

ESCOP Science & Technology: <http://escop.info/committee/scitech/>

Call Minutes: 10/28/2019

4 pm ET, via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/556081111> or 1 720 707 2699 Meeting ID: 556 081 111)

Committee Members:

<p>Chair: Jody Jellison (NERA) Past Chair: Laura Lavine (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates: Alton Thompson (ARD) John Yang (ARD) Joe Colletti (NCRA) Bill Barker (NCRA) Indrajeet Chaubey (NERA) Mark Hutton (NERA) Susan Duncan (SAAESD) Nathan McKinney (SAAESD) Gene Kelly (WAAESD) Chris Davies (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice Chair: Bret Hess (WAAESD ED) Saige Zespy (WAAESD Recording Secretary; Recorder)</p>	<p>Liaisons: Ann Hazelrigg (NIPMCC Chair) Kristina Hains (SSCC) Parag Chitnis (NIFA) Robert Matteri (USDA ARS)</p>
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Participants:

Jody Jellison (Chair), Joe Colletti, Bill Barker, Indrajeet Chaubey, Mark Hutton, Gene Kelly, Ann Hazelrigg, Bret Hess (Executive Vice Chair), and Saige Zespy (recorder)

Call Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call - Jellison, Hess: See Participants list above.
 - a. Each participant introduced themselves, their institution and their affiliation. Additionally, liaison roles were clarified, including who and what committees participate.
2. Approval of meeting notes from 4/22/2019 and 9/24/2019 - Jellison: Approved.
 - a. Jody asked for clarification on whether any follow-up was done to distribute the TEconomy Report. Joe indicated that is still on the "to-do" list. Bret will re-distribute to all Executive Directors.
3. Liaison Updates, as needed:
 - a. ARS, Bob Matteri:

- i. Bob focused on USDA ARS updates, in the absence of NIFA, and summarized a list of Frequently Asked Questions.
- ii. USDA ARS is operating its budget under Continuing Resolution until November 21, 2019, and Bob noted Congress still has to work out spending caps and distributing those across the 12 appropriations bills.
 1. The Senate mark-up on the Agriculture budget bill had a large figure for ARS - \$121 million.
 - a. Much of that was attributed to ongoing construction of a new BSL-4 high-level containment animal disease laboratory in Manhattan, Kansas.
 - b. Also included in the Senate mark-up was \$300 million for facilities. Bob is unaware of where that might go.
 2. There are still several weeks left in the budgeting process
- iii. ARS hiring is still behind in the wake of last year's shutdown, procedural changes from OPM and new requirements for recruitment. Currently, they are ramping up efforts to "dig out" of the hiring backlog.
- iv. Industrial hemp has been a topic of conversation between ARS and its research partners. ARS was waiting on policy, and it is emerging. However, there is still work to be done while waiting for the permitting process.
 1. Currently, industrial hemp growth hinges on the 0.3% THC content by dry weight level. Above that line, hemp becomes a Schedule 1 drug. He noted there are items to work out in the process.
 2. Jody inquired as to when Farm Bill interpretation will be available, which would allow her university to start work with hemp. Bob noted draft guidance seems to be going forward. In that guidance will be testing validation and verification of THC levels.
 3. Bret inquired as to whether the hang-up on draft rules is in the Office of Budget and Management, and Bob affirmed this understanding, noting that permitting is still "clunky" at various levels.
 4. Regardless, there are also program increases in the ARS budget, so hemp production and research appears to be moving forward until the direction of Congress.
 5. Institutional Updates:
 - a. Vermont is able to do plant diagnostics for industrial hemp to help producers.
 - b. Bill noted that University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wisconsin have robust industrial hemp programs. Farmers take the most risk with the 0.3% THC level. He inquired about the possibility of raising the THC limit to 0.5% to reduce risk to farmers, but also protect against the use of industrial hemp as a drug.

- b. NIPMCC - Ann Hazelrigg
 - i. The annual meeting was held Oct. 22-23. Next year's meeting will be Oct. 20-21 at the APLU building in Washington, D.C.
 - 1. Ann will upload all PowerPoints and resources from the meeting to the ESCOP site.
 - ii. Following the meeting, NIPMCC is working to identify action items and issues that they want to pursue over the next year, instead of just doing updates and talking about issues. They have three action items that they will continue to vet and work on.
- 4. Report Discussions:
 - a. National Academy of Sciences *Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research* report (<http://nas-sites.org/dels/studies/agricultural-science-breakthroughs/>)
 - i. Joe updated the group on last year's discussion on the report, explaining the committee talked about an evaluation or consensus report. He summarized they were looking to summarize information or perhaps develop a critique. At the same time, they re-wrote the science roadmaps to do a crosswalk to see how each areas in the Scientific Breakthroughs report linked back to the roadmap.
 - ii. Joe added committee discussions revolved around revisiting multi-state committees to see if they are functioning well and if they fit within the five thematic areas. Part of that will also be to identify gaps in research committees that needs to be addressed.
 - iii. Joe inquired as to whether they should focus on just research committees or if they should include research and extension committees, as well, to see where each committee is tangential to or touches the five initiatives.
 - iv. Jody suggested starting with just the research committees, then delving in further after those are done.
 - v. Bret will begin looking through the committees, and Joe agreed to help provide advice and guidance to move the process forward in the right direction.
 - 1. Joe also suggested dividing the five initiatives among the 10 committee members and having each delve into areas further after receiving preliminary information from Bret.
 - vi. Joe and Jody suggested creation of a one- to two-page document that summarizes their findings on the gaps or areas that are effectively addressed under each initiative.
- 5. Not all members will be at APLU, so no meeting will be held.
- 6. After reviewing results of a survey conducted prior to the meeting, it was determined that Mondays were the best day for conference calls.
 - a. The next meeting will be held November 25, 2019 at 4 p.m. EST.
- 7. Other business

- a. The committee handles evaluation of the Excellence Awards. Bret noted the announcement about awards will be sent to Executive Directors from the committee chair in the near future.
 - i. He encouraged members to pass along and reinforce that the criterion for nominations has changed, so submissions should not be recycled from years past. Nominations should be double-checked to make sure they follow the current year's process and nomination outline.

Action Items:

1. Confirm list of liaison members is correct and complete (Bret H.)
2. Distribute TEconomy Report to all Executive Directors (Bret H.)
3. Provide updates on industrial hemp regulations and the summer 2020 crop to potentially inquire about raising THC limit to 0.5% (Bret H.)
4. Work to see where multi-state research committees address the five initiatives in the National Academy of *Sciences Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research* report (Bret H.).
 - a. Divide the five initiatives among committee membership to create a one- to two-page report on areas that are effectively address or areas needing more research by multi-state committees.
5. Send out Excellence Awards announcement, including emphasis on ensuring nominations comply with criterion and the nomination outline (Bret H.)

ESCOPE Science & Technology Committee (STC): <http://escop.info/committee/stc/>

Call Agenda for: 10/28/2019 (currently 4th Monday monthly)

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Call Agenda:

1. Welcome and roll call – Jellison and Hess
2. Approval of meeting notes from 4/22/2019 and 9/24/2019 – Jellison
3. Liaison Updates, as needed
 - a. NIFA
 - b. ARS
 - c. NIPMCC
 - d. SSSC
4. Report discussions:
 - a. National Academy Sciences Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research <http://nas-sites.org/dels/studies/agricultural-science-breakthroughs/>
 - i. See attached file for main topics
5. Interest in gathering at APLU
6. Best day for monthly calls
7. Other business, as needed