

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

Call MINUTES for: 8/25/2020 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly)

**Committee Members:**

<p><b>Chair:</b> Ernie Minton (NCRA) <b>Past Chair:</b> Bill Brown (SAAESD)</p> <p><b>Delegates:</b> Alton Thompson (ARD) Dyremple Marsh (ARD) Gary Pierzynski (NCRA) Shawn Donkin (NCRA) Puneet Srivistava (NERA) Anton Bekkerman (NERA) Steve Lommel (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Glenda Humiston (WAAESD, Incoming Chair) Chris Pritsos (WAAESD)</p> <p><b>Executive Vice-Chair</b> Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED) Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons:</b> Jon Boren (ECOP) Katie Frazier (CARET) Doug Steele (APLU) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Caron Gala (APLU) Jim Richards (CGA) Hunt Shipman (CGA) Maggie Earle (CGA) Vernie Huber (CGA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Bill Hoffman (NIFA) Glen Hoffsis (BVM) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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**Participants:** Saied Mostaghimi, Laura Jolly, Hunt Shipman, Maggie Earle, Paula Geiger, Steve Lommel, Anton Bekkerman, Ernie Minton, Rick Rhodes, Puneet Srivistava, Bill Hoffman, Doug Steele, Gary Pierzynski, Jon Boren, Shawn Donkin, Alton Thompson, Glenda Humiston, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

**Call Agenda/Notes:**

1. Welcome and roll call – Ernie and Chris. Done, see participants list above.
2. Welcome new members from NERA – Ernie.
  - a. Ernie welcomed Anton and Puneet as our newBLC members from NERA.
3. Approval of 6/23 meeting minutes ([http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/BLC\\_MIN\\_-20200623.pdf](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/BLC_MIN_-20200623.pdf)) – Ernie.
  - a. Approved as distributed.
4. Approval of today's agenda – Ernie.
  - a. Addition of the missing Cornerstone Report item to today's agenda, then approved as distributed.
5. *Refreshed* Infrastructure Report – Jeff
  - a. Jeff gave background information on the refresh of the previous 2015-2016 LGU ag facilities infrastructure study. Five institutions were added in the refresh for a total of almost 100 included across 1862, 1890, 1994 and non land-grant institutions.

- b. Calculations indicated that \$11.5B might be the final amount needed in five years to improve LGU ag facilities up to where they should be. This is 37% increase from where we are now.
  - c. More continuous conversations to occur, as well as the roll-out of the final report in early September. There will opportunities to come for stations to engage in this effort, so stay tuned.
- 6. APLU update – Doug Steele
  - a. Getting ready for the public roll-out and subsequent advocacy campaign for the final ag Infrastructure Report.
  - b. The APLU annual meeting will be held virtually Nov 9-11 with breakout sessions. Some sessions that might be of special interest to BAA members are topics on: research labs and security guidelines; the role of LGUs in reaching marginalized audiences during the C19 pandemic (this will be in conjunction with the 1890s); broadband access and economic development to engage rural students/producers; and how to determine your diversity climate among your constituents. Final program (with the ESCOP meeting) will be released soon.
  - c. Ag Innovation Agenda with USDA: comments were due 8/1, there was a link in the most recent APLU update from Doug to view to our submitted comments. Doug has offered assistance and support to USDA for developing this strategic plan. Jan 1 is proposed release.
  - d. Two new groups now active: (1) Capacity-value working group, previously chaired by Rick Klemme, looking at the value of Capacity programs and what our messaging should look like going forward and describes also to other stakeholders how Capacity supports competitive funding; and (2) Strategic realignment implementation working group, which also works closely with Parag Chitnis at NIFA. Ernie Minton is the ESS representative.
  - e. Doug also received a call 10 days ago from the USDA General Counsel, inquiring about ultimate oversight for facilities that are a combination of state and federal, such as ARS on campuses, especially in regards to COVID-19 policies. We're not currently aware of any best/standard practices (BPs) on this, so this is something important to be aware of and start looking into. Please let Doug know if you're willing be on a small, informal group to discuss this issue and help establish BPs.
- 7. Cornerstone Report – Hunt.
  - a. Appropriations bills are in a holding pattern right now. House has passed all but two of its bills and the rest are in minibus packet awaiting the Senate. No scheduling of Senate mark-ups has occurred yet and the schedule is mostly unknown at this time, so a CR is likely for 10/1. Hoping for more clarity next week after DNC and RNC conventions.
  - b. Unlikely at this time that LGUs will participate in a stimulus package for facilities, but Cornerstone is prepared to be nimble and will work on legislative strategies if/when options open up.
- 8. NIFA update – Paula Geiger
  - a. Aggressively hiring at NIFA through the end of the FFY and into 2021.
  - b. NIFA budget request for 2022 going to OMB this fall.
  - c. Working on getting grants (Capacity and competitive across LGUs) out and NIFA is ahead by a couple 100 this year (telework has been very successful, Bill Hoffman stated). Plans are in place for all to be released by the end of the year.
- 9. ECOP report – Jon Boren

- a. ECOP BLC is focusing on more efficient processes/protocols for federal funding advocacy.
  - b. Using the new 4-H subcommittee to look at more effective advocacy for increasing Capacity funds.
10. BHS report – Laura Jolly
  - a. BHS met during Joint COPs and discussed broad health and well-being, research priorities, and how to better advocate in that area for families and communities.
11. Reflections from the Outgoing BLC Chair – Ernie Minton
  - a. Ernie started as the BLC chair early when Bill Brown moved to Texas Tech. The Strategic Re-alignment committee had just been formed around that time, which Ernie took over. The implementation working group of the re-alignment effort emphasizes the need to reduce lines and the continued importance of this effort. Also, our Infrastructure/facilities efforts continue to be important to LGUs and for local economic development, so we'll plan on keeping these efforts active.
  - b. Glenda thanked Ernie for all his efforts on the BLC and its related committee service. In addition, she emphasized the need to continue to work closely with our university government affairs people, as Caron Gala at APLU has been leading.
  - c. Rick R. also thanked the BLC leadership for its work and suggested a future opportunity for BLC might include using the CMC roadmap being developed.
  - d. Scheduling the September BLC Call – Ernie, Glenda, Jeff. **Action: Chris Hamilton will work on scheduling a 2-hour BLC discussion call, likely in early October, right after the Fall ESS meeting. The September 22 BLC call will be canceled.**
12. Thoughts on Possible Future BLC Topics – Ernie, Glenda, Jeff
  - a. Initial Ideas: Infrastructure, Capacity Funds Advocacy, BAC/CLP issues, \$380M supplemental (if still around), next annual budget, Moon Shot ideas for research, 2020 Election, Finance Committee, Government Affairs engagement, etc.
  - b. **Action: Please send additional topics for future BLC calls to Jeff and Glenda.**
  - c. BLC calls will remain at 4 pm ET on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly, as confirmed by Glenda and the committee members on the call.
13. Other business, as needed

Call adjourned at 4:59 pm ET