

**Draft ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Monthly Conference Call
June 26, 2018
MINUTES**

Participants:

Ernie Minton
Mike Harrington
Sarah Lupis
Saied Mostaghimi
Dave Benfield
George Hopper
Jon Boren
Jim Richards

Vernie Hebert
Hunt Shipman
Paula Geiger
Rick Rhoads
Alton Thompson
Jeff Jacobsen
Chris Pritsos
Gary Thompson
Jon Wraith

1. **Welcome - Ernie Minton:** Ernie welcomed everyone to the call. Mike took the roll.
2. **Approve agenda – Ernie:** The agenda was unanimously approved.
3. **Approve May meeting notes (attached)**
The notes were unanimously approved.
4. **DC Update – Cornerstone**
 - a. **Budget:** House and Senate appropriations have moved bills forward. Both bodies are poised to go to conference on several appropriations bills. Agriculture is not currently on the schedule and it has not yet been announced what it will be paired with, if it moves. The earliest date is the third week in July.
 - b. **Farm Bill:** The House completed action on the Farm Bill last Thursday by two votes. The Senate has begun to discuss it. The bill is expected to be complete by the end of this week, with the intention of considering all amendments now during discussion/regular order. Other extraneous things can get in the way of that (tarrifs, etc.), but right now it seems to be on a good path. For research, the major amendment that Cornerstone is focused on is from Senator Brown to address the Central State “disparity” in the formula. Several versions of this amendment are being circulated. One would change the underlying formula, but this is not popular. Others look to create an “earmark” for Central State. On the Republican side, they are not at all included to support this. On the Democratic side, they are still pushing for this amendment. It remains helpful for states like Delaware, MD, VA, AL, MS, FL to call their Senators to call and say they do not want a change in their formula/allocation if it effects other 1890 institutions. While the sentiment is to hold everyone else harmless, the reality is that all will be impacted. There is a feeling that they need \$3 Million, which would be more than many other 1890s.

Another amendment that is being watched right now deals with Booker Lee and checkoffs. They have included a hold-harmless-clause for contracts with research/extension/education, exempting us from restrictions in the bill. Commodities are still very impacted and against this amendment. There has also been talk of a study on capacity formulas in general. This thought is that we might need to update how the formulas work, have USDA look into it and make recommendations for improvements, changes, etc. There is nothing in the Senate bill on SNAP-ED and no one wants to do anything with it.

The CMC has been working on how to utilize the resources of the committee/global to reinforce and combat/defend opponents of the House SNAP-ED provisions, especially those that are advantageous to Extension. CMC is focused on highlighting the positive impact of Extension and LGUs on nutrition education.

If Deans/Directors hear about amendments, please contact Cornerstone and make Vernie aware of it so they can be prepared and energize folks as necessary.

- 5. NIFA Update – Paula Geiger:** Paula provided an update on current acting staff at NIFA:
- Dr. Muquarrab Qureshi is serving as the Acting Deputy Director Institute for Food Safety and Nutrition (IFSN). Dr. Qureshi is continuing to serve as the Deputy Director of the Institute of Youth, Family, and Community (IYFC).
 - Dr. Mervalin Morant is serving as the acting director for the Food Safety Division under IFSN. Dr. Morant currently serves as the National Program Leader in that Division.
 - Toija Riggins is the Acting Director of the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff (PARS) at NIFA. She currently serves as the National Program Leader for Rural Sociology in the Institute of Youth, Family, and Community, Division of Family and Consumer Sciences.
 - Dr. Bill Hoffman will be serving as interim director of the NIFA Communications Staff. Dr. Hoffman serves as the Chief of Staff for the agency.

Also, an update at the Department level: The Secretary announced that Erica Navarro was selected to serve as Director of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

- 6. Moving forward on strategic realignment – Ernie:** On the last call, a draft proposal for realignment was considered. Jim Richards and Mike Harrington developed a proposal that realigns things from 40-something down to 12 lines. The next step is to share the proposal with Orlando McMeans, Chair of the PBD, on Thursday afternoon. Mike is also working on a FAQ sheet. Next steps are to determine how a proposal like this gets approved within the LGU system and to meet with stakeholders. Anticipate having a discussion about this at the PBD meeting at Joint COPS next month. All lines have found a home in a larger lines that make sense—nothing has been eliminated.

Next scheduled call – July 24 Cancelled