

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Monthly Conference Call Notes
April 24, 2018

Participants:

Ernie Minton
Alton Thompson
George Hopper
Cheryl Achterberg
Mike Harrington
Paula Geiger

John Stull
Saied Mostaghimi
Becky Walth
Jim Richards
Vernie Hubert
Rick Rhodes

- **DC update, Budget and Farm Bill:**
 - FY 18 Budget: approved with bump in AFRI
 - FY 19 Budget: House expects to mark up in mid-July, Senate is behind has a new committee chair Shelby (AL)
 - Expect a CR

- **Farm Bill:**
 - House released its version out of committee along party lines. Hope to get to the floor on May y before spring recess. SNAP reform is a nonstarter for the Democrats. Apparent impasse over SNAP benefits. FFAR is missing from the House version but likely that the Senate will likely fund. The House version would remove T&E reporting requirement and modify the POW process to reduce work burden. Does removing T&E send the wrong message?
 - Senate expects to mark up in late May

- **NIFA Update** – John Stull reported that Tom Shanower has been appointed as the acting Director for NIFA beginning May 6 Tom is the Assistant Director at the ARS Pacific West Region

- **Strategic Realignment Effort:**
 - **Group conference call on Thursday 4/26**
 - **Conference call with Meryl Broussard 4/27**