

ESCOP B&L Call
March 26, 2019
Draft Minutes

Participants:

Ernie Minton Mike Harrington George Hopper John Wraith	Jon Boren Hunt Shipman Vernie Hubert Maggie Earle Paula Geiger
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- Agenda – Approved with the addition of IDC discussion
- January 22 Minutes: Approved by acclimation
- Cornerstone Update - Hunt, Vernie
 - Institutions are encouraged to submit request forms to members. Senate deadlines within the next week
 - In response to Farm Bill changes, NIFA is being encouraged to interpret matching funds in the broadest sense possible.
 - \$50 million competitive pool for repair and maintenance proposed in the President’s Budget was somewhat of a surprise. Getting an appropriation in this budget climate could be challenging without offsets.
- NIFA Update – Paula
 - Several position searched on-going including Directors for the Planning, Accountability and Reporting operation and the Communications office
- Extension Update - Jon Boren: ECOP Budget and Legislation Committee has compiled feedback on the Strategic Realignment proposal. Generally favorable but questions that are likely outside the Strategic Realignment Committee’s responsibility.
- IDC requirements - The 2018 Farm Bill made changes to the amount of IDC allowable on an award. Previously the prime awardee and each sub-award could charge 30% IDC resulting in the total IDC exceeding 30% of the prime award amount. The new law requires that the total IDC taken by the prime awardee and any sub-awardee may not exceed 30% of the prime award. See:
 - <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/2018-farm-bill-indirect-cost-provision>;
 - <https://nifa.usda.gov/announcement/changes-2019-competitive-rfas-and-new-awards-match-and-indirect-cost-rates-meet-new>
 - Farm Bill language -<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title7-section3310&num=0&edition=prelim>

- Strategic Realignment
 - Ernie and Mike reported on several face-to-face meetings and the two webinars. General positive responses. Unanswered questions on how to distribute increases (or decreases)
 - George reported that the SAAESD was generally supportive. Expect a joint report from Eric Yung and Ron Brown
 - NCRA is currently meeting and the WAAED will meet next week.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Mike will summarize the regions' feedback and distribute to the B&L Committee, which will develop the final ESCOP recommendations.

Next meeting April 23