

ESS CAC Conference Call Minutes
April 19, 2018, 4:00 ET

1. Welcome – Gary Thompson
2. Roll call – David Leibovitz
 - Gary Thompson, Alton Thompson, Jeff Jacobsen, Laura Lavine, Mike Harrington, Sarah Lupis, Chris Hamilton, David Leibovitz, Jim Richards, Hunt Shipman, Ernie Minton
3. Approval of the CAC call notes, February 15, 2018 – Gary Thompson
 - Notes were distributed from February; the March call was cancelled as CARET/AHS just concluded.
 - **Motion to approve February notes was introduced, seconded and unanimously approved**
4. ESCOP/ECOP Washington, DC visit – Gary Thompson
 - NCFAR, NACO, SNAP-Ed/EFNEP, NIFA, National Academies of Science, APLU, NASDA, SoAR
 - Joined by Rick Klemme, Chuck Hibberd and Rick Rhodes
 - A continuation of Bret Hess / Fred Schlutt efforts from 2017
 - Another visit is on the horizon (~May '18) to visit other funding agencies, e.g. FFAR
 - National C-FAR visit (Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director)
 - Gave testimony on the FY2019 Appropriations, which aligned well with the ESS / BAA's priorities, in coordination with Cornerstone and Ian Maw
 - May 01, annual NCFAR meeting and reception for Sonny Ramaswamy
 - Stressed the need for thoughtful business plans for working with advocacy groups
 - APLU hasn't been as nimble as desired; "The process isn't predictable and advocacy needs to be constant"
 - Panels should include farmers / industry beneficiaries of our research
 - Capacity Funding; Roadmap discussion, doesn't read enough like a business plan
 - NACO (National Association of Counties) visit
 - Strong conversation; they engage in activities as well as advocacy
 - Community grant projects
 - Bridging coal-reliant communities; four state-based workshops (UT, WY, MT, CO) to shed light on opportunities for these communities to diversify economically
 - Creative Counties Placemaking Initiative in 2018
 - NACO's leadership releases initiatives annually (this year: Connecting the Unconnected; last year: Serve the Underserved)
 - Looking at professional development for Extension and SNAP Directors
 - Examining research opportunities; science-based information to use for SNAP
 - NIFA visit
 - Met with Otto Gonzalez to discuss international opportunities
 - ~3% of the NIFA portfolio is international
 - New NIFA Policy Guide to be released Summer 2018. Foreign travel *will* be an allowable cost

- NIFA Funding is not intended to build capacity overseas, it is to foster collaborations with researchers in other countries
 - Request for Chuck Hibberd and Gary Thompson to hold a webinar on ‘What Global Opportunities Bring Back Home to the US’
- Met with Cynthia Montgomery
 - Compensation Reporting (formerly Time and Effort Reporting), more information to come at NERAOC
- Met with Meryl Broussard
 - New position incoming: Capacity Coordinator
- National Academies of Science
 - Breakthroughs 2030 is being developed by SoAR / National Academies / BANR, for release in July
 - Study on where funding should be channeled to yield the greatest impacts
- NASDA meeting
 - Walked through written materials, discussed FSMA
 - Pilot projects: Smart Farm Challenge, Congressional Farm School, Invasive Species / Pest Rapid Response Project
- SoAR Meeting
 - FedByScience Initiative; 16 LGUs have signed on to the initiative
 - Concerning header: ‘University Alliance for Agricultural Sciences’
 - FedByScience website preview: Strong, powerful website released 04/18
 - Another Retaking the Field publication may be in the works after Breakthroughs 2030
 - SoAR is primarily focused on increasing AFRI
 - A ‘three-tiered’ ask for the Ag Research Community to increase funding
 - Increase Ag allocations (USDA-wide)
 - Increase Ag research (includes Capacity funds)
 - Increase AFRI specifically
 - Gary and Chuck pushed SoAR on Capacity funds
- Dinner to discuss the Communications and Marketing Committee
 - Held at the request of the Policy Board of Directors as a follow-up to their discussion
 - In attendance: Craig Beyrouthy, Alan Grant, Ed Jones, Ian Maw, Rick Rhodes, Hunt Shipman, Gary Thompson, Rick Klemme
 - A summary will be enclosed in the CAC meeting minutes
- Comments and Discussion from the CAC
 - Is there continuity from Bret / Fred’s 2017 visits?
 - Yes – no need to focus on introductions, more time spent talking about topical areas. ESCOP / ECOP were understood by the host organizations for those meetings. Organizations would like to see these meetings held annually with ESCOP / ECOP leadership.
 - Notes from Gary / Rick R. / Chuck / Rick K. visits will be distributed

5. Farm Bill update – Hunt Shipman

- House Ag Committee held a markup of Farm Bill H.R. 2
 - Cooperative Extension in every state will be playing a key role in the delivery of SNAP-ED program and identifying partnerships with NGOs to deliver SNAP-ED funding to the states
 - The bill was communicated on a ‘party line’ basis to the committee, with no Democrats supporting the bill or providing alternatives / additions to the bill
 - Viewpoint of house Dems: not going to go along with changes in SNAP to the benefits and eligibility side
 - Research side of the bill: Programs that had no baseline beyond FY2018 were sometimes consolidated
 - Overall a good markup to advance the process, difficult time ahead for Chairman Conaway if Democrats are not coming on board with the changes.
 - Bill is set to take the house floor ~first week of May 2018
 - This is a strong bill for the LGU community. Suggestion for LGU leadership to write to Democratic leaders within university guidelines to support the bills.
 - The intent is for the Cooperative Extension units within the LGUs to be the primary entity handling SNAP-ED funds; not schools of Public Health for example. Extension has close connections with counties and communities for best delivery of the funds.
 - Senate acknowledges that if a bill moves through the House, the pressure will be on to get the bill approved.
- USDA-NIFA Leadership
 - Sonny Ramaswamy’s term ends in May 2018
 - Rumors are out that the USDA has brought people in for conversations to fill the Undersecretary / NIFA Director jobs, not sure which one is a priority or if both jobs will eventually be consolidated
- FY19 Appropriations
 - Senate has had the only hearing they intend to have with USDA regarding FY19 appropriations
 - Both sides intend to move quickly
 - House appropriations committee will begin marking up bills next week

6. Update – NCRA visit with Corn and Soy Producers – Jeff Jacobsen

- NCRA Spring Meeting (St. Louis, MO – April 2018)
 - Conversations with Soy and Corn industry were shorter than intended
 - Many LGUs in the NC region have relationships with Soy and Corn industry
 - United Soybean Board
 - Priorities: Supply/Demand, markets, tariffs, new technologies
 - Targets: Production agriculture, amino acids / health impacts, encouraged NCRA to look at their RFP

- Corn Producers
 - Just finished an 'ideation' workshop – a workshop to actively entertain ideas
 - Institutions from the South and North Central region held pitches / speeches about research proposals
 - Will align priorities between LGUs and Growers
 - Action teams with business plans drafted, many mentions of LGUs in the documentation of action steps
 - Language in House bill pg. 421 about a plant phenotyping initiative
 - Authorization is key
 - Request for NC region to sign on to the initiative
 - The initiative was passed on to NCRA Directors
- **Jeff Jacobsen will summarize the discussions held at the NCRA visits and distribute to the CAC.**

7. New Science Roadmap mockup – Jeff Jacobsen

- Comments for the S&T April 23 meeting
- **In the interest of time, this topic will be on hold for CAC discussion until the next call.**

8. Other business?

- Gary Thompson received a message from Eddie Gouge, calling for 2019 BAA Policy Board of Directors nominees from ESCOP
 - Current PBD rep from ESCOP is Gary Thompson
 - Alternate was Clarence Watson (recently retired), Deb Hamernik was appointed to complete Clarence's term as alternate
 - For 2019: Gary Thompson is willing to serve again, Deb Hamernik is also willing to serve
 - We look to the CAC for a recommendation on Gary / Deb as nominees, or other suggested individuals
 - **The CAC supports Gary Thompson and Deb Hamernik to be the BAA PBD Nominees for ESCOP**
 - **Gary will communicate the nominees to Eddie Gouge**