



2019 ESCOP Meeting – [Minutes](#) (last update, 3/12/2019)

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Monday, March 4, 2019

Crystal Ballroom (originally listed as Richmond), Hilton Crystal City, Arlington, VA

MINUTES

Attendees: Chair Deb Hamernik, UNL; Steve Loring, NMSU; Rick Rhodes, NERA; Keith Owens, OK State Univ; Saied Mostaghimi, VA Tech; Robin Shepard, NCCEA; Eric Young, SAAESD; Archie Clutter, UNL; Parag Chitnis, NIFA; Becky Walth, CARET; Mike Harrington, WAAESD; Walter Bowen, Univ of HI; Eric Tanoye; Univ of HI; Alton Thompson, ARD; Conrad Bonsi, Tuskegee Univ; Doug Buhler, MSU; Scot Hubert, WSU; Steve Lommel, NCSU; Bob Godfrey, UVI; Glenda Humiston, Univ of CA; Jon Wraith, Univ of NH; Adel Shirmohammadi, UMD; Mark Latimore, Ft Valley State Univ; Hunt Shipman, CGA; George Hopper, MS State Univ; Greg Cuomo, UMN; Jeanette Thurston, NIFA; George Smith, MSU; Doug Steele, APLU; Jeff Jacobsen, NCRA; Chris Hamilton, NCRA (recorder)

Item #	Item/Notes	Actions Taken
1.0	Call to Order, Deb Hamernik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Agenda- approved • Approve Minutes, ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting, Nov 12, 2018 • Interim Actions of the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gave input to the NIFA Listens and REE sessions ○ With ECOP leadership, met with NC-FAR group in January ○ Also with ECOP leadership, participated in DC visits, Feb 19-20 – Detailed visit notes here 	Approved by acclamation Approved by acclamation
2.0	Committee Reports and Updates	
	2.1 Communications & Marketing Committee, Mark Latimore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Latimore introduced Steve Loring as the new CMC chair and stated that the committee held a face-to-face meeting on 3/3. • Mark reviewed the material included with the CMC agenda brief. 2.2 Science & Technology Committee, Jeff Jacobsen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Jacobsen discussed the new Roadmap briefs created by the committee and Sara Delheimer, reminded the group about the National Excellence in Multistate Research award nomination, and reviewed the sub-committee activities described in the agenda brief. • A postcard on the Roadmap briefs was part of the CARET/AHS registration packet. 2.3 Budget & Legislative Committee, Mike Harrington <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Harrington indicated that in addition to the material listed in the agenda brief, the committee has been discussing the \$300M estimated annual maintenance 	Information only

needs for status quo identified in the Sightlines report and discussing ways to stop this on-going deficit.

- The Strategic Realignment effort will be discussed later in the meeting.

2.4 Diversity Catalyst Committee

- Rick Rhodes reviewed the included agenda brief and also informed the group that he has taken over as lead ED to DCC with Ali Fares as the new DCC chair, replacing Karen Plaut.
- Rick also reminded everyone about the Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion award and encouraged the group to share the call for nominations.
- The committee is working on providing ongoing training at the joint ESS/CES Fall meeting in Nashville.
- The group also congratulated Jeff for being nominated for the NIFA Partnership Award by the DCC chair, Ali Fares.

2.5 National Impact Database Committee, Steve Loring

- All impacts will be peer reviewed going forward and shared widely with CARET reps and other stakeholders to better share our stories and impacts.
- Online impact training and standards for database submissions will begin soon.
- Steve Loring requested assistance obtaining impact stories submitted from all institutions, since not all are represented in the database. They would like to see this be a full system impact effort.
- The committee, especially Steve since he serves on NRSP1 also, will be working in the future on ways to better combine Sara Delheimer's multistate impact stories from NIMSS projects with those individual state ones posted in the NIDB. Contact Steve with further questions on this effort.

2.6 NRSP Review Committee, Rick Rhodes

- Rick reported for NRSP-RC chair Fred Servello on the committee's update in the included brief.
- Both NRSP3 and 10 have been submitted, peer reviewed, and are currently under regional review. The NRSP-RC meets in the spring to provide a final recommendation to ESS, which will be voted upon during the fall ESS business meeting in Nashville.
- Rick also reminded the group that NRSPs are funded OTT (off-the-top) from national Hatch Multistate funds. There have been on-going concerns regarding continuing OTT funding for NRSPs beyond a base maintenance level.
- A sub-committee is currently reviewing the NRSP Guidelines in an effort to better articulate this concern and streamline the process, in addition to updates throughout.
- Discussion ensued on the NRSP proposal requirement for business plans that justify the need for NRSP funds with plans for how the projects will transition off NRSP funds as the project proceeds. These changes will be a multi-year

	<p>process and may include conversations on better ways to support our national priorities above and beyond the NRSP model.</p> <p>2.7 NRSP1 Impact Program Update, Steve, Rick and Jeff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Loring indicated that this NRSP is working well, both with NIMSS and with Sara Delheimer and the impact writing program. • Jeff informed the group that some additional funds were left over after program director Sarah Lupis left. He, Rick and Steve have been working with Sara D. on ways to better engage through social media and hopefully be even more impactful with the additional funds. • Jeff also indicated that Sara D. is very self-motivated and does a great job, requiring little to no supervision, but that he and Steve are there to help if she needs it. • Jeff also thanked Steve for his leadership on so many committees. <p>2.8 Other, TBD – No reports given.</p>	
3.0	<p>NIFA Update, Jeanette Thurston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeanette indicated that Cynthia Montgomery and Parag Chitnis are on the leadership team for Farm Bill implementation. • The Farm Bill and FY2019 budget have passed and they are now working on FY19 RFAs. • Many vacancies still exist at NIFA and they are working to fill these. For instance, the PARS director (previously Bart Hewitt) search recommendations are currently under review by Meryl Broussard and Scott Angle. They hope to announce this new director soon. • The NIFA communications director position search is underway as well. • NIFA has been approved for hiring replacement staff, so many positions will be advertised and filled in the future. • The Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition (was Denise Eblen) role is still posted, please share widely. • Dr. Scott Hutchins, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, is fully on board with the USDA and recently met for a great meeting with the NIFA executive council. • Jeanette also stated that they have received many USDA teaching award applications from smaller institutions, but larger institutions are eligible and should apply, as well. • Jeanette also announced that she will be leaving in June for a new role at Kansas State University. Deb thanked her for her service. • NIFA is working on Farm Bill implementation, more to come on this soon. • An informational email on the Plan of Work and changes to the Institutional Profile document is coming out soon. The deadline for submitting the Institutional Profile has been extended to June 1 to help accommodate these changes. 	For information
4.0	APLU Report, Doug Steele	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug recognized Mike Harrington for all the roles he’s served and his impact on the system during his tenure as WAAESD ED. • Doug also thanked the ESCOP group as a whole for their strong national leadership. • One Ask and AFRI – our number might not match others for AFRI (\$440M vs \$445M), but be aware that we support the highest amount listed. We won’t know the final number until the President’s budget is released. • Doug and others at APLU helped to clarify the distinction between the One Ask versus Strategic Realignment. The latter is still a work in progress, Mike reminded the group. • Doug also emphasized that it’s important to support and build relationships with our partners, such as SoAR, ARS, AGree, FFAR, NCFAR, commodity groups etc., to work better together towards a common goal of increasing ag research funding. • He also discussed the SCRI matching requirement (see also Cornerstone report below) and thanked Cornerstone for always being responsive to our questions and helping identify what actions we should take. He indicated that the matching waiver issue is a priority for him, as well. • Doug also has discussed the value of LGUs with Scott Hutchins and Scott Angle as well as the funding importance for deferred maintenance. We cannot continue excellent research without also appropriately maintaining and improving facilities. <p>Action: At this point, Rick Rhodes put forth the following statement to share with the full ESCOP committee for action when we have a quorum (no quorum during the 3/4/2019 meeting, unfortunately):</p> <p><i>ESCOP strongly endorses restoration of the match waiver provided to Land-grant and qualifying non-Land-grant universities for grant programs supported by NIFA (e.g., SCRI, OREI.) While we appreciate the need to even the playing field, the rescission of the match waiver is not the way to accomplish that. Further, elimination of the match requirement altogether would provide long-term relief to prospective NIFA grant applicants. In the interim, ESCOP seeks clarification of the interpretation of "in-kind match" and advocates for the broadest interpretation.</i></p> <p>Match Waiver Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group emphasized that for FY2019, we need to obtain the broadest interpretation of what qualifies as a match, specifically in-kind and unrecovered overhead since waivers are not possible for this fiscal year. • We also need to create a better process to avoid missing critical changes and issues in the Farm Bill in the future. • Further discussion and action on the match waiver issue will take place during the March 21 CAC call. 	
5.0	Cornerstone Advocacy Report, Hunt Shipman	For information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIFA received a total increase of \$63M, with \$54M of that for the 6 BAC priorities. • The President’s budget should be released Monday • We’re seeking at \$125M increase for FY20, which is a completion of the \$200M One Ask from over the past 2 years. The \$25M is the requested AFRI increase. • As a system, we should be sure to thank Congress and CARET delegates for these increases. • Initial SCRI match waiver issue discussion: What can we do about this? Hunt gave a brief history of the match waivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the 2008 Farm Bill, SCRI had a matching requirement, which Congress waived annually through appropriation provisions. ○ In the 2014 Farm Bill, there was an effort to include a more uniform match waiver component, which was greatly criticized by other, non-LGU institutions. ○ For the 2018 Farm Bill, the system was asked if we wanted to fight the requirement for matching funds, but the LGU response was not uniform. Some entities were even embarrassed and wanted the waiver gone (i.e. SoAR). Because of this response to Congress, the ultimate result was not to fight the requirement for matching funds and now matching funds are a requirement for several NIFA competitive grant programs. ○ FY2019 budget is done, so there is nothing we can do to change the requirement for matching funds this year. ○ Most of the ESCOP members in attendance didn’t know about this until after the fact and expressed concerns on why the CLP didn’t reach out to the membership for feedback on this? ○ The ESCOP Directors indicated that many of their faculty are very upset about this, since the SCRI proposals are due very soon and they did not expect this 1:1 match. As such, we could use very clear guidance ASAP from NIFA on what can be used as an in-kind match. ○ Many conversations are happening on this issue this week at the CARET/AHS and Hill visits. We need to focus on the FY2020 budget for waivers ○ Deb and Jeff will talk to Scott Angle and others at NIFA about these concerns this week when they meet and get more information on qualifying match to share with the group. ○ The group was reminded to please be sure to respond to all feedback surveys that they receive. It’s critical that we share our needs when issues like these arise in the future. ○ CLP is working with APLU now to avoid similar communication issues going forward. 	
6.0	<p>Strategic Realignment, Mike Harrington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike reviewed the information and webinar links included in the B&L brief. 	For information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going sessions and informational webinars on appropriations and the proposed realignment are occurring now. Most questions that are being asked are already addressed in the FAQ and webinars, so Mike encouraged everyone to please review this material. Next steps: The realignment subcommittee is currently collecting feedback on the proposed realignment from stakeholders and encouraging deans and directors to help with this process in their states. 	
7.0	<p>CARET Report, Becky Walth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CARET EC (Executive Committee) met on 3/3. They have 16 new delegates and a new liaison to Board of Human Sciences. Doug Steele gave them an informative report on the Board, which CARET was pleased with and found very helpful. The CARET EC also reported on the CARET strategic plan and shared our new ESCOP Roadmap briefs. Becky encourages ESCOP to please use our CARET reps for questions, sharing impacts/stories, etc. Our CARET reps have many stories to share that can help advance our mission and align priorities. She also complimented Jeff for being very engaged with CARET and visiting her and her husband on their farm. Becky also announced that this is her last year serving as the rep to ESCOP, since her four-year term is ending. Deb thanked her for her service. 	For information
8.0	<p>ECOP Report – None given, Mark Latimore had to leave the meeting early.</p>	None
9.0	<p>ESS Budget at APLU Update, Jeff Jacobsen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's been difficult to access past information on our ESCOP account at APLU, so Jeff has been working with them to clarify this data from the past 3 years. He found that our account has plenty of extra funds (~\$500,000) because of overflow from the annual marketing assessments and others, we haven't used. Jeff hopes to be able to share the final results of his investigation with the group by our meeting at Joint COPs in July and would like to see an ESCOP budget report become more routine in the future. 	For information
	<p>Other Additional Discussion Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2030 Science Breakthroughs Report from SoAR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alton Thompson indicated that this report was circulated via email last Friday (3/1) from Tim Fink, via Doug Steele and regional associations/ESCOP email list. SoAR is requesting feedback and endorsement, by 3/21. Questions arose on the flexibility of the 3/21 deadline and do they need organizational endorsement or from individual institutions? Jeff will contact Tim Fink about how to proceed and more discussion will occur during the next CAC call. 	For information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCS, Jeff and Robin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeff and Robin are meeting with the NRCS Colorado Summit group on 3/5. The ESCOP/ECOP Chairs will meet with the NRCS Chief on 3/6. ○ Activities on growing LGU/NRCS partnerships have been re-engaged after a slow time following the Fort Collins Summit in August 2018 and the shutdown. ○ They are working on standards for how LGUs and NRCS can work better together on joint goals and priorities. ○ There will be a 2-3-page summary document to come from Jeff and Robin, please stay tuned on this topic. • Mike Harrington (WAAESD ED) announced his retirement set for the end of June 2019. The group thanked Mike and gave him a standing ovation for his years of service. Plans for an interim ED in the W region will be announced soon. • Adel Shirmohammadi (NERA member and UMD Assoc Dean/Assoc AES Director) also announced that his second 5-year term at the University of MD is ending in June. He thanked EDs and directors for all their help and support. He will return to his active teaching and research program and possibly explore additional options. 	
10.0	<p>ESS/CES Fall Joint Workshop, Nashville, TN, September 23-26, 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The venue is set for the Marriott near Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN. • The planning team is working to accommodate many sessions and the regional meetings. They currently have five topics and keynote speaker right now; one will probably need to be cut due to time. • Regional meetings might need to occur early, as they did in Jackson Hole (maybe 7 am again?) • They expect similar attendance numbers to the previous joint meeting in Jackson Hole, WY. 	For information

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am ET.

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ESCOP & ECOP Chair DC Visits

February 19-20, 2019

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Doug Steele (APLU VP Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources)

- Concern with lack of budget transparency at APLU
- Attended Scott Hutchins (Deputy Undersecretary REE) Listening Session (February 15, 2019) with about 15 groups.
- CMC and kglobal—wants to understand issues and make decisions before end of 2019 so won't be in same uncertainty as in 2018 and prior years. What deliverables are expected from Cornerstone and kglobal? What does ESCOP, ECOP, and AHS want/expect from CMC? Where is AHS in the CMC effort? BAC or PBD makes most decisions, yet AHS, ESCOP and ECOP finance the CMC.
- Peter McPherson would like to increase grants and contracts through APLU. Could APLU get an AFRI grant?
- Assessment—think about how to repurpose
- Strategic realignment of NIFA funding lines will likely be semi-finalized at April meeting with a yes/no decision. If yes, form a new committee to implement.

Science Society Representatives

- Kevin Cain (AAVMC); Christopher Walsh (UMD Horticulture and Horticulture Society); Karen Gala (AAEA; American Association of Applied Economics)
- General discussion about how AES and CES work at LGU and nationally.

Senate Ag Staff

- Katie Naessens (Stabenow); Janae Brady (Roberts); Katherine Thomas (Roberts)
- What will Extension look like in 100 years? What else is needed to provide flexibility to Extension?
- Research Title is sometimes siloed—how to breakdown? Conservation Title and Nutrition Title also have room for research and other LGU opportunities. In 2018 FB also tried to encourage research to work with international partners and build relationships. Support for ag research is usually bipartisan and there are lots of opportunities to work together, but usually limited resources.
- ESCOP and ECOP also working with NRCS, Rural Development, and NASS (survey capacity within states could benefit research and Extension).
- What gets votes when need to pass legislation? All members support ag research, but when need dollars, the interest/support decreases. Need to keep telling the story that research solves problems and more research (and funding) is needed.
- CARET advocacy for research and Extension: What is their message to staffers? Everyone needs to say the same message (unified message). Ask for increase in total portfolio of ag research (\$4B for NIFA)—instead of each group advocating for their own \$2M program. CARET reps should tell their story of what LGU does with this funding that they are advocating for. Customizing the state message (focus on state impacts of NIFA funding) to elected officials is

powerful instead of the one-page documents on the importance of Hatch funding, AFRI funding, Smith-Lever funding, etc.

- Do the NIFA or REE Listening Sessions have value to Staffers? Staffers recognize that it is hard to get the LGU system to respond in a meaningful way. LGU must be involved in the Listening Sessions because NIFA makes policies and sets priorities based on input. NIFA should be more transparent in how decisions are made and how priorities are set.
- Implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill: How to build international partnerships? Ag ARDA (Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority; \$50M over five years; page 315 of 2018 Farm Bill): What will this look like? How will this program be different from current NIFA programs? Farm Stress Assistance Network described in authorizing legislation—may have opportunities for Extension.

House Ag Staff

- Kellie Adesina (Chair, Peterson); Keith Jones (Chair, Peterson); Jeremy Witte (Ranking Member Conaway; former Cornerstone employee); Ricki Schroeder (Conaway)
- Concern with strategic realignment. NIFA does not always follow Report language implementation. How will small NIFA programs be affected? Concern with NIH model of one funding line—won't likely get same outcome for ag research. NIFA CPPM program combined 4 previous funding lines into 1 funding line and seems to have worked well, but there was lots of controversy to get this done.
- Implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill: LGU system needs to stay in touch with USDA and keep up with NIFA implementation plans. Time and effort reporting. Matching funds requirement—language was in Senate bill and no comments were received, so staff thought that matching funds was not a big deal for the LGU.
- Make sure both sides of the aisle (majority and minority) get the same information at the same time with the same tone. Advocacy 101—many sectors missed opportunities with the 2018 Farm Bill. LGU needs to know how to tell their story. Everyone needs to tell the same story. If Congress does not hear from stakeholders, assumes all is ok. Someone in LGU system needs to pay attention to Farm Bill language before the final law is passed. Staffers willing to make changes if LGU does not like language in draft versions, but need to make changes before Farm Bill becomes law.
- SnapEd and EFNEP programs gave different messages to Republican and Democratic members—why? Majority did not speak for all states—small states are very different.
- Farm Bill describes allocations for scarce resources. Highly controversial or difficult issues are usually set aside so that staffers can focus on low hanging fruit and get something done. In the future, all stakeholders will need to work together to pass the Farm Bill—it is going to be more difficult to pass future Farm Bills.
- Staff tried to do a little for infrastructure in the 2018 Farm Bill by creating a framework for investment from the APLU language.

Tim Fink (SoAR)

- Ag Forward (Union of Concerned Scientists; National Soybean Association; Organic Research Foundation; IPM (Tom Green); TriSocieties; National Sustainable Ag Coalition (Ferd Heffner) had 3 goals in the 2018 Farm Bill:
 - 2X increase in funding for agricultural research in 10 years
 - Permanent dollars for OREI and BFRD

- Discretionary dollars for REE Undersecretary
- To get \$1B for competitive programs for ag research in the next 10 years, need to increase the allocation first.
- Tim started at SoAR three years ago and there was a history of bad blood with APLU—maybe due to SoAR’s focus on AFRI. In the last 3 years, worked with “community” (all of LGU) for 2X increase in funding for REE. SoAR assumed that REE included research and Extension, but APLU concerned that SoAR did not include Extension. Sees opportunities to work with APLU. Hard to understand decision-making process at APLU—lack of transparency.
- Lots of variation in LGU priorities/needs. What is ESCOP, ECOP, CARET?
- Strategic realignment of NIFA funding lines: This is a community-dividing topic! If AFRI is successful, don’t want lots of carve-outs. Would AFRI be the new mini NIFA? Appropriators have two views: 1) too many funding lines makes advocacy difficult and 2) all funding lines exist because of specific supporters. Not enough trust that one funding line will work and that all interests will still get funding. Does a rising tide raise all boats (e.g., parity)? Will all boats rise the same? Or, will six large ships rise and all others stay flat?
- Fed by Science focuses on the whole of NIFA (research and Extension) while SoAR focuses on AFRI. About 20 LGU are members of Fed by Science. Use the Breakthroughs 2030 report to increase NIFA funding. Look for another document to be released at the end of March.
- Relocation of NIFA and ERS: SoAR does not have a public opinion regarding the potential relocation of NIFA and ERS. The SoAR board could not come to consensus on this issue. Roger Beachy vehemently opposed to relocation of NIFA and ERS.
- SoAR is working with NC-FAR and APLU (Wendy Fink) to host another ag exhibit on the Hill.
- FY2020 appropriations: SoAR will ask for \$445M. FY2019 AFRI appropriation = \$415M. The \$25M increase was the largest increase ever to AFRI. Strategy for FY2020 is to put forward an ambitious request, but not one that is laughable.
- In general, Republicans and Democrats do not care much about the President’s budget. They would rather focus on their own priorities.

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

FFAR (Sally Rockey; Lakisha Odom; Julie Reynes)

- FFAR: together we will go far
- FFAR has been working with Christine Geith on eXtension and how to engage Extension with FFAR
- Also working with Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (FRA) to figure out how to get farmers to use Extension (Lakisha). Will help identify research gaps and set priorities.
- FFAR has strong relationships with commodity groups (especially pork and poultry) and producer groups. FFAR could help LGU with relationships with commodity groups at the national level. FFAR could organize a meeting to bring in LGU and national commodity groups to discuss how to work together better.
- FFAR recently reformatted their Challenge areas (see website for details)
- The Health and Agriculture Nexus recently held a convening event and FFAR is about ready to launch a program in this area. FFAR is aware of the APLU Healthy Food Systems/Healthy People initiative, but this program is not directly connected to the FFAR program. The FFAR program will start with how to diversify crops to meet human nutritional needs. Need to understand which crops have increased nutritional properties and then figure out where to grow these crops and how to get farmers to adopt and grow these crops. Is there a connection to the Protein Highway effort that is a collaborative effort between LGU and private sector? FFAR is

also interested in an initiative on proteins (seed companies are interested in this) and alternative meat products (including plant-based products).

- Lakisha is working with the Organic Trade Association. Initially, these efforts focused on soil health and now moving into weed science and plant genomics (not gene editing or GMO). Want organic producers to use science-based information. Plan to organize a small convening event that would ideally include academia, producers, and industry. LGU can help identify academic scientists (probably plant breeders) to participate.
- Next steps:
 - Work together on helping FFAR connect with eXtension.
 - FFAR will organize a national meeting for LGU and national commodity boards to discuss how to work together better.
 - Jeff will provide information on the Protein Highway to Sally.
 - Healthy Food Systems/Healthy People
 - LGU will send names of academic scientists to FFAR for a convening session with organic producers and the organic industry.
 - LGU will stay connected with the FFAR and Farmers & Ranchers Alliance project.

Robin Schoen (National Academies; Director, Board on Ag & Natural Resources)

- The National Academies are going through a transformation. There are many working groups and lots of quality control going on. In general, upper administrators recognize the need to change and they are trying to decrease bureaucracy.. The National Academies have an Office of Development to raise funds for the 3 honorific academies.
- BANR is planning a scoping meeting (Manhattan, KS) to describe what a larger National Academies study would do with regard to the future of Extension. Need to draft the framing questions for the larger study. How does the public(s) shape Extension? What are the mechanisms for evolution within Extension? What should be the mission and future of Extension? Who will use the recommendations from the study? Do not want a study to simply bless the current Extension organization.

Scott Angle (Director, NIFA)

- Relocation of NIFA: a list of 30 potential sites should be released next week. This list will be reduced to 3-5 for potential site visits. Process should be finalized in June. NIFA can stay in Waterfront through December 2019 or maybe into 2020.
- Scott expects USDA to have a Farm Bill Implementation listening session this Spring. ESCOP should send Grand Challenge briefs to NIFA soon because planning for 2020 RFAs will begin in March, 2019.
- How does LGU feel about increases in capacity and AFRI funding in FY2019 appropriations? Scott indicated it is easier to advocate for increases in competitive programs to administration and OMB. Encourages LGU and beneficiaries of research to tell their story at various Listening Sessions (USDA, REE, NIFA). *Focus on stories that describe how research has led to increases in farm profitability.* Secretary Purdue also likes to hear success stories from students.
- 2018 Farm Bill includes language for a Youth position, but it is not clear if this position will be in NIFA or in the newly created Office of Public and Private Partnerships in the Secretary's office (Mike Beatty, Director). The 2018 Farm Bill also contained language for an 1890's scholarship program that was supposed to go to NIFA. Mike Beatty also wants to administer this program in his office.

- Farm Bill Implementation: Josh Stull and Erin Daly are Co-chairs of this effort for NIFA. Various National Program Leaders will also be involved. NIFA must spend \$25M on citrus greening projects by September 30, 2019 and \$125M over the five-year Farm Bill. Not enough innovative science in this area to solve this important problem.
- Potential loss of Department of Defense MOU for 4-H programs. These are small grants with high transaction costs. NIFA does not plan to accept these dollars.
- Expect to see movement on the process for Annual Reports of Accomplishments and Plans of Work for the next cycle very soon.
- NIFA needs a new Director of Communications and Director of PARS. Scott expects about 50 position descriptions to be released on March 1, but it may be difficult to fill these positions before the new NIFA location is known.

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Agenda Brief: Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)

Date: March 4, 2019

Presenter: Mark Latimore (Chair)

1. **Committee Membership** (as of March 3, 2019): See [ESCOPE Communications and Marketing \(CMC\)](#)
2. **Meetings:**
 - The CMC met by teleconference on November 29, 2018.
 - A CMC subcommittee met by teleconference on February 8, 2019.
 - The CMC met face-to-face on March 3, 2019 in Arlington, VA.
3. **Accomplishments/Upcoming Plans:**
 - On November 29th, the CMC accepted the Plan of Work (POW) as presented by the POW committee. The motion to approve the POW also included the convening a working group (referred to as the CMC subcommittee) to be charged with doing a brief retrospective (what's been done/what was accomplished?) and what should/could be done in future communications and marketing projects. The CMC also approved a Scope of Work for the external contractor, kglobal.
 - Chair Latimore charged a subcommittee on February 8, 2019. Steve Loring was appointed as subcommittee Chair and other members included Brian Meyer (ISU, communicator), Scott Reed (OSU, CE director), Nancy Cox (UK, AHS director), Gary Thompson (PSU, AES director), Faith Peppers (UGA, communicator) and Rick Rhodes (NERA, ED.) The specific charge included: evaluate past accomplishments of the CMC; assess the needs of the participating sections; develop recommendations on incorporating quantitative and qualitative metrics to gauge success of the communications and marketing project; recommend strategies for engaging directors' system-wide; and explore the right structure of the CMC. Chair Latimore sought a report from the subcommittee by the next CMC teleconference in June.
4. **Action Requested:** For information only.
5. **Attachments:**
 - a. none

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Item 2.2: Science & Technology Committee

Presenters: Laura Lavine and Jeff Jacobsen

Action Requested: For Information

Committee Members:

Laura Lavine (WAAESD; Chair)

Gene Kelly (WAAESD)

Chris Davies (WAAESD)

Joe Colletti (NCRA)

Deb Hamernik (NCRA)

John Kirby (NERA)

Adel Shirmohammadi (NERA)

Nathan McKinney (SAAESD)

Susan Duncan (SAAESD)

John Yang (ARD)

Alton Thompson (ARD)

Liaisons:

Terry Nelsen (ERS)

Bob Matteri (ARS)

Kristina Hains (SSSC; Social Sci Subc)

Ann Hazelrigg (NIPMCC; Pest Mgmt Subc)

Parag Chitnis (NIFA)

Edwin Price (ICOP)

Jeff Jacobsen (Exec Vice-Chair, NCRA ED)

Chris Hamilton (recorder, NCRA AD)

Committee Webpage: <http://escop.info/committee/scitech/>

S&T Committee

The 2010 Science Roadmap served as the reference for a new, modern, nimble-format, responsive suite of **S&T Roadmap Briefs** across the existing Grand Challenges. For each of the seven Grand Challenges, we provided these sections: Overview, Research Priorities, Capacity & Resources, Success Stories, all with unique visuals that emphasize the Grand Challenge as well as the Success Stories. In addition, a new cover to the existing Roadmap was created and serves as a cover piece for the current **Briefs** to describe who we are and what we do across a nationwide system. We have honored the tremendous efforts that went into the 2010 Roadmap and our Success Stories have provided distinctive impacts from our on-going research across the Grand Challenges. The **Briefs** are available for viewing, referencing or printing at <http://escop.info/roadmap/> either with images or as simple text documents. A fixed number of **Briefs** were also printed with limited distribution (S&T members, regional associations, APLU, ESCOP Executive Committee). Deb Hamernik, 2019 ESCOP Chair, has referenced these in her published Chair priorities document and distributed hard copies to individuals and groups as part of the ESCOP and ECOP Chair February visits to DC. The materials were very well-received. Lastly, as a cost-effective mechanism to inform attendees to the 2019 CARET/AHS session, we included with the registration packets a marketing postcard. Our intent is to have these new **Briefs** provide a modern look that evokes trust and conveys integrity, excellence, and creativity.



The 2019 Call for Excellence in Multistate Research has been released nationally, along with subsequent reminders, too. As a reference, only very minor edits were made to the 2018 Call as the processes and procedures are working well. S&T encourages all AAs to consider nominations to their regions. Regional associations will then have time to improve on their final nominee in advance of the national review cycle to ensure the highest quality and deserving projects are considered. The portfolio of projects is truly remarkable and we need to recognize their accomplishments!

The Northeast Region is charged with identifying the next S&T Committee Chair and additional membership with this leadership rotation at the ESS/ARD Annual Meeting.

Currently, the S&T committee is reviewing currently reviewing reports, recommendations, and planning documents around public/private partnerships and Capacity funding to see if there are any recommendations for presentation or for which to advocate. These include:

- TEconomy Report supporting a 100% Capacity model: <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-capacity-funding-review-teconomy-final-report>
- Fourth National Climate Assessment: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>
- National Academy Sciences Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research
- <http://nas-sites.org/dels/studies/agricultural-science-breakthroughs/>

National Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC)

The NIPMCC Annual Meeting was held in Washington, DC on October 23-24 with the meeting agenda posted (<http://escop.info/event/nipmcc-meeting-2018/>). Meeting minutes and action items, to include the annual State of IPM Report to ESCOP and ECOP, will be completed and provided when

ratified by the Executive Committee. The primary follow-up has been the summarization of all activities associated with the Dicamba issue and sharing of best practices.

Social Sciences Subcommittee (SSSC)

The original meeting in early 2019 was cancelled, due to the government shutdown. An alternative meeting time and location has not been confirmed. Past information and the diverse SSSC group can be found at: <http://escop.info/committee/social-sciences-subcommittee-sssc/>.

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Item 2.3: ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief

Presenters: Ernie Minton and Mike Harrington

For information only

The committee holds regular conference calls on the last Tuesday of each month. These calls have generally been well attended. The current B&L Committee membership is shown below.

<p>Chair: Ernie Minton (NCRA)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <p>Bobby Phils (ARD)</p> <p>Alton Thompson (ARD)</p> <p>Shawn Donkin (NCRA)</p> <p>Dave Benfield (NCRA)</p> <p>Sabine O’Hara (NERA)</p> <p>Jon Wraith (NERA)</p> <p>George Hopper (SAAESD)</p> <p>Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD)</p> <p>Chris Pritsos (WAAESD)</p> <p>Glenda Humiston (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice- Chair</p> <p>Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>Liaisons</p> <p>Jon Boren (ECOP Liaison)</p> <p>Bob Holland (NIFA)</p> <p>Paula Geiger (NIFA)</p> <p>Josh Stull (NIFA)</p> <p>Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med)</p> <p>Eddie Gouge (APLU)</p> <p>Doug Steele (APLU)</p> <p>Becky Walth (CARET)</p> <p>Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone)</p> <p>Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)</p> <p>Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)</p> <p>Maggi Earle (Cornerstone)</p>
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Recent discussions focused the proposed move of NIFA and ERS. Other discussions included the Sightlines Report on the growing infrastructure needs. Sightlines has mentioned that we were falling behind by \$300 million/year. According to the report, there are some 87,000,000 gross sq. ft (GSF) of space covered in the study. We are spending \$1.82/GSF on average across the system, but should be spending \$4.40/GSF. This calculates to a shortfall of at least \$224,460,000, which adds to the total deferred maintenance figure each year. This suggests that an infrastructure package aimed at meeting College of Ag needs would need to exceed this figure to keep from falling further behind.

Strategic Realignment of small lines: On several occasions, the Committee has discussed the realignment of small lines concept and is in favor of moving this effort forward. The Committee joined the February 26, 2019 discussion of the realignment proposal. Tall webinars and other documents are located at these links”

- [Strategic Realignment Committee Update](#) webinar
- [Appropriations & Strategic Realignment 101](#) webinar
- [Ernie Minton Communique to BAA](#)
- [Charge to Strategic Realignment Committee](#)
- [Current NIFA 2018 Discretionary Accounts](#)
- [Draft Single Top Line Recommendation](#)
- [Strategic Realignment FAQs](#)

All documents related the federal budget are located at the land-grant.org.

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Agenda Brief: Diversity Catalyst Committee

Date: March 4, 2019

Presenter: Ali Fares (Chair)

1. **Committee Membership** (as of March 3, 2019): See [ESCOP Diversity Catalyst Committee \(DCC\)](#)
2. **Meetings:**
 - a. The DCC met by teleconference on January 22, 2019.
3. **Accomplishments/Upcoming Plans:**
 - a. The DCC has undergone leadership evolution. Ali Fares has taken the place of Karen Plaut as chair and Rick Rhodes has stepped into Jeff Jacobsen's shoes as the ED serving as Executive Vice Chair.
 - b. The request for nominations for the National Diversity and Inclusion Award has been widely circulated to the ESS.
 - c. The DCC is seeking opportunities to provide on-going training for the directors. Training topics might include: Diversity as a Catalyst for Faculty Recruiting and Retention; Dominant Cultures; and the WAMS Program (Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields).
 - d. DCC chair Ali Fares nominated Jeff Jacobsen for a NIFA Partnership Award; the nomination recognizes Jeff's seminal role in the establishment of the DCC.
4. **Action Requested:** For information only.
5. **Attachments:**
 - a. None

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Item 2.5: National Impacts Database Committee

Date: March 4, 2019

Presenter: Steve Loring

The NIDB Committee holds conference calls on the second Tuesday of each month. Following is the current committee membership.

Current Membership	
Name	Role
Steve Loring	Co-chair- AES
Karla Trautman	Co-chair- EXT
Debbie Lewis	Admin. Rep- EXT
German Bollero	Admin. Rep- AES
Sara Delheimer	Multistate Research Impacts Initiative Rep
Faith Peppers	Land-grant Communications representative
Johnnie Westbrook	Land-grant Evaluation representative
Adele Turzillo	NIFA representative
Ron Brown	Southern ECOP Executive Director
Eric Young	Southern ESCOP Executive Director
Ex Officio Members	
Scott Cummings	IT- Texas A&M University
Michael Harrington	West Region ESCOP Executive Director
Jeff Jacobsen	NC Region ESCOP Executive Director
Rick Rhodes	NE Region ESCOP Executive Director

1. Update New Web Site

- The new site is ready to launch. Currently entering information for the institutional contacts, editors, and reviewers, and clearing out previous users' information.
- The logo that was chosen for the site and any related materials is:
- All impact statements on the existing site through 2016 are being archived and available



- through a "search option" only.
- There are currently 533 impact statements from 2017 and 341 from 2018 on the site.
 - There will be two primary links on the new site homepage:
 - A public link that will allow searches by several factors
 - A log-in link to the database for institutional contacts and editors
 - The public search page will have a disclaimer that 2017 & 2018 impact statements have not been reviewed.
 - The old site went off-line February 15th, this was delayed because the Writing Team needed access to do their work during the first week in February.
 - Two training sessions for editors and reviewers have been held.

- Communication with Extension/Experiment Station Directors and Institutional contacts/editors/reviewers was sent regarding these training sessions.
 - Soft launch of the new site was March 1st with a public announcement.
2. Content Writing Group
 - The Writing Group met January 31 – February 3, 2019 in Birmingham, AL.
 - Great working session that produced 20 fact sheets, 20 web stories and 1 animated video
 - Link for access to the materials was sent to Scott Cummings for the web site and to Rick Klemme for use during the CARET/AHS meeting and Hill visit.
 3. Training Sessions
 - After discussion, the committee agreed that one training for both impact editors and reviewers would occur initially. This will make it more transparent and uniform across all involved with producing impact statements. Items specifically for the reviewers was added at the end of the training.
 - Scott and Faith conducted the training webinars
 - The initial training webinar was recorded for use in the future and to allow it to be divided into separate training pieces for editors and/or reviewers as appropriate for future training needs.
 - An email was sent to Institutional Contacts, Impact Editors and Reviewers that will share information about the NIDB database and webinar training sessions.
 - Also, Steve Loring and Karla Trautman send an email to the CES and AES Directors updating them on the NIDB. This email reminded directors about the process, roles of the various appointee's, and reference materials that will be available on the new site.
 4. On-going communication and marketing efforts
 - Information has been sent to all institutions about the live launch of the new site
 - An update on the new site was sent to Rick Klemme to put out on the Monday Morning Message for ECOP
 - An un-veiling webinar of the NIDB will be conducted for the Extension and Experiment Station Directors in 2019.
 - A NIDB newsletter is being considered that will be sent periodically highlighting an impact or content team, the do's and don'ts of successful impact writing, an impact of the month feature, etc.
 - Also considering using social media to highlight and promote the database.
 5. The committee will continue to meet monthly through March, 2019, and then move to quarterly meetings after that.

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Agenda Brief: NRSP Review Committee (NRSP RC)

Date: March 4, 2019

Presenter: Fred Servello (Chair)

1. **Committee Membership** (as of March 4, 2019): See [ESCOP NRSP Review Committee \(NRSP RC\)](#)
2. **Meetings:**
 - a. The met face-to-face on May 22, 2018, in Warwick, RI.
3. **Accomplishments/Upcoming Plans:**
 - a. Two NRSPs, NRSP3 *National Atmospheric Deposition Program* and NRSP10 *Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research*, are undergoing review in anticipation of renewal. They've been peer-reviewed and technical teams have responded to peer reviews. The proposals, reviews, and responses to reviews are currently under evaluation by the regional associations.
 - b. A subcommittee of the NRSP RC is revising the NRSP Guidelines including the review forms. The NRSP RC will consider the revisions and forward recommendations to ESCOP in anticipation of approval at the annual business meeting in September.
 - c. The NRSP RC will meet face-to-face on May 29, 2019 in Warwick, RI.
4. **Action Requested:** For information only.
5. **Attachments:**
 - a. None

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