

ESCOP B&L Call Notes
January 24, 2017
DRAFT

Attending: Bill Brown, Ernie Minton, Tim Phipps, Alton Thompson, Glenda Humiston, Gary Thompson, Doug Steele, Josh Stull, Jeremy Witte, Ian Maw, Becky Walth, Rick Rhodes, Jeff Jacobsen, Mike Harrington,

Status of the “single ask request” – Bill Brown, Mike Harrington

The ESCOP Summary was positive for the NC, NE, S and W. The 1890 input, submitted separately, is requesting 2% off the top increase for each 1890 program (Evans Allen research and 1890 Extension, \$4M each). This would address the funding problems that arose with the addition of Central State University. There has been discussion about the level of the request (e.g. \$200 m vs \$300 m). Based on preliminary discussions, Cornerstone feels that the \$200 m figure is realistic. In the event of no increase, there was some concern that other programs could face reductions to support increases for the 1890's.

The BAC met on Tuesday January 17. Over all the feedback was very positive. The BAC recommended Adopting the strategy to the PBD.

All concerns and suggested additional FAQs were submitted to Cornerstone. A new version of the one pager will be available soon. The Ag communicators are ready to review and update the one pager as needed. Next Steps:

- February PBD Meeting: Ratify BAC recommendation
- March 5 – 8: CARET/AHS

It is clear that there some are way out in front of this with the potential for misinformation to abound. It is crucial that clear communications from the BAC and the Policy Board be forthcoming as soon as possible.

The results of the “Capacity Funds Survey” are not available.

Trump nominated Sonny Perdue as the new Secretary of Ag: Sonny Perdue is former Governor of GA, a producer and friendly to agriculture.

Cornerstone Report – Jeremy Witte

The updated FAQs and ver2.0 of the one pager forthcoming soon.

ECOP update – Doug Steele

Four of five region agreed with the single ask model. There was a question as to the utility of the Committee of Legislation and Policy (CLP), which is developing input on the Farm Bill. Are there competing roles with respective Budget and Legislative Committees (BLC) from ECOP and ESCOP? Mike explained the role that the ESCOP Committee played in seeking broad input in response to the CLP request. Bill Brown and Ian Maw also spoke to the broad membership on the CLP. Most ECOP BLC members will not be attending the AHS-CARET meetings; however,

Mike Harrington and Robin Shepard are working for a meeting with Doug and Bill Brown or having Doug attend the ESCOP BLC meeting

NIFA Update – Josh Stull The agency is in a holding pattern.

AGree Farm Bill discussion session:

Invited to this Feb 1 session were Greg Bohach, Eric Young Ian Maw, Mike Harrington and Jay Akridge. Ian, Greg, Jay and Mike will attend.

ESCOP BLC Breakfast Meeting: Monday March 6, 7:00 am at AHS-CARE, room TBA