

ESCOPE Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC): <http://escop.info/committee/blc/>

Call MINUTES for: 8/27/2019 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly)

4 pm ET, via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/257727621> or 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 257 727 621)

**Committee Members:**

<p><b>Chair:</b> Ernie Minton (NCRA) <b>Past Chair:</b> Gary Thompson (NERA)</p> <p><b>Delegates:</b> Alton Thompson (ARD) Dyremple Marsh (ARD) Dave Benfield (NCRA) Shawn Donkin (NCRA) Sabine O'Hara (NERA) Jon Wraith (NERA) George Hopper (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Glenda Humiston (WAAESD) Chris Pritsos (WAAESD)</p> <p><b>Executive Vice-Chair</b> Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED) Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons:</b> Jon Boren (ECOP) Rebecca Walth (CARET) Doug Steele (APLU, Ex-officio) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Jim Richards (CGA) Hunt Shipman (CGA) Maggie Earle (CGA) Bob Holland (NIFA) Josh Stull (NIFA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Glen Hoffsis (BVM) Vacant (BHS)</p>
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**Participants:** Alton Thompson, Saied Mostaghimi, Becky Walth, Rick Rhodes, Ernie Minton, Glenda Humiston, Dave Benfield, Dave Leibovitz, Dyremple Marsh, Shawn Donkin, George Hopper, Paula Geiger, Jim Richards, Josh Stull, Jon Wraith, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

**Call Agenda and Minutes:**

1. Welcome and roll call – Done, see participants list above.
2. Approval of 5/28 call minutes – Approved
3. Approval of today's agenda – Adopted as-is.
4. Strategic Realignment report – Ernie
  - a. At the Joint COPs meeting in July, Ernie and Wendy Fink reported on the collective work of the committee. One Excel tab illustrated 17 different lines, but might not have been a net positive in comparison to One Ask and other activities. The other tab presented 6 lines (Ag Education/Workforce Development, 1994s, 1890s, 1862s, AFRI, and other competitive programs) which reflected an on-site discussion not vetted.
  - b. The PBD reviewed the 6-line presentation, then passed a motion to thank the Strategic Realignment committee, accept their work, and disband the committee. The Committee has hence formally come to a close.
  - c. Jeff added that Doug Steele and Scott Angle did have a phone call, along with leadership for ECOP and ESCOP, with the intent to discuss Strategic Realignment and other issues,

but did not get to the topic due to time constraints. Doug Steele, Orlando McMeans met with Scott Angle to discuss the realignment effort.

5. APLU update – Not on call, no update given.
6. Cornerstone report – Jim Richards
  - a. Federal budget update: The 2-year budget agreement was signed by the President at end of July. The House has passed all of their items, which include strong numbers for the Ag Appropriations bill. The Senate was working overtime on their bills, but is now on recess for this week and next week, returning the week of 9/9 to finish mark-ups on FY20 bills, about 4 months later than normal. Jim speculated that we are going into Fall with relatively positive forecast for ag budget lines.
  - b. Multi-year recap of advocacy efforts and enacted budget results document - Jeff
    - i. Jeff presented the 2013-2019 draft of ESCOP Multi-year Budget Summary document he created as a DRAFT, sent via email to BLC on 8/26/2019. The data used was obtained from Mike Harrington's BLC historical documents and also [www.land-grant.org](http://www.land-grant.org). Jeff requested the group, especially Cornerstone, please check over the data for accuracy. Jim Richards indicated that at first glance it looked correct.
    - ii. The initial idea for this document came from a conversation with Hunt Shipman during the 2019 summer NC Mini Land-grant meeting in Kansas, as a way to compare our advocacy efforts each year for 2013 to 2019 with what was enacted for our system in the Federal budget.
    - iii. Jim Richards indicated that CGA maintains a record of such information since pre-sequestration, which would be useful to provide even more historical data to the group as well as any annual constraints imposed on committees. He will share this information with Jeff and the BLC, as desired.
7. NIFA update – Paula Geiger, Josh Stull
  - a. NIFA is focusing on making all annual funding obligations by 9/30.
  - b. New job announcements are now posted; please see the career section on NIFA website, which will directly link you to the USA jobs board. All openings are in Kansas City, MO.
  - c. New National Science Liaisons will be located in DC and will be announced soon. Two other Program Specialist positions will also be in DC and will also be selected soon.
  - d. AFRI grants are scheduled to be paneled in first or second quarter of new FY, no delays expected at this time.
  - e. Regarding the OIG (Office of the Inspector General) audit of Capacity Fund formulas, NIFA is working internally with USDA's OIG and General Counsel's office to determine when the new methodology will be implemented. At this time, they are just beginning the process and it's unknown as to whether the new formulas will go out for stakeholder comment.
8. ECOP report – None, not on call.
9. Other business, as needed
  - a. Jeff indicated that there will be a joint BLC ESCOP/ECOP luncheon during the Fall Joint ESS/CES-NEDA. A draft agenda underway, which will likely include some items from today in more detail, as well as budget timing and advocacy, initial efforts to work collaboratively in advocacy efforts other partners.
  - b. George Hopper reminded the group to register for the Joint Fall ESS/CES-NEDA meeting and to take a look at the agenda.
  - c. Jon Wraith congratulated Ernie on his new role as dean at Kansas State.

d. Ernie acknowledged Jeff and Chris as new support to the BLC.

Call Adjourned at 4:43 pm ET.