

ESCOPE Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC): <http://escop.info/committee/blc/>

Call MINTES for: 2/25/2020 (4th Tuesday monthly)

4 pm ET, via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/257727621>) or 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 257 727 621)

Committee Members:

<p>Chair: Ernie Minton (NCRA) Past Chair: Bill Brown (SAAESD) Gary Thompson (Active Past Chair, NERA)</p> <p>Delegates: Alton Thompson (ARD) Dyremple Marsh (ARD) Gary Pierzynski (NCRA) Shawn Donkin (NCRA) Sabine O'Hara (NERA) Jon Wraith (NERA) Steve Lommel (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Glenda Humiston (WAAESD, Incoming Chair) Chris Pritsos (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED) Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder)</p>	<p>Liaisons: Jon Boren (ECOP) Katie Frazier (CARET) Doug Steele (APLU, Ex-officio) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Jim Richards (CGA) Hunt Shipman (CGA) Maggie Earle (CGA) Vernie Huber (CGA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Glen Hoffsis (BVM) Vacant (BHS)</p>
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Participants: Gary Pierzynski, Steve Lommel, Jon Wraith, Maggie Earle, Katie Frazier, Vernie Huber, Ernie Minton, David Leibovitz, Rick Rhodes, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Call Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Ernie and Chris
 - a. Done, see participants above.
2. Approval of 1/28 meeting minutes (http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/BLC_MIN_-20200128-1.pdf) – Ernie
 - a. Ernie made a note of the past chair update listed above as a minor change. Gary is the active BLC chair, although Bill Brown was our most recent past-chair, serving until he moved on to Texas Tech.
 - b. Approved as distributed with the listed minor change.
3. Approval of today's agenda – Ernie
 - a. Approved as distributed.
4. APLU Update – Doug Steele
 - a. Not on call, none given.
5. Cornerstone report – given by Maggie Earle
 - a. The [APLU Unified Request for NIFA Funding](#) one-pager is set and was distributed yesterday morning via email and included with a sample email to use.

- b. Please be sure to set your CARET/AHS appointments with members and follow up with the one-pager.
- c. Federal budget appropriations:
 - i. Many offices are soliciting member requests. Please work on these now, as some deadlines are end of February and early March.
 - ii. House mark-up of ag appropriations coming soon, with 4/21 for the subcommittee and full committee on 4/29.
 - iii. Contact Maggie with any problems or question on the appropriations process.
- 6. NIFA update – Paula Geiger, Josh Stull
 - a. Not on call, no report given.
 - b. Vernie indicated that Josh has left NIFA. **ACTION: Chris will remove him from our BLC member list and Jeff will follow up on a replacement. (Both done, 2/26)**
- 7. ECOP report – Jon Boren
 - a. Not on call, none given.
 - b. **ACTION: Jeff will follow up with Jon Boren and ECOP leadership regarding the BLC calls and ECOP representation. (Done, 2/26)**
- 8. Discussion of the Upcoming BAC Meeting Agenda at CARET/AHS – Ernie
 - a. Ernie described the upcoming BAC agenda to the group, which will include:
 - i. Welcome and Overview.
 - ii. Legislative Climate Update by CGA.
 - iii. One hour allotted on the agenda for “Determining Advocacy Strategies.”
 - 1. Process for allocation of new funds or reduction of existing funds and how system will approach that.
 - 2. Responding to Sign-on Requests or Ag-related Initiatives.
 - iv. Developing Multi-year Goals and Strategies.
 - v. Next Steps for BAC.
 - b. Comments from the BLC membership:
 - i. Jeff indicated that both BAC and CLP will be more active, so ESCOP needs to be thinking about different topics and angles, as we are doing on this call today.
 - ii. Ernie asked the group to consider also advocacy decisions when one or two groups focus in on one line only (e.g. SoAR, AGree on only AFRI, etc.)
 - iii. Rick mentioned the 7 core priority areas of APLU, which then translate 9 different lines, and then we add 5 more areas under the 7 core priorities. This action makes it seem as if we actually do not have clear priorities. What’s the best way to seek assistance so that we clearly define our priority areas?
 - iv. Jon Wraith indicated that his priorities haven’t changed in 10 years, but the diversity within the family perhaps is stymieing us.
 - v. Jeff: Could we perhaps focus only on 1-3 priorities at a time as an alternative approach? Jon Wraith agreed and is supportive bumping up 1-3 lines, such as the 1890s, while keeping others stable. Rick agreed.
 - vi. **ACTION: Please forward additional thoughts on to Ernie and Jeff before this Sunday, so they can share with the BAC.**
 - vii. All are welcome to attend the BAC meeting; Ernie is our ESCOP voting member.
- 9. Other business, as needed.
 - a. Ernie thanked everyone for participating on the call today and looks forward to see many BLC members at the CARET/AHS meeting in DC next week.

Call adjourned at 4:27 pm ET.