

ESCOP CAC Teleconference MINUTES – Thursday, September 19, 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/>

Participants: Deb Hamernik, George Hopper, Doug Steele, Eric Young, Bret Hess, Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz, Gary Thompson, Alton Thompson, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Call Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Deb/Chris
2. APLU Update (Addition to original agenda) - Doug Steele
 - a. The Senate Ag committee conducted their mark-up and lowered AFRI to \$425M. The House has AFRI at \$460M and APLU originally requested \$440M for AFRI.
 - b. The BAC met yesterday and voted to move all advocacy numbers up to their highest values, with AFRI up to \$460M. They will be working with Cornerstone (CGA) to finalize all of these numbers and Doug will have another update next week at the meetings in Nashville.
 - c. Language regarding matching funds for SCRI is part of the CR language and will go into the 2018 Farm Bill, so this language won't need to be "fixed" again until the next Farm Bill is written. Language is still present that requires a match, but the Secretary can waive the match. Roberts' office is somewhat concerned by this move and does not want to open up the 2018 Farm Bill to additional changes. The BAC is also still working with CGA to better understand the matching requirement language, what qualifies for the match, etc. They are trying to add language that provides flexibility beyond just cash for the matching requirement (e.g., tuition waivers for graduate students, etc.).
 - d. The Senate provided \$25M for the NIFA and ERS relocation to KC in FY2020, but the House language tries to block the move to KC. This discrepancy will need to be resolved in conference.
 - e. Regarding the America Grows Act, introduced by Sen Durbin, APLU is still discussing how to best approach signing on for support, encouraging states to ask their Senators to sign on, if they wish. Ultimately, we don't want the BAA/APLU message to be diluted, but we also need a mechanism for giving support quickly when warranted. Gary indicated that he might use some of his PBD report time during the ESS business meeting to address this concern.
3. Approval of today's agenda – Deb
 - a. Approved with no additions other than Doug's APLU Update above.
4. CMC Update – Deb
 - a. Steve Loring created a CMC summary with recommendations based upon CMC and extensive research and Extension Executive Director input to move forward, which was distributed to AHS (via Eddie Gouge), ECOP (via Rick Klemme) , and ESCOP (via Chris Hamilton). ACTION: Regions will discuss the CMC summary and EDs will provide feedback to Deb in advance of the ESS business meeting later that morning, on 9/25.

- b. The CMC recommendation includes spending the remainder of the kglobal and CGA (minor support) contact (about \$77,000) to fund a professional/strategist to develop a national strategic plan for CMC for the LGU system.
 - c. Eric is concerned about possible ECOP/AHS changes to the recommendation and suggested that all Sections vote at the same time, on the same final recommendation. If ESCOP were to recommend changes at this ESS meeting, this would also have to be blended with any changes from the other Sections. At some point in time (during CY2019) a final document can be prepared and all funders (AHS, ECOP, ESCOP) could vote on the same document. This vote would also be coupled with a proposed budget using residual FY2019 CMC funds (~\$77,000). He also recommended that ESS approve all lines in the FY2020 ESCOP budget except the line for the CMC expenditure, because we do not know what the budgeted amount will be. An assessment vote is different than a budget vote as it needs 30 days advance notice coupled with a plan to raise or lower the assessment. We will not know what assessment will be needed until sometime later in FY2020 when the strategic marketing plan is finalized. If we wanted to suspend the \$200,000 FY2020 assessment, we would have to communicate the action (30 day advance notice) and vote sometime this CY2019. The assessments go out in January 2020 from APLU.
 - d. Rick Rhodes confirmed that Steve Loring is on the CES business agenda, so the Extension Section will indeed discuss this topic next week. AHS does not meet until the November APLU meeting, so unless they hold a conference call before then, we won't have suggestions from AHS until November.
 - e. ECOP meets on Monday next week, so Deb indicated that she will obtain ECOP feedback and their recommended course of action from Ed Jones, prior to the ESS business meeting, although their recommendations may change during the CES meeting Wednesday.
 - f. Deb, Gary, and Rick formally thanked Steve Loring for all his efforts on CMC. Since Steve was not on the call, Deb will formally thank him next week in Nashville.
5. Final Update for Joint Fall ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting – George, Eric
- a. They are ready to go for next week's sessions in Nashville. Sandy Ruble from ECOP just sent out a meeting update email to registrants earlier today.
 - b. George and Chuck Hibberd received many suggested questions from the regions for Scott Angle and Bill Hoffman (NIFA). The final list of questions was narrowed down to 10-11 and will be asked after Scott's presentation. Scott received these questions in advance to help him prepare responses.
 - c. During the workshops and presentations, George indicated that they will strongly encourage everyone to focus on the speakers and not use their electronic devices.
 - d. George also recommended everyone consider watching Ken Burns' PBS country music documentary as a supplement to the social event at the Country Music Hall of Fame. See: <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/country-music/episode-guide>
6. Other, as needed
- a. Gary inquired as to what the mysterious item was on George's office desk. George indicated that it is a sleeping bull dog, under which he puts issues he doesn't want to deal with, with the hopes that they go away on their own. 😊

Call adjourned at approximately 4:40 pm ET.

Recent ESCOP Appointments (since Joint COPs):

- J.F. Meullenet, ESS representative to CMC
- Steve Lommel, SAAESD representative to BLC
- Dyremple Marsh, ARD representative to BLC
- Bill Barker, NCRA representative to STC, replaces Deb Hamernik

Upcoming Meetings:

- Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop, joint with Extension, September 23-26, 2019, Marriott at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN. ESS business meeting on Wednesday, 9/25, 9 am to 12 noon.
- APLU Annual Meeting, November 10-12, 2019, Hilton Bayfront, San Diego, CA.