has transpired in terms of the legislative process since July. Congress reconvenes next week and a CR is expected which will last until mid-December, likely. At that time, another will likely be put in place until March.

Paul Ryan talking about significant reduction in SNAPed—this is a longer term discussion. Also, it's a program with lots of support and cuts are unlikely.

- **NIFA update – Paula Geiger**

NIFA is preparing to roll out 2017. Continuing to look at 2018 and the Farm Bill. There was additional information on the equipment approval situation. NIFA's new congressional and stakeholder affairs person should be included on these calls—Mike to add.

- **Status of equipment prior approval – Gary Thompson**

NIFA held a webinar and Mike distributed some cliff notes from that call to this group. The limit has been raised to \$150,000—above that prior approval will be needed. \$5,000 will apply on to general purpose equipment (vehicles and office furniture). If funds are combined to purchase and the threshold cost is exceeded, prior approval would still be needed if capacity/matching dollars are used. A special email address has been established where questions can be submitted. A tracking database will be implemented to track the approval process. Training will be provided for both NIFA and university folks.

- **Plans for joint ESCOP-ECOP B&L Committee meeting in Jackson WY (See description below)
Gary/Mike**

ESCOP/ECOP Joint Budget and Legislative Committee – Noon – 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at Jackson Lake Lodge, WY. For those attending the joint ESS-CES/NEDA meeting, please pick up lunch in the East Mural Room and join your colleagues in Buffalo I & II.

We will plan to have 45 minutes for conversation, beginning about 12:30 p.m. There will be no formal agenda. The purposes of our joint meeting, co-facilitated by ECOP BLC Chair Rick Klemme and ESCOP B&L Chair Gary Thompson, will be to:

- 1) compare priorities for farm bill preparation and
- 2) engage in a conversation about how the two committees can work most effectively together.

- **Farm Bill Session at the Fall meeting – Mike Harrington and Sarah Lupis**

New ideas from the CES and ESS survey will be whittled down to no more than 6 for further discussion.

Bret Hess, Gary Thompson, and Bill Brown agreed to serve as discussion leaders/facilitators in the breakout sessions.

- **Farm Bill Cross Walk – Mike Harrington**

The Farm Bill cross walk was provided prior to the call via email. A summary of 50 new ideas found in the AES and CES submissions was distributed as well.

- **Other**

National IPM sent a letter to the committee. The letter was distributed prior to the call via email.

The letter serves as the NIPMCC recommendations on the 2018 Farm Bill. Crop protection is proposed at \$50M. Rapid response funding also proposed at \$50M.

This is Gary Thompson's last conference call as Chair. He thanked all committee members and participants for making his time on the committee interesting and productive.

ECOP-ESCOP Joint BLC and B&L Meeting September 20, 2016 (notes in brief)

Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming

ECOP BLC Chair – Rick Klemme, University of Wisconsin

ESCOP B&L Chair – Gary Thompson, Pennsylvania State University

Purpose of meeting:

- 1) Alignment on farm bill planning
- 2) Define issues for alignment and work together

ESCOP farm bill priorities:

- Maintain and increase capacity funds
- AFRI funded at authorized amount, but not at expense of other funding, plus increase authorization
- Seek additional partnerships outside of NIFA
- Infrastructure – how does that play into farm bill discussion? Support but not at expense of capacity and competitive funding

ECOP farm bill priorities:

- Full funding for Smith-Lever and 1890s Extension
- Carryover for 1890s
- EFNEP and SNAP-Ed funding
- Some skepticism on combining lines
- Audacious ideas – water, health initiative, initiative in 4-H (key point within Smith-Lever and 1890 Extension)
- AFRI growth should not be at expense of capacity lines
- Infrastructure funding should not be at expense of capacity lines

Commonalities:

- Strong support for 1890s and capacity funds

Discussion:

- Stick with such sums as needed for capacity lines, not a certain authorized amount
- EFNEP – discretionary process; SNAP-ED – mandatory; why isn't Extension administering all of SNAP-ED programs?
- Combination of lines – could start with tactical sciences as proposed by NIFA; if the people involved in the projects and the related stakeholders support, then will proceed (according to NIFA)
- How relevant is urban Extension and research?
- What is stopping us from increasing Hatch and Smith-Lever/1890 Extension by 25%? On youth, need to understand how this affects agriculture. Can we build a joint campaign with ECOP and ESCOP? Fits unified message for agriculture.

Idea for ACTION:

- Launch a joint campaign related to capacity funding.
- Committee chairs appoint 3-4 members from each BLC and B&L committees.
- Use AFRI as a leverage for capacity funding increases.
- Work closely with USDA-NIFA.