

**ESCOP B&L Call  
April 23 2019  
Draft Minutes**

**Participants:**

Ernie Minton Mike Harrington George Hopper Shawn Donkin Dave Benefield Alton Thompson George Hopper Saied Mostaghimi Jon Boren	Hunt Shipman Vernie Hubert Jim Richards Maggie Earle Paula Geiger Josh Stull Becky Walth Jeff Jacobsen Rick Rhodes
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- Agenda – Approved
- March 26 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. Some of these funds (19 M) came from the 1890 facilities program
  - New matching requirement took many institutions and scientists by surprise. A number of entities that pushed for this requirement, e.g. Sustainable Ag Coalition and SOAR A legislative fix is needed to remove the new matching funds requirements, especially in the SCRI.
- NIFA Update – Paula
  - NIFA used the single top line budget in 2017 but this was not approved by Congress. A similar proposal was advance in the 2020 budget, which looked akin to the Strategic Realignment proposal. However, there is apparently relationship between the proposed budget and the realignment effort.
  - NIFA is reviewing matching funds requirements to provide broadest interpretation possible. See new requirements: <https://nifa.usda.gov/announcement/changes-2019-competitive-rfas-and-new-awards-match-and-indirect-cost-rates-meet-new>
  - New staff - Director of planning and accountability - Robert (Bob) Green and Director of Communications - Tara Weaver-Missick
- Extension Update - Jon Boren: Update on ECOP position on the realignment proposal.

- 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 links
  - <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>
- Strategic Realignment
  - Ernie discussed presentation to the Policy Board of Directors. Extension does not favor the single top line, 3-bucket model, as it would appear to pit programs areas against each other. Unanswered questions include how increases (or decreases) would be distributed and are there assurances that NIFA would follow report language.
- Policy Board Update – no report, meeting notes sent to B&L committee members.
- NERAOC Updates – Mike and Jeff
  - Capacity Budgets: Originally scheduled for implementation in 2020, all capacity programs will be required to submit preliminary budget with descriptions for major spending categories in 2021. For additional information see <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/2020-capacity-budget-requirements>

Next meeting May 28