

**2018 ESS Business Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 (10:15 - 12:00; 1:00 - 2:30)

Embassy Suites Hotel, Lincoln, NE

Please visit [http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ESS\\_AGD\\_BRIEFS\\_2018\\_v6.pdf](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ESS_AGD_BRIEFS_2018_v6.pdf) for the final ESS Business Meeting agenda and associated briefs.

All ESS and workshop presentations can also be found online here: <http://escop.info/fall-2018-essaesard-meeting-and-workshop-presentations/>

Item #	Topic	Notes and Action(s) Taken
1	<p>Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve agenda</li> <li>• Approve 9/27/2017 ESS Meeting minutes (Philadelphia, PA)</li> </ul>	<p>Changes to agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved ESS budget to the end. NIFA listening sessions will come after Call to Order.</li> <li>• NIFA relocation moved to just before lunch.</li> <li>• <b>Actions: Agenda approved by acclamation. Fall 2017 ESS minutes from Philadelphia also approved by acclamation.</b></li> </ul>
2	<p>ESS action items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESS 2017-2018 budget review</li> <li>• ESS 2018-2019 proposed budget</li> <li>• Communications and Marketing Project</li> <li>• NRCS</li> <li>• NIFA Listening Sessions</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">NIFA Listening Sessions</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need an ESS response to the following: most needed breakthrough, greatest challenge, and top priority?</li> <li>• Four sessions are scheduled for 2018</li> <li>• Written comments due by 11/30/2018</li> <li>• Group strategy – ID EDs to participate or designate a proxy in their regions. Allows an opportunity to talk regionally</li> <li>• Conversations should include the value of AES partnership with NIFA</li> <li>• Include nationally important topics for ESCOP</li> <li>• <b>Action requested: Share regional/national information and feedback to your EDs to share with NIFA at the upcoming listening sessions</b></li> </ul> <p>Communications and Marketing Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original purpose was to preserve, protect, build resources</li> <li>• Send your input on future CMC plan to your EDs or directly to Rick Rhodes (<a href="mailto:rchrhodes@uri.edu">rchrhodes@uri.edu</a>)</li> </ul> <p>NRCS Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported a joint AES/EXT group that interfaced with NRCS</li> <li>• The team held a summit in Fort Collins, CO to identify approaches and activities to better work together</li> <li>• Created a document to summarize findings, which is currently under review, and will share when ready.</li> </ul>

3	NIFA Update	<p>NIFA Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Scott Angle will start as director at the end of Oct.</li> <li>• NIFA Relocation: Process team working very hard to continue to meet their mission during the transition. Will know new location around January/February, announcements in the spring, and relocation completed by December 2019</li> <li>• Duplicate Capacity payment: Don't try to return the money, NIFA will take care of it</li> <li>• NIFA listens sessions: Please attend and submit written comments by 11/30 deadline. All are welcome to give feedback/comments. Be mindful of registration deadlines for in-person sessions.</li> <li>• Strategic Plan: Working on a new plan as current plan expires soon. Will be aligned with USDA goals. Two goal areas, science and customer service. Will solicit input late fall/winter</li> <li>• Many positions are currently staffed at interim capacity, due to retirements over the past year. The hiring focus at this time is for OGF (grants and financial management).</li> <li>• Ag Outlook Forum: The three topics proposed were Urban Ag, Science Solutions to Labor Challenges, and Ag Security. Sessions are under review now and information will be released soon on which topic will move forward.</li> <li>• RFAs: McIntire-Stennis, 1890s Extension, and Evans-Allen are going forward as normal, but EFNEP is being held back for now.</li> </ul>
4	NIFA and ERS relocation discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For details, refer to <a href="#">Gary and Deb's slide show</a>.</li> <li>• Gary summarized the background information and USDA justification and responses to concerns on the relocation of NIFA and ERS across timelines.</li> </ul>
5	Advocacy update	<p>Farm Bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Presentation link</a></li> <li>• Current bill expired last week, 39 programs are now without budgetary baselines</li> <li>• Replacement bills passed in House and Senate this year with an interesting slip across party lines and are currently in conference now, primarily over SNAP reforms/changes</li> <li>• Key issues in the House: commodities, conservation, nutrition, crop insurance</li> <li>• Outcome will depend on action taken before November and election results</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will need to introduce new legislation and start new conference if it doesn't pass before November</li> </ul> <p>CLP priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenge of Change</li> <li>FFAR \$\$ difference</li> <li>Deferred maintenance</li> <li>1890 capacity formula to include Central State</li> <li>House and Senate funding difference</li> </ul> <p>FY2019 Appropriations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We submitted the single ask request again for \$200M increase for all 6 BAC priorities</li> <li>Outcome on FY2019 will also depend on action taken before November and election results</li> </ul>
6	Committee reports	For detailed briefs, refer to <a href="http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ESS_AGD_BRIEFS_2018_v6.pdf">http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ESS_AGD_BRIEFS_2018_v6.pdf</a>
6.1	NRSP Review Committee discussion and balloting	<p><a href="#">NRSP-RC Vote and Midterm Review Recommendations Summary:</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRSP8: Approval recommended, will need to describe at midterm a plan to transition/minimize off OTT NRSP funding. No carry forward funding will be allowed.</li> <li>NRSP4: Satisfactory midterm review. No vote needed at this time.</li> <li>NRSP6: Satisfactory midterm review. Seeking a plan to transition/minimize off OTT NRSP funding.</li> <li>NRSP9: Satisfactory midterm review. Seeking a plan to transition/minimize off OTT NRSP funding.</li> <li>ESS directors used the Survey Monkey link to cast their votes.</li> </ul>
6.2	Budget and Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial recommendations to consolidate the 45 NIFA budget lines including some 25 smaller lines to 12 were discussed at the Joint COPs. Several ideas were advanced to reduce to even fewer lines.</li> <li>Cornerstone recently delivered an Appropriations 101 webinar to the Strategic Realignment Committee. The presentation clarified the processes related to how NIFA funding is appropriated as well as how functional integrity would be maintained. Gary indicated that it's very helpful and informative.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group is considering consolidation to even fewer lines, while still maintaining functional integrity.</li> <li>• The final recommendations and the webinar link will be distributed to regional associations and sections for comment.</li> <li>• After comments are received, the committee will consider further modification prior to forwarding recommendations to the BAA Policy Board of Directors.</li> </ul>
6.3	Communications and Marketing	Discussed above.
6.4	Diversity Catalyst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep checking <a href="http://escop.info/committee/diversity-catalyst-committee/">http://escop.info/committee/diversity-catalyst-committee/</a> for resources and updates on DCC activities</li> <li>• We hope to continue providing learning opportunities in the areas of Diversity and Inclusion.</li> <li>• Regions are encouraged to continue with their own activities and share with the group as they proceed</li> </ul>
6.5	Impact Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New reviewers being put in place to improve the quality of incoming impact statements</li> <li>• 2-3 per region and per AES and EXT</li> <li>• Submission and review processes currently being beta tested by the database team</li> <li>• Online training will initially be targeted to reviewers</li> <li>• They hope to initiate the review process by January</li> <li>• Keep submitting impacts, though!</li> </ul>
6.1 contd.	NRSP Review Committee (ballot results)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action taken: 32 votes cast, 28 to accept to approve the renewal of NRSP8, 4 no votes. NRSP8's renewal was approved.</b></li> </ul>
6.6	Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decided to take a new, innovative approach to create a 2 pager format for Grand Challenges, plus an overview. These materials are being created by Sara Delheimer and will be reviewed by S&amp;T and EDs soon.</li> <li>• Hope to have them online for sharing by mid-January at the earliest.</li> <li>• Multistate Award call for FY2019 will go out after this Fall ESS meeting. Encourage your regional AAs to submit nominations.</li> </ul>
6.7	Nominations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shirley opened the floor for nominations for the next ESCOP chair-elect position from the Southern region.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action: George Hopper from MS State was nominated and approved as the next ESCOP chair-elect for FY2020</b></li> </ul>
6.8	Policy Board of Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See agenda brief.</li> </ul>
7.0	APLU update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eddie Gouge recognized the formation of the new Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Consortium</li> <li>• Doug Steele introduced himself to the group as the incoming Vice President for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources at APLU, starting officially on 1/2/2019.</li> </ul>
8.0	Resolutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary read the submitted resolutions for AES director retirements</li> <li>• Recognized the winners of the ESS Excellence in Leadership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ S: John Russin</li> <li>○ W: Mike Harrington</li> <li>○ NC: Doug Buhler</li> <li>○ ARD: Shirley Hymon-Parker</li> <li>○ NE: Ian Maw</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gary also read the resolution thanking UNL and NCRA for hosting and engaging the Fall ESS 2018 meeting</li> </ul>
9.0	Chair's Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary gave a summary of the current <a href="#">ESCOP budget</a> and Deb Hamernik presented the proposed budget for FY2019.</li> <li>• <b>Action Taken: The group voted and approved the FY2019 ESCOP budget as presented.</b></li> </ul>
10.0	Changing of the Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary summarized the many accomplishments of ESCOP over the past year, with a focus on strengthening partnerships, strategic alignments, and supporting strategic areas of importance to ESCOP, referred to as, "<a href="#">One Organization, One Voice.</a>"</li> <li>• Gary thanked the group for the opportunity to serve as ESCOP chair and officially passed the gavel to Deb Hamernik, our FY2019 ESCOP chair</li> <li>• Deb thanked the ESS 2018 steering committee for the work they did in helping plan the meeting and read a resolution of appreciation to Gary Thompson.</li> <li>• George Hopper announced that the 2020 ESS meeting will take place in Indianapolis, IN as a joint meeting with ECOP, at the end of September/beginning of October.</li> </ul>