

## ESCOP CAC Teleconference – Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 4 pm ET

To join:

Web/mobile: <https://zoom.us/j/844816628>

Phone: 1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 844 816 628

<http://escop.info/committee/cac/>

**Attendees:** Bret Hess, Jeff Jacobsen, Steve Loring, Deb Hamernik, Rick Rhodes, Doug Steele, Mike Harrington, George Hopper, Alton Thompson, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

### Call Minutes

1. Welcome and roll call - Deb and Chris, see participants list above.
2. Approval of today's agenda – Deb, approved.
3. DC Visits – Deb/Jeff
  - a. Deb, Jeff, and ECOP leadership (Rick Klemme, Ed Jones) visited with NIFA leadership and Cynthia Montgomery's grants management team. The conversations were great, productive and useful for building stronger relationships. Deb stressed that the Grand Challenge Roadmap briefs were very well received and NIFA appreciates seeing our priorities.
  - b. Next round of visits will be May 6-9 with federal agencies and others that were missed in February due to weather issues. These should include American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), the new NIFA communications director, new PARS director, USDA ARS members and others.
4. Cornerstone Update – Hunt, Jim, Maggie: Not on the call, no update given.
5. Match Waiver Motion Discussion (see edited text below, based on Eric Young's email comments) – Deb/Rick
  - a. Quorum not met on today's call and since the call participants generally agreed with the motion text, **(ACTION) Chris will send out language for an electronic vote to ESCOP Executive Committee.**
  - b. Rick Rhodes also summarized the letter NERA shared with ESCOP regarding Match Waiver which includes:
    - i. Advocating for complete elimination of match in match requiring programs, excluding Formula Funds. If this is not possible, then:
    - ii. Advocate for a restoration of the 2014 Farm Bill language that provided match waivers for LGUs. If this is not possible, then:
    - iii. Advocate for the use of unrecovered indirect costs as match.
    - iv. NERA recognizes that there needs to be a legislative fix for all of these options.
    - v. Smaller institutions have been hit very hard by these matching requirements.
6. Strategic Realignment Update – Ernie/Mike
  - a. All four regions have responded with their recommendations, which provided general support for both the single line and three bucket approach (Extension, research, Teaching).
  - b. Existing concerns from regions:
    - i. What's our level of trust with NIFA to do what's in the report language?

- ii. The need to work more openly with NIFA and toward what's needed for research.
  - c. All regional feedback was sent to B&L and then on to the PBD (Policy Board of Directors). ECOP is concerned that the 3 bucket approach may pit us against each other, so there's more on-going action by the PBD that has not yet been shared with the committee. More information to come.
  - d. Doug Steele's comments:
    - i. Considering the FY2020 NIFA administrative budget vs our strategic realignment effort, the NIFA budget is more a consolidation than a re-alignment. We're still trying to work together with them on this.
    - ii. Ernie Minton (and Strategic Realignment Committee) will be ready in a week or so with a formal recommendation.
    - iii. Cornerstone has not weighed in yet; did not participate in the PBD meeting. Doug is meeting with them on May 2 and may have them work with EDs during NMCC in May.
    - iv. It's good to organize around the 3 categories but it's important to also avoid any appearance of competition.
    - v. Doug also indicated that we'll start making an effort to do our advocacy efforts sooner in the fall, instead of later in February.
- 7. 2030 Breakthroughs Report Discussion and Endorsement – Deb
  - a. Doug shared that this report had been sent out for information only from SoAR.
  - b. Doug also mentioned that our PBD will be working on a better mechanism to collaborate/communicate with external groups and also how to review sign on requests like these.
- 8. Other ESCOP Committee Reports (new information since CARET/AHS only, please)
  - a. B&L (Mike for Ernie) – no additional info beyond the Strategic Realignment discussion above.
  - b. S&T (Jeff for Laura) – We have a call next Monday, during which we will review several reports. Later in May/June, we will choose the national multistate award winner. Over the summer, S&T leadership will rotate from Jeff to Bret Hess.
  - c. CMC (Steve) –
    - i. CMC has been appointed as a permanent ad hoc committee to PBD.
    - ii. Once the kglobal contract termination is complete, CMC will be moving towards reorganization, by replacing ex-officio members with more communications professionals. The new focus will also include a more national marketing focus with a brand promise. They hope this will better support ongoing advocacy efforts by Cornerstone.
    - iii. Currently also working to create a national communications position at APLU to help serve as a more permanent focal point for the national effort.
    - iv. Jeff: How will feedback be collected from the system on this new course/membership? Plan will be drafted very soon and will be shared by summer meetings to all main funders (AHS, AES, EXT).

- v. It was noted that it's important to consider who the audience will be, what exactly we're expecting from the new communications group, and how the new group will be evaluated (how will success be measured).
  - d. DCC (Rick) –
    - i. Currently sorting through nominations for National Diversity award. The selection committee has been identified, with a winner chosen by mid-May.
    - ii. One of the winners from last year is a member on this year's selection committee.
  - e. NRSP RC (Rick) –
    - i. Annual face to face meeting will take place at the end of May.
    - ii. Two NRSPs up for renewal, NRSP3 and NRSP10. NRSP-RC is receiving comments from regions right now.
    - iii. Committee is also reviewing our NRSP Guidelines to simplify and clarify the instructions and process.
  - f. NIDB (Steve) –
    - i. Database has been revised and the website updated.
    - ii. There have been some regional concerns on how useful the database actually is, who uses it, etc.
    - iii. The suggestion to move NIDB under CMC will help with coordination and better clarify its message/function.
    - iv. Rick described the NERA memo on NIDB and suggested that now might be a good time for ESCOP and NIFA to do an assessment on the actual NIDB use and relevance, while also use this opportunity to work with NIFA to improve the collection of impact through REEport and the Plan of Work.
    - v. Bret reminded the group that a team of communicators used the impacts to feed to kglobal, who then shared them with Congress, etc.
- 9. Regional Spring Meeting Updates (ARD, NC, NE, S, W; as needed)
  - a. NC: Doug Steele joined the full NCRA spring meeting. In addition to regular business, NCRA had a professional development session regarding working across generations, led by Kelly Millenbah of MSU.
  - b. NE: The region has moved its main annual meeting to the summer, due to weather issues. Instead, they held a spring teleconference at the end of March. NERA discussed NIDB, Match Waivers, and the two NRSP renewals during the call. NERA requested a re-write of the NRSP10 business plan to better clarify the temporary nature of its NRSP funding.
  - c. S: Held a mini-LGU session in Fort Lauderdale, which that included ARD, AHS, and ECOP, along with research directors. Good attendance, good meeting. SAAESD discussed many of the topics from this current CAC call during their session.
  - d. W: Met in San Diego, joint with Extension directors, as they have been doing for some time now. EXT had a summit, working with First Peoples groups, which charged a committee to develop a plan on how to work more effectively with insulars and 1994s. Mike will be retiring on June 30 and Bret Hess will take over as interim ED on July 1. WAAESD also had their multistate review committee meeting and decided on regional multistate award winner.

- e. ARD: Met during S regional mini-LGU meeting. 1890s are supportive of the Strategic Realignment. Discussed Centers of Excellence. ARD also hosted a Research Symposium recently.
- 10. Fall ESS 2019 Joint Workshop Update – George: September 23-25, 2019 at the Marriott at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN. Registration should be open around mid-May. They have great speakers and a great program with good professional development opportunity lined up.
- 11. Other, as needed – None.

**Updated Match Waiver Motion Text from with Eric Young’s suggestions:**

*ESCOPE 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 all prospective NIFA grant applicants. In the interim, ESCOP seeks clarification of the interpretation of "in-kind match" and advocates for the broadest interpretation.*

**Recent ESCOP Appointments:**

- None since last CAC call.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- ESCOP Committee Meeting, Tuesday, July 23, 1-5 pm MT. Westgate Park City Resort & Spa. Park City, Utah.
- Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop, joint with Extension, September 23-26, 2019, **Marriott at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN.**