

**ESCOP B&L Call
October 23, 2018
Minutes**

Participants:

Ernie Minton Mike Harrington Jon Boren Dave Benfield Alton Thompson Rick Rhodes George Hopper	Chris Pritsos Rebecca Walth Josh Stull John Wraith Vernie Hubert Maggie Earle Ian Maw
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- Agenda and Aug 28 Minutes: Approved by acclimation
- Farm Bill Update – Cornerstone: The four principals are confident that a Bill can be completed by the end of the year. Staff continue to work on details, especially SNAP Ed. A letter addressing the ability of Extension to conduct the SNAP Ed Program and answer critics was sent by BAA Leadership
- Appropriations Update – Cornerstone: There is a CR until December 7. There is some optimism that a Bill will be passed before the end of the year
- NIFA Update - Josh Stull:
 - Scott Angle first day as NIFA Director will be November 5
 - Josh starts a four month stint a communications director
 - The search for a Deputy Director of Food Safety and Nutrition has been narrowed to 2-3 candidates. Scott Angle will make the decision.
 - 134 expressions of interest in hosting ERS and/or NIFA
- Extension Update - Jon Boren: A single question on the Strategic Realignment effort - how the report language would specify spending on various program lines. Congress currently appropriates to 3 areas: Research and Education Programs, Extension Programs and Integrated Programs.
- Strategic Realignment Update – Ernie/Mike: There is a call tomorrow morning (10/24/18) to