

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

Call MINUTES for: 5/26/2020 (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:

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| <p>Chair: Ernie Minton (NCRA)</p> <p>Past Chair: Bill Brown (SAAESD)</p> <p>Gary Thompson (Active Past Chair, NERA)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <p>Alton Thompson (ARD)</p> <p>Dyremple Marsh (ARD)</p> <p>Gary Pierzynski (NCRA)</p> <p>Shawn Donkin (NCRA)</p> <p>Sabine O'Hara (NERA)</p> <p>Jon Wraith (NERA)</p> <p>Steve Lommel (SAAESD)</p> <p>Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD)</p> <p>Glenda Humiston (WAAESD, Incoming Chair)</p> <p>Chris Pritsos (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair</p> <p>Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED)</p> <p>Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder)</p> | <p>Liaisons:</p> <p>Jon Boren (ECOP)</p> <p>Katie Frazier (CARET)</p> <p>Doug Steele (APLU)</p> <p>Eddie Gouge (APLU)</p> <p>Caron Gala (APLU)</p> <p>Jim Richards (CGA)</p> <p>Hunt Shipman (CGA)</p> <p>Maggie Earle (CGA)</p> <p>Vernie Huber (CGA)</p> <p>Paula Geiger (NIFA)</p> <p>Mitch Adams (NIFA)</p> <p>Glen Hoffsis (BVM)</p> <p>Laura Jolly (BHS)</p> |
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Participants: Ernie Minton, Caron Gala, Jon Wraith, Jon Boren, Glenda Humiston, Shawn Donkin, Gary Pierzynski, Saied Mostaghimi, Steve Lommel, Laura Jolly, Hunt Shipman, Paula Geiger, Mitch Adams, Maggie Earle, Doug Steele, Member with phone # 804-314-6818, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Call Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Done, please see participants above.
2. Introduction of new BHS Liaison, Laura Jolly
 - a. Ernie welcomed Laura to the committee.
 - b. Laura serves as the dean and dean's chair in the College of Human Sciences at IA State University. Prior to that, she was at the University of Georgia and has many years of experience at LGUs.
3. Approval of 4/28 meeting minutes (http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/BLC_MIN_-20200428.pdf) – Approved as distributed.
4. Approval of today's agenda – Approved as distributed.
5. ESCOP COVID-19 Supplemental Proposals and Budgets – Ernie, Cornerstone, Jeff
 - a. \$300M Research Proposal for Supplemental 4 (HEROES Act) and NC-FAR panel
 - i. Our \$300 Proposal didn't make it out of the House version of the \$3T bill.

- ii. The Research and Outreach Committee of NC-FAR set up a webinar for the NC-FAR board today. All of the USDA REE leadership were on the call and were able to listen to Ernie's summary of our \$300M proposal via the impacts of COVID-19 on many aspects to our research programs.
 - iii. The webinar participants were told that the House committee chairs were asked to submit their priorities and then they were told what was in the bill. There was no mark-up process, so this was a leadership-only developed vehicle.
 - iv. Senate did not have time to join the NC-FAR webinar today due to COVID-19 and appropriations. However, they may be able to join smaller engagements with individual university reps and Caron can help you and your governmental affairs officers set these up.
 - v. A Call to Action from Cornerstone went out a few weeks ago encouraging membership to make sure our Senate reps know how important the bill would be to universities, along with sharing available supporting materials. Conversations should still occur with the House, as well, but the focus should mainly be on the Senate and its key ag offices right now. Think about how to engage with them, use the talking points from landgrant.org and let your university CGA offices know you plan to engage with staffers. They will likely want to insert their own information specific to the institution.
 - vi. Be aware that the research request for APLU at large includes many federal agencies, along with our \$300M NIFA request.
- b. Infrastructure Proposal
 - i. Proposal was put together several weeks ago and is on hold until there's an appropriate time to submit it with a recovery supplemental, possibly in August.
 - ii. Doug Steele and Eric Young are working with Gordian (previously Sightlines) to update the survey data with five additional institutions, as well as job data. Deadline is end of June, early July, which will give us time to develop state specific stories and "shovel-ready" projects to share as supporting materials.
- c. FFY21 Budget
 - i. FY21 process in the House continues to be postponed, but should start in mid-June. More to be determined on this schedule.
 - ii. Senate should start after the House, likely after 4th of July. Also to be determined.
 - iii. Cornerstone will send out another Call to Action once the FY21 process starts back up. Keep an eye out for this.
- 6. Call to Action Requests – Cornerstone
 - a. Cornerstone noted that the open rate for their emails is very low. The most recent Call to Action had only a 29% open rate. In addition, some emails were not received, so a new vendor is being solicited by Cornerstone to assist in email distributions. Please encourage your colleagues to open and act on these important Calls to Action. They are critical and time sensitive. All reports and Calls to Action are all posted on the land-grant.org site. These emails are going out to BAA, BHS, and CGA groups.
 - b. These Calls are sent out at critical and time sensitive, so don't delay on these, please.
 - c. Calls are sent to Blessed States with members in the ag committees and also to generate mass numbers for action. We want to be sure Congress is hearing from their states' universities about what's important to them.
- 7. Future Advocacy on Capacity Funds – Jeff

- a. What's next after COVID-19 for annual budgets? It's traditionally been Capacity and competitive, with this year also including the 1994s.
- b. What are the BLC thoughts on focusing more strongly on Capacity funds for a year or two? Group discussion on this topic:
 - i. Might be good to look back on effectiveness on the One Ask to see if it's made a difference. Cornerstone indicated that response has been mixed this year, since universities proceeded differently, depending upon whether they had 1994s or not in their states. Otherwise, we've seen pretty good success for the years we've done the One Ask. Feedback suggests it's easier to see what we are asking for. Data is available on land-grant.org to support the success and it has been presented at an earlier ESCOP BLC call
 - ii. Focusing on Capacity is timely because of how well it allowed us to respond nimbly and continue our research and Extension work through the COVID-19 pandemic. We could use this quick response as a showcase example in our advocacy to allow us to go bold and big, perhaps for a 15 to 30% increase.
 - iii. Pushing too hard for AFRI might also hurt Capacity. Many others are already pushing for AFRI quite a bit, more support for Capacity could be useful, especially as states cut Experiment Station Funds due to COVID-19 impacts.
 - iv. AFRI will likely be fine, even if we focus on Capacity for a while.
 - v. Pushing for 70% Capacity, 30% AFRI was suggested.
 - vi. We all use Capacity in such diverse ways, so it might be hard to advocate for it. AFRI is used the same by everyone. How can we make the case for Capacity with all the differences? Let's focus on outputs, not where the funds went specifically.
 - vii. What about state matches if Capacity is increased? We will need to work on language to allow a generous application of the waiver. Start looking now at state language and see what we can do.
8. APLU update – Doug Steele
 - a. Please send feedback on last week's BAA webinar. It was not recorded, but the slides will be made available.
 - b. APLU has signed a contract with a new firm and gearing up to work on our new strategic communications plan.
9. NIFA update – Paula Geiger with Mitch Adams (NIFA Stakeholder and Congressional Affairs Officer)
 - a. **OGFM completed their release of 2019 awards and is nearly finished with 1st through 3rd quarter capacity funds for 2020.**
 - b. NIFA continues to release RFAs, see their website for these (<https://nifa.usda.gov/apply-grant>).
 - c. Updating organizational chart as staffing changes, see <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifaorgchart>. Latest hire was Drendle Williams in the Economic Opportunity office who came from NRCS.
 - d. NIFA continues to announce new job openings at <https://nifa.usda.gov/career-opportunities>.
 - e. The fate of the NIFA Director position is still unknown, since it's a presidential appointee position and we're not sure what that process will look like yet. There might be an Acting Director put in place, but nothing's been fully decided. Scott Angle will be in role until July.
10. ECOP report – Jon Boren

- a. The ECOP BLC meeting will happen in the next few weeks, with the main topic being opportunities, challenges, and suggestions for the next Farm Bill.
 - b. Jon indicated that he appreciated the conversation on supporting Capacity, since Capacity is critical for Extension.
- 11. BHS report – Laura Jolly
 - a. The recent Board on Human Sciences call focused on current opportunities with COVID-19 to translate research to practice, the importance of nutritional health, food safety, families, etc.
- 12. Update on BLC face-to face meeting at Fall ESS in Baltimore – Jeff
 - a. If there is an in-person ESS meeting in Baltimore this fall, we have our BLC face-to-face meeting that Thursday morning, 10/1.
 - b. The BLC Chair will rotate from Ernie to Glenda at that meeting.
 - c. The additional time in the face-to-face will allow BLC re-focus our discussions for future calls and allow for more topics to be discussed than can fit in a one hour call. We'll work on developing a program as the time approaches.
- 13. Other business, as needed
 - a. Next call is scheduled for June 23, unsure yet about a July call, given the Joint COPs meeting. Stay tuned for more information.

Call adjourned at 5 pm ET.