

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

Call MINUTES for: 3/24/2020 (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)</p> <p>Paula Geiger (NIFA) Glen Hoffsis (BVM) Vacant (BHS)</p>
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Participants: Ernie Minton, Gary Pierzynski, Alton Thompson, Doug Steele, Jon Wraith, Caron Gala, Glenda Humiston, Saied Mostaghimi, Jon Boren, Hunt Shipman, Maggie Earle, Vernie Huber, Shawn, Donkin, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder).

Call Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Ernie and Chris. Done, see participants list above.
2. Approval of 2/25 meeting minutes (http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/BLC_MIN_20200225.pdf) – Ernie. Approved as distributed.
3. Approval of today's agenda – Ernie. Approved as distributed.
4. APLU Update – Doug Steele
 - a. APLU has moved out of its offices and everyone is working from home now. An APLU staffer working registration at CARET/AHS came down with flu symptoms, wasn't tested due to a typical symptoms, but recovered well. The office was quarantined and fully cleaned. No one is working there now, though, except for a few IT folks.
 - b. Extension working on a proposal (\$40M) for Supplemental COVID-4, which addresses how Extension can fill the COVID-19 gap in rural areas through education and outreach, focusing on prevention and recovery, but not really treatment. They propose to use a combination of eXtension and leverage the new high-speed rural broadband system.

- c. Regarding the Deferred Maintenance/Infrastructure effort, Doug is working with ED team on potentially updating the costs as well as the inclusion of institutions that were not part of the 2015 study and Ernie as they try to continue to move it forward.
 - d. Doug reminded the group about Jim Richard's email that encourages us to use this time to emphasize the critical value of Capacity funds and how Hatch has been able to keep our labs up and running.
 - e. Most APLU-related meetings have been canceled or moved to a webinar format. No decision has been made yet about the July Joint COPs session in Kansas City. Doug would like it to go forward, if possible, and is interested in hearing feedback from possible attendees. We're also not sure yet about the status of the APLU annual meeting in Orlando, FL, in November.
 - f. NIFA and Scott Angle doing the best they can with their remote work locations, as well.
 - g. We should take this opportunity to also consider possible long-term gaps we could begin to address as a system, especially around food-supply chain issues. What are some ways we could assist/prevent these potential problems?
5. Cornerstone report – Hunt Shipman.
- a. Congress has moved the COVID-1 and -2 emergency supplement bills. COVID-3 might be concluded today, possibly taken up by Senate tonight to put before the House tomorrow. It's unclear whether they'll be able to accomplish passage of the bill or need a 36-48 hour period for them to return to DC to vote in person. A fourth bill is possible.
 - b. Most of these bills are currently response-based, not recovery-based. Additional recovery-based bills will depend on how long the COVID-19 crisis endures. We are watching all this and thinking about what our system needs might be, while also being cautious about how we position ourselves (e.g. keep our credibility), given the current debates occurring over COVID-3.
 - c. The appropriations subcommittees have been directed to continue to move forward with the FY21 bills, although we should expect some delays. More to come on this issue.
 - d. Congressional hearings all canceled, access to buildings is restricted, and escorts are required.
6. NIFA update – Paula Geiger.
- a. None given, not on call. Jeff has reached out to her and she and Josh's replacement, when hired, plan to join as often as possible.
 - b. UPDATE from Paula sent after BLC Call: *"NIFA will have someone acting in the Stakeholder and Congressional Affairs Officer position now that Josh Stull has left the agency. I hope he can be introduced at the next meeting. NIFA continues to work on release of 2019 funds and processing of new awards. I am not sure of the timing of release of 2020 capacity funds, but we are working on those too. Our work continues."*
7. ECOP report – Jon Boren.
- a. The ECOP BC, at the request of 4-H leadership, developed a subcommittee with a 4-H focus and is working on three primary objectives to increase capacity for Extension as a whole:
 - i. Elevating advocacy as it relates to 4-H,
 - ii. Increase funding from other federal agencies, and
 - iii. Continue working on legal reform with Congress on 4-H legal name and its emblem.
 - b. The Extension system has agreed upon a 1-page advocacy document, which was used at CARET/AHS. Jon will share this with the BLC (done, 3/24).
8. CARET/AHS Meeting De-Brief – Ernie (refer to the 3 in 1 pdf BAC handout from CARET/AHS)

- a. This handout reflects the priorities of the system as discussed at the BAC at CARET/AHS.
 - b. Regarding page 1, footnote: *APLU also supports increased funding for the following...* There was much of conversation around what this footnote means and what we going to do with this. Doug and others will take a look at the text and consider how it might be better addressed in the future. Some sentiment to remove it entirely and develop some alternative mechanisms.
 - c. The goal of the handout was not to be confusing, but to provide good background information on our system, help us focus in on themes, and help us be ready to mobilize quickly when needed and position ourselves better when the time comes for action and advocacy.
 - d. Pages 3-4 show the “Blessed States” Capacity and AFRI funding as a way to better facilitate advocacy discussions with their staffers in Congress. Over the course of two years, total state allocations relative to the core lines (Unified Ask) are presented as a percent of the total of USDA funds.
 - e. Page 5, Item D under “Category Ideas” discussion:
 - i. Infrastructure was chosen as a potential system focus and particularly reinforced by ESCOP, since we already have previous data from the Sightlines survey and this was a PBD priority. Infrastructure authorization is already in the Farm Bill, as well.
 - ii. On our last BLC call, we discussed about taking a different approach to advocacy and what that might look like. The Category Ideas A-D are all brainstorming results for an advocacy focus as generated by Cornerstone for BAC discussions. We could use some or a combination of these, while thinking about how we might approach things differently and be more successful.
 - f. We need to extrapolate what an infrastructure cost figure might look like now, since some institutions (about 10%) were not included in the Sightlines study. In addition, costs have changed significantly due to inflation and changes in supply/demand. Perhaps we should obtain numbers from 2-3 institutions that have opened facilities just this year with budgets from a few years ago, and add 10-15%?
 - g. FYI from Jeff to the group: The research ED call this week will talk about infrastructure and what advocacy for that might look like. More to come.
 - h. Infrastructure Letter – Ernie. This letter would be sent on ESCOP letterhead. The DRAFT letter was discussed on the last CAC call. Based upon call discussion, a number of individuals have been editing the document for future transmission and use.
9. Other business, as needed
- a. Since agriculture is considered an essential industry, but often not included with state public health mandates, does anyone have example letters to give to researchers who need to be out and traveling? How are others dealing with this?
 - b. Ohio example: They have an ag exemption from the governor, but OSU leadership has indicated only critical work allowed, so they are proceeding very cautiously before allowing work to begin again.
 - c. Glenda will share their exemption letter with the BLC when it’s finished. We can’t let pests and diseases adversely affect crops, so we need to consider a good balance to still get some things done (done 3/24).
 - d. Issues similar to Ohio exist at Purdue. They are currently defining critical research as that which is critical to human and animal health. The Governor has left University with some flexibility still, so far.

- e. It was suggested that perhaps ESCOP could share examples of directives, letters, etc. Jeff mentioned available NCRA COVID-19 examples and information sharing on www.ncra-saes.org (see the red button under the slide show).
- f. Hunt Shipman sent a federal Critical Infrastructure example letter out to the EDs to share, as needed. Keep in mind that local governments are in control right now, but they are generally following this guidance. Chris forwarded the letter on to the BLC right after the call.

Call adjourned at 4:52 pm ET.