



ESCOP Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 12:30 to 3:45 pm –

Eastern Time

Meeting via Zoom

Agenda

Item	Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
1.0	12:30	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Approve 3/2/20 Minutes • Approve Agenda • Interim Actions • ESCOP Report-PBD Nominees 	Moses Kairo, ESCOP Chair
2.0	12:40	NIFA Report	Parag Chitnis, NIFA Interim Director
3.0	12:55	NIFA's Research Working Group on Reporting	Michael Litwack, NIFA PAR, Bret Hess
4.0	1:10	APLU Update on Legislative Requests and Advocacy on COVID-19 Related Issues/Initiatives	Doug Steele, APLU
6.0	1:30	Cornerstone Report	Jim Richards, Hunt Shipman, Vernie Hubert, Maggie Earle
7.0	1:45	BLC Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee Report 	Ernie Minton, Jeff Jacobsen
8.0	2:05	CMC Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Impact Database report 	Ryan McConaghy, Forbes Tate Partners, Steve Loring, Rick Rhodes
9.0	2:25	NRSP Review Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewals & Mid-term Reviews • Guidelines Revisions 	Doug Buhler, Jeff Jacobsen
	2:45	Break	
10.0	3:05	CARET Liaison Report	Katie Frazier, Farm Credit of the Virginias
11.0	3:10	Questions & Discussion on Written-only ESCOP Committee Reports - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PBD Report 2. STC Report 3. DCC Report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gary Thompson 2. Jody Jellison, Bret Hess 3. Ali Fares, Rick Rhodes
12.0	3:30	ESS/ARD/AES Workshop, Baltimore	Moses Kairo, Alton Thompson
	3:40	Closing Comments	Moses Kairo
	3:45	Adjourn	

Agenda Item 3.0: NIFA Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Research Working Group

Presenter: Bret Hess

Action Requested: For Information

Association of 1890 Research Directors –

- Dr. Ami Smith, Associate Vice President & Director Of Gus R. Douglass Land-Grant Institute, West Virginia State University, 304-204-4305, smitham@wvstateu.edu
- Ms. Tracie J. Bishop, Program Manager and REEport Site Administrator, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 410-651-6383, tjbishop@umes.edu

North Central Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors –

- Dr. Casey Hillmer, Assistant Director for the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 608-262-2397, casey.hillmer@wisc.edu
- Ms. Lynn Laws, Experiment Station Research Programs Coordinator, Iowa State University, 515-294-4544, lynnlaws@iastate.edu

Northeast Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors –

- Ms. Rubie Mize, Research Coordinator, Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, 301-405-4049, rgmize@umd.edu
- Dr. John Dieffenbacher-Krall, Assistant Director, Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, 207-581-3211, john.dieffenbacherkrall@maine.edu

Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors –

- Dr. Susan Duncan, Associate Director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Tech, 540-231-3724, duncans@vt.edu
- Ms. Cynthia Nichols, Budget Director for AgResearch, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, 865-974-7122, cnichols@utk.edu,

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors –

- Ms. Ellen Yeates, Program Coordinator for REEport and NIMSS, Washington State University, 509-335-9811, eyeates@wsu.edu
- Dr. John Talbott, Associate Director Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and Director, Sun Grant Western Regional Center, 541-737-2194, John.Talbott@oregonstate.edu

Other Members -

- Ms. Chris Hamilton, NCRA Assistant Director and NIMSS System Administrator, 484-716-7645, christina.hamilton@wisc.edu
- Mr. David Leibovitz, Coordinator, NERA, University of Rhode Island, 401-874-4801, david_leibovitz@uri.edu
- Dr. Bret Hess, Executive Director, WAAESD, University of Nevada, 307-760-3319, brethess@colostate.edu

Agenda Item 7.0 ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC)
Presenters: Ernie Minton and Jeff Jacobsen
Action: For Information

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) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Caron Gala (APLU) Jim Richards (CGA) Hunt Shipman (CGA) Maggie Earle (CGA) Vernie Huber (CGA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Mitch Adams (NIFA) Glen Hoffsis (BVM) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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<http://escop.info/committee/blc/>

BLC Committee

The BLC Committee meets monthly on Zoom with good attendance (mid- to upper teens) with topics of interest such as the annual budget, COVID-19 bills and processes, development of numerous advocacy communications, and has begun futuring discussions for a potential focus on capacity funds and the 2023 Farm Bill, since the 2020 CARET/AHS meeting. Liaisons have been active and participatory. Paula Geiger has rejoined and connected Mitch Adams (new NIFA Congressional Relations). Laura Jolly, dean at Iowa State University, is the new liaison from the Board on Human Sciences (BHS).

Specific in-depth thrusts have occurred with the FFY2021 budget, deferred maintenance, and supplemental funding requests. All have involved communications pieces targeting advocacy for these efforts. Discussion highlights can be found in our ESCOP BLC minutes, along with summaries below. The ESCOP BLC, ESCOP and APLU leadership, the appropriate BAA PBD standing committees, and research EDs have engaged in these processes.

FFY2021: Since the 2020 CARET/AHS meeting, there have been numerous on-going efforts to acknowledge and make the case for the Unified Ask of an 8% increase across seven priorities in capacity (5), AFRI (1) and Tribal program (3) accounts. In addition, a narrative footnote on the One Ask information sheet from APLU acknowledges numerous other NIFA programs below these seven priorities. The value and priority of this footnote has been a subject of numerous discussions. Numerous email Call to Action alerts have

been activated and the LGU community has been somewhat responsive. Cornerstone recently employed a new platform with the goal of improving engagement with these Calls and increase contacts (as appropriate) with Congressional offices. Given the pandemic, this has been an ongoing effort, but with an on- and off-again activity level.

Deferred Maintenance: The 2015 Sightlines Study on deferred maintenance at LGU and non-LGU universities and colleges has been reactivated, given the potential for a future infrastructure bill. Rather than wait until an opportunity appeared, the ESCOP BLC requested to ESCOP to make this a systemwide priority. Quickly, the BAC and the PBD approved this research-initiated request. This request was set at \$8.4B for the Research Facilities Act (authorized in Section 7503 of the 2018 Farm Bill), with an additional request to have the Secretary granted broad waiver authority on implementation. Sightlines, now Gordian, was contacted and presented with numerous scenarios to 'refresh' the original study and potential economic impact metrics. After a national ESS vote, an option to do the 'refresh', add five institutions (all added as of this Agenda Brief) that did not participate in the original study and provide selected economic impact indicators was approved and implemented. Various advocacy pieces have been developed and more will likely be developed as the Sightlines 'refresh' is completed. Deadline for the Sightlines 'refresh' is mid-July to be ready for efforts on an infrastructure package shortly thereafter.

Supplemental Funding Bills: The higher education community has created numerous requests to provide supplemental federal funding to research impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ultimately, a specific NIFA-targeted research request was crafted for \$300M. Early on, the regional associations surveyed their directors to determine the pandemic impacts on ramping down, ramping up, COVID-19 research, employees (all categories) and facilities in order to document and coarsely allocate the \$300M across capacity and competitive research accounts. The original account distribution is provided at the end of this Agenda Brief for reference. As a notable action, the directors recognized the disproportionate impact on 1890 and Tribal LGUs and colleges and provided additional allocations above the standard proportionate share allocation. In addition, a background communication piece on these specific impacts to 1890 and 1994 institutions was prepared. Numerous advocacy communications were developed and continue to be developed.

As an allied note, Ernie Minton participated in a panel discussion on the \$300M requested allocation at the NC-FAR Board meeting. In addition, Ernie Minton and Doug Buhler participated in a briefing with Senate Ag staff on this \$300M research and \$80M Extension requests for supplemental funding.

The BLC Chair and Executive Vice-Chair have attended the scheduled BAC meetings and conference calls. Minutes from these discussions can be found at: <https://www.land-grant.org/>.

Finance Committee

The Finance Task Force completed its work as ESCOP approved the ESS Investment Policy and the selection of Private Client Services of TD Wealth as our investment manager. This is the same firm and individuals with which APLU contracts. A national ESS director vote strongly approved the investment of up to \$600,000 from ESS cash reserves. After verification with the APLU CFO, the end of year balance for 2019 was \$719,277 (unaudited), pending final receipt of one outstanding assessment. The Forbes-Tate expense (CMC strategist) will be in FY2020 (and less than anticipated) along with ESS-approved expenditures, including the Sightlines (Gordian) 'refresh'

study. CY2020 assessments of \$197,567 were 58% collected as of mid-May. Given this budget perspective, ESS Chair Hopper requested Doug Steele (APLU) to initiate the transfer \$600,000 of ESS cash reserves to TD Wealth in concert with our policies and with engagement of the Finance Committee.

The membership of the ESS Finance Committee is: Past ESCOP Chair, BLC Chair, Incoming ESCOP Chair and one At-large BLC member with support from the ESCOP BLC Executive Vice-Chair. Hence, the Inaugural Finance Committee is (proposed):

Past ESCOP Chair – Shirley Hymon-Parker (July 2020 - Oct 2021)

BLC Chair – Ernie Minton (July 2020 - Sept 2020); Glenda Humiston (start Oct 2020 - Sept 2022)

Incoming ESCOP Chair – vacant, TBD from the West (start Oct 2020 - Sept 2021)

At-Large – Saied Mostaghimi (start July 2020 - tbd)

Executive Vice-Chair – Jeff Jacobsen

Background & Allocations for \$300M Supplemental NIFA Funding for Research (original version)

Agricultural research at Land-grant Universities (LGUs) and other institutions throughout the U.S. are uniquely positioned to address challenges amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Eighty one percent of agricultural research directors at LGUs provided information on impacts of pandemic restrictions. Directors also reported donation of personal protective gear and equipment, hand sanitizer, reagents and consumables for diagnostic testing, RNA kits, and loaning of PCR machines, other small equipment, and laboratory space for testing.

Public investment in agricultural research is reflected in Hatch, Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis, Tribal Research, and AFRI program lines at USDA NIFA. Supplemental support is critically essential to meet the direct needs caused by a stop in U.S. research operations. Additional federal assistance will help the U.S. agricultural research enterprise overcome unexpected disruptions in the following areas.

Ramp-down and ramp-up costs to close and restart research activities

- Nearly 60% of directors reported ramp-down or closure of at least 61% or greater; only 5% of directors reported ramp-down or closures of less than 21%.
- The cost of terminating on-going experiments coupled with future restarts will be devastating. On average, directors anticipate 6 months of additional support is needed to meet research objectives.

Ramp-up costs for new research related to COVID-19

- 68% of directors reported one or more projects initiated with capacity funds.
- Several projects have been launched to identify antiviral compounds, assess effectiveness of antiviral drugs, monitor disease prevalence in communities, evaluate various modes of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, and determine impacts of the pandemic on food safety and security.

Salaries, benefits and other costs with retaining research, technical and work-study employees

- 49% of directors reported spending greater than 60% of their NIFA-supported budget on salaries of personnel considered essential for conducting critical research.
- Hiring moratoriums decreased on-boarding and future recruitment of research personnel.
- Although paid, most undergraduates, work-study students, graduates, staff, post-docs, and faculty across lab and field programs have been unable to conduct any laboratory, greenhouse, and field research.
- Prohibitions on all travel negates research in which personnel must travel to research sites.

Core facilities supporting NIFA research

- Costly shutdown of greenhouses, 'omic' labs, fabrication units, wet laboratories, and specialized BSL2 and BSL3 containment facilities.
- The 24/7 nature of any laboratory animal and livestock facility, and the redundancies needed from scarce personnel, drives up costs locally and throughout the supply chain.

The five program lines recommended for supplemental allocations support most research negatively affected. COVID-19 disproportionately affected Tribal Research and Evans-Allen programs. Therefore, we recommend allocating \$5M for Tribal Research and \$36.2M for Evans-Allen, which also raises Evans-Allen to 30% of Hatch as directed by the 2008 Farm Bill¹. NIFA estimates additional funding needs for AFRI at \$150M and Federal Administration (4%) at \$12M. We recommend allocating the remaining funds to Hatch and McIntire-Stennis based upon FFY2020 proportional share. Lastly, given the severity of COVID-19 impact on State budgets, broad waiver authority for the Secretary match and other criteria would be significant contributions.

Proposed Allocations by Program		
Program	FFY2020 Actual (\$M)	Supplemental (\$M)
Hatch	259	85.0
Evans-Allen ¹	67	36.2
McIntire-Stennis	36	11.8
Tribal Research	3.8	5
AFRI	425	150
Federal Administration	---	12
Grand Total	---	300

¹Section 1445(a)(2) NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3222(a)(2)), as amended by Section 7122 of the 2008 Farm Bill with Evans-Allen shall not be less than 30% of Hatch Act appropriations.

Agenda Item 8.0: Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)

Date: July 21, 2020

Presenter: Mark Rieger (Chair)

1. **Committee Membership** (as of July 21, 2020): see [ESCOP Communications and Marketing \(CMC\)](#)
2. **Meetings:**
 - The CMC met face-to-face on November 10, 2019 in San Diego, CA.
 - The CMC met by teleconference on March 31, 2020.
 - The CMC met by teleconference on July 7, 2020.
3. **Accomplishments/Upcoming Plans:**
 - In March, Mark Rieger took over as the Chair of the CMC, Steve Loring became the Past Chair, Karla Trautman rotated in as Incoming Chair, and Mark Latimore rotated off the executive committee.
 - With the approval of the sections, a selection committee comprised of the CMC's Executive Committee, a communications expert, a representative from APS, and a representative from the APLU screened and interviewed applicants for the CMC's strategist position.
 - Forbes Tate Partners (FTP) were selected as the strategist. The FTP contract, \$97,000, will be supported by FY2019 residual CMC funds. The residual funds were a result of termination of the kglobal contract. Each of the sections, AHS, CES and ESS are contributing \$32,333.
 - FTP is now engaged to develop a roadmap to assist the CMC in building a communications strategy to support BAA advocacy goals and ensure that the BAA work is widely recognized. The FTP mission over the next six months is to construct a communications strategy that emphasizes BAA priorities and represents the full BAA community. To do that, FTP is relying heavily on member insights about BAA's priorities, strengths, challenges, and goals.
 - In addition to consulting closely with the CMC, FTP has reached out to BAA members through a variety of methods including an online survey and direct interviews. However, opportunities to share guidance are not be limited to these interactions. In order to maintain an open channel of communication, FTP has also established a dedicated, continually monitored, e-mail address for BAA members. Folks can e-mail FTP at APLU_BAA@forbes-tate.com to submit thoughts or feedback whenever convenient.
 - FTP will be reporting to the sections during the Joint COPS meeting on July 21, 2020.
4. **Action Requested:** For information only.
5. **Attachments:**
 - a. none

Agenda Item 8.0: National Impact Database (NIDB)

Date: Committee July 21, 2020

Presenter: Steve Loring and Karla Trautman (Co-Chairs)

1. **Committee Membership** (as of July 21, 2020): Steve Loring, Karla Trautman, Debby Lewis, German Bollero, Sara Delheimer, Johnnie Westbrook, Faith Peppers, Ron Brown, Rick Rhodes; Ex-officio – Scott Cummings, Bret Hess, Jeff Jacobsen
2. **Meetings:**
 - The NIDBC met via teleconference on February 11, 2020
 - The NIDBC met via teleconference on May 12, 2020.
 - The NIDBC met via teleconference on June 8, 2020.
3. **Accomplishments/Upcoming Plans:**
 - A number of changes have been made in the make-up of the committee. Eric Young is rotating off the committee and Rick Rhodes will serve as the ESCOP Executive Director. Faith Peppers will change seats on the NIDBC, moving from the Land Grant Communicators representative to the NIFA representative. The Content Writing Committee will be turned over to Frankie Gould.
 - Since January 1, 2020, there have been over 2,000 users on the NIDB website. Most of these users are new and the majority are from the US.
 - The NIDB writing team has reported that the quality of submitted impact statements has improved, a reflection of a statement review process implemented by the NIDBC and the increased need to produce tangible evidence of impact. In 2020, the NIDB writing team wrote, edited, designed and illustrated 49 stories, 15 fact sheets and created a video for use on social media. These are now posted on landgrantimpacts.org
 - Overall submission of impact statements in 2020 has been slow but typical for this time of year. Delayed submission of federal reports may be impacting the pace of impact statement submissions.
 - NIDBC has created a COVID-19 tag for impacts. As of July 9, 2020, 26 COVID impact statements have been submitted to the database. A breakdown of primary funding source is also available.
 - The NIDB has been recognized as an asset by the Forbes/Tate Partners, the firm that has been contracted to develop a roadmap for a system-wide communications and marketing strategy.
 - The NIDBC sends reminders to the system twice a year about submitting impact statements.
4. **Action Requested:** For information only.
5. **Attachments:**
 - a. none

Agenda Item 9.0 **NRSP Review Committee (RC)**
Presenters: Doug Buhler and Jeff Jacobsen
Action: For Information and Discussion

NRSP-RC Committee Members:

Chair: Doug Buhler (NCRA) Past Chair: Fred Servello (NERA)	Delegates: Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD) Mark McGuire (WAAESD) Keith Owens (SAAESD)
Executive Vice-Chair: Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED)	Don Latham (CARET, Stakeholder)
Assistant Director, Ex-officio: Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD, Recorder)	Tom Bewick (NIFA) Mike Schmitt (ECOP) Bret Hess (WAAESD ED)

Website: <http://escop.info/committee/nrsp-rc/>

The NRSP RC virtually reviewed and discussed three NRSPs as renewal projects. Each of the NRSP RC members, project AAs and the regional EDs have received copies of the formal letter with selected highlights presented below. The following NRSP RC recommendations will be presented to the 1862 directors as seconded motions in a formal vote in the fall.

- NRSP4 Facilitating Registration of Pest Management Technology for Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses – Recommends renewal with minor edits; Enhance the distinction between NRSP4 as compared to IR-4 project; Initiate collaborative discussion to transition off NRSP funds; Midterm report request for 2023 includes several action items;
- NRSP6 The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (Solanum) Germplasm – Recommends denial as submitted; Repeated requests to transition to a new funding model (over many renewal cycles) resulted in no change; Discussions on the future should continue at the appropriate levels of USDA-ARS, ESS and the University of Wisconsin – Madison (host institution); and
- NRSP9 National Animal Nutrition Program – Recommends renewal as submitted; Initiate collaborative discussion to transition off NRSP funds; Encourage the integration with Extension; Midterm report request for 2023 includes several action items.

The other major point of business discussion and review of the NRSP Guidelines and the overall goals of the NRSP Program. Currently, the *new* NRSP Guidelines are with regional associations for comprehensive review, discussion, and feedback. In addition, the NRSP RC identified the need to create distinct tracks or categories of NRSPs: Capacity or Core, and New and Emerging Competitive Innovations for future renewals or new projects. Each will have defining characteristics and processes that reflect their intent. Regional associations were to have reviewed these tracks and provided feedback. New ideas were welcomed too. These items are to be brought forward at Joint COPs for discussion and feedback to be submitted to the NRSP RC for consideration by July 15. The concept of distinct tracks has not been incorporated into this current version of the NRSP Guidelines, but the NRSP RC intent is to review all, discuss and incorporate consensus conclusions for the formal vote by 1862 directors at the ESS Annual Meeting. Shortly thereafter, any approved changes to the Guidelines will be incorporated into NIMSS.

Agenda Item 10.0 ESCOP CARET Liaison Report

Presenter: Katie Frazier

July 21, 2020

CARET Executive Committee met in Washington DC on March 1, 2020, and will meet again virtually on July 24, 2020. During the March meeting, CARET representatives received a report on appropriations, the Farm Bill, and the political scenario in DC from Cornerstone Government Affairs in advance of Hill visits.

The CARET Strategic Plan has been reviewed and good progress is being made on implementation of goals including efforts to develop and train CARET delegates, build and maintain a strong relationship with the Administrative Heads Section (AHS), and establish appropriate relationships with outside groups to strengthen CARET's advocacy.

The 2020 Joint CARET/AHS Meeting was well attended and featured a strong program including the participation of Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall and The Honorable Gregory F. Doud, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the U. S. Trade Representative. In addition, the program included a focus on working with our partner organizations including National FFA, National 4-H, and the National Young Farmers' Coalition.

During the meeting, Douglas L. Steele, Vice President for Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) encouraged CARET members to continue to use their unique voices in support of the land-grant university system, and briefed CARET on focused research and promotion efforts, internal restructuring, and government affairs efforts. APLU shares an interest in expanded CARET engagement with the Administrative Heads Section.

There has been great efforts to build CARET's partnerships with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), and there are future opportunities to build additional partnerships with more partner organizations. As the efforts continue to build "one voice for agriculture," CARET can leverage better engagement through sharing examples of what their Land Grant institutions are doing to meet needs, providing written testimony, etc.

In addition to the efforts during the 2020 Joint CARET/AHS Meeting to conduct congressional visits to advocate for funds and resources for land grant institutions, CARET representatives have been responding to the BAA Calls to Action to contact legislative offices in advance of the appropriations process in June 2020.

Agenda Item 11.1: Policy Board of Directors

Presenter: Gary Thompson

July 21, 2020

The BAA Policy Board of Directors met in Washington, DC, on March 3 and virtually via a special Zoom call on April 14. Below are some highlights of discussion and decision items from both meetings. The next PBD meeting will be on July 24 as part of the virtual 2020 Joint COPs meeting.

Policy Board of Directors - Zoom meeting

Discussed advocacy proposals recommended by the Budget and Advocacy Committee. Funding requests to be considered for COVID-19 supplemental Phase 4 (and potentially Phase 5) stimulus bills to be submitted to the appropriate Congressional committees.

Policy Board of Directors approved the following three BAC approved proposals:

1. ECOP requests \$80 million for the Cooperative Extension System to meet the direct needs of the public related to spread of and recovery from COVID-19.
2. ESCOP proposes an agriculture-focused infrastructure grant program, as authorized in Section 7503 of the 2018 Farm Bill.
3. Letter to Congressional appropriators urging them to provide the necessary resources to our agricultural research, education, and Extension system, asking for \$380 million for NIFA

Policy Board of Directors Meeting - Washington, DC

1. Communications and Marketing Committee Update – Mark Rieger
 - Currently searching for a communication strategist to develop a plan for Board of Agriculture Assembly Communication and Marketing
 - Plan will have measurable objectivities so progress can be assessed
 - Year of pivoting from kglobal, \$230k remaining from terminated contract, \$120k for strategist for 6-8 months to help develop a communications plan
 - Initial plan due November 2020 – CMC will then update the plan based on input
 - Five responses to RFP for strategist
 - Challenge to the system – communication for national brand identity or advocacy
2. NIFA Update – Scott Angle
 - Start planning to request facilities funding when ARS pauses infrastructure efforts in 2-3 years; ARS has received funds; LGUs may be able to fall into that line, with funds matched by states
 - Doug Steele – re-imaging discussion themes
 - Communicate value of LGUs Reestablished points of contact
 - Uniform reporting Release of funds
 - Contact list up to date Value of capacity funding
 - Communication with other agencies
 - NIFA has received 150 pages of input, consultant is currently analyzing the content
 - Low hanging fruit – lost entire communications team (website update and fixes)
 - Reporting needs a lot of change
 - Doug Steele – recent reports and initiatives have important goals, but no funding sources.
 - Cornerstone needs to watch the Presidents Innovation Initiative; NIFA is mentioned in that report.

- Budget – President budget \$600k; Scott is happy with the BAA supported \$460k
- Expects NIFA to be increased – ARS was cut significantly in President’s budget
- Bring new faculty to DC for liaison visits – might bring some NPLs to DC to visit with large groups
- Amrit Bart (UGA) – taking a sabbatical to assist NIFA international programs
- NIFA budget as one line – with report language to direct spending – more leeway or not? Depends on the language of the lines...limited eligibility, match, etc. – administrative complications – willing to study the implications
- Doug Steele – 2 new working groups to be established from this meeting:
 - Work Group - Strategic Realignment Implementation – probably 14 lines
 - Work Group – APLU 5-year advocacy strategy

3. APLU Updates – Doug Steele

- Policy Board of Directors meetings and decisions on budgets need to be timed to get requests out early to engage/lead other groups when they develop their requests
- Need to identify people who might serve on NIFA’s external advisory board
- Action on realignment – continue with which of three strategies: 1 line, 6-7 lines, or 12-14 lines?
 - Recommend a multiple line model – **APPROVED**
- Implementation committee will have on representative from each Section and one ED
 - needs to develop a succinct statement on why we’re consolidating lines
- Motion for PBD Chair to appoint Realignment Implementation Committee with multiple lines and “why” - **APPROVED**
- Is CARET/AHS a good time for the PBD to meet
- APLU Annual Meeting with PBD will proceed as usual
- Face-to-face meeting in Sept or Oct prior to APLU Annual meeting?
- FSLI has developed an infographic about impact of the program
- LEAD 21 – Board has set a hard cap of 80 on class size and professional evaluation results published in a peer reviewed journal
- Potential new advocacy strategy for FY2022
 - Discussions at Joint COPs – July 2020
 - Framework for multi-year advocacy strategy
 - Identify new opportunities (Ag Innovation, Science Blueprint, Climate)
- Long-term Strategic Advocacy – working with Caron Gala on developing this plan
- External LGU NIFA Advisory Committee – nominees from each section (section chair?)
- Assessments
 - BAA will have three new positions using existing funds
 - CMC would like to have an embedding position at APLU instead of using a contractor, this could reduce assessment by ½
 - Assessments are based on funding received during the federal fiscal year
 - Incorporates a rolling 3-year average, 60% capacity plus 40% AFRI
 - No assessment increases for FY2020 because formula is under review and will be presented to PBD for discussion
 - Cap maximum amount of assessment at some level and don’t penalize for one good AFRI grant

4. Committee and Section Reports

Agenda Item 12.2: Science and Technology Committee (STC)

Presenters: Jody Jellison and Bret Hess

Action Requested: For Information

Committee Members:

Chair: Jody Jellison (NERA) Past Chair: Laura Lavine (WAAESD) Delegates: Alton Thompson (ARD) John Yang (ARD) Joe Colletti (NCRA) Bill Barker (NCRA) Indrajeet Chaubey (NERA) Mark Hutton (NERA) Susan Duncan (SAAESD) Nathan McKinney (SAAESD) Gene Kelly (WAAESD) Chris Davies (WAAESD) Executive Vice Chair: Bret Hess (WAAESD ED) Saige Zespy (WAAESD Recorder)	Liaisons: Wendy Powers (ECOP) Danesha Carley (NIPMCC; Pest Mgmt Subc) Tim Killian (SSSC; Social Sci Subc) Tim Conner (NIFA) Robert Matteri (USDA ARS)
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ESCOP Web: <http://escop.info/committee/scitech/>

<http://escop.info/committee/national-integrated-pest-management-coordinating-committee-nipmcc/>

<http://escop.info/committee/social-sciences-subcommittee-sssc/>

S&T Committee (STC)

Regular STC business encompasses reviews, reactions, and feedback to relevant national-level reports and findings. The STC effort to determine how well the State Agricultural Experiment Station's portfolio of multistate research aligns with the five main themes outlined in the report of the National Academy of Sciences Science titled "Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research" was placed on hold to gather much needed information to support ESCOP's \$300M request to supplement NIFA's budget as part of a COVID relief package. In addition to compiling results from a system-wide survey regarding responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, STC was tasked to "identify any messaging on current research projects that are addressing infectious diseases, viruses, AMR, zoological diseases or any related topics that address the nexus of people, food and the environment." An initial scan of NIMSS and REEport revealed several capacity-supported projects on infectious disease, viruses, AMR and zoological diseases that could be candidates

for developing messages. An additional scan is necessary to include projects involving plants/crops. A list of 217 projects addressing the nexus of people, food and the environment popped up in the initial search. It is hoped this might be useful for the working group assigned to develop a strategy for increasing capacity funds.

Guest speakers presented during each of the last two STC meetings. Paul Wester and Cyndy Parr with National Agricultural Libraries encouraged STC to help with coordination among experiment stations and libraries to standardize and integrate data (full presentation available at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/z15lbszyw8jwnu0/AABgWncNJ-lqFn2AyP78m6kZa/National%20Ag%20Library%3A%20Wester%20and%20Parr%20%20with%20Q%26A.mp4?dl=0>). Dr. John Dyer, USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda (Research Leader with the Agricultural Research Service and a member of the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program) explained the innovation agenda and the input gathering process. The committee is looking forward to engaging in the process of developing the Agriculture Innovation Agenda after the input stage.

An important role of the STC is to review regional submissions and recommend to ESCOP a winner of the annual Excellence in Multistate Award. The STC was pleased to review a number of excellent and inspiring submissions. The ESCOP Executive Committee approved the STC recommendation to announce W4001: Social, Economic and Environmental Causes and Consequences of Demographic Change in Rural America as the winner of the 2020 Experiment Station Section Excellence in Multistate Award.

An initial goal of the STC was to develop a communication piece to help support ESCOP's efforts. The two attached one-page "leave-behinds" were developed to help describe what the collective body of State Agricultural Experiment Stations do. Many thanks to Rick Rhodes, Faith Peppers, and Sara Delheimer for helping develop the one-pagers.

National Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC)

The NIPMCC Executive Committee has held two Zoom meetings since their in-person meeting in at APLU Washington, DC October 22-23, 2019. Subcommittees have been formed to draft white papers on three banner topics. These would be documents that can be shared with ESCOP/ECOP and APLU, as well as legislators, policy makers, etc. The goal would be to provide information that would help with advocacy efforts. Planning for October 2020 meeting continued with the realization that the meeting will be moved to a digital platform. The initial plan is to reduce report-outs and streamline regional reports to focus on contributions to the three banner topics.

Social Sciences Subcommittee (SSSC)

Although no progress has been made by the subcommittee amid the COVID pandemic, there is still interest in holding a work session with NIFA to advance the development of products describing the importance of social and behavioral sciences in agriculture. Review of membership and discipline team status will be sent to the STC Executive Vice-Chair for formal ESCOP appointment to SSSC. Updating the SCCC Rules of Operation remains on the SCCC radar.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS

A System to Address Challenges in Food and Agriculture

Our food and agricultural systems face complex challenges as the physical environment and human societies change. Public investment in research and development is key to increasing agricultural productivity, food safety and security, community resilience, environmental stewardship, and economic growth. As part of the Land-grant University system, and with the support of USDA funding, Agricultural Experiment Stations (AES) and agricultural research programs at universities and historically black and tribal colleges are uniquely positioned to improve natural resources, food and agricultural systems.

WHAT MAKES AES UNIQUE?



Institutions in all 50 states and many U.S. territories with research sites representing diverse ecosystems, communities, and food production systems



A family of land-grant universities directs research that reflects a diverse U.S. population and varied needs



Laboratories, greenhouses, computational centers, equipment, and tools focused on improving the food supply and protecting the environment



Skilled scientists, educators, students, and staff working in fundamental and applied research fields

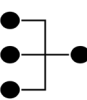


Impartial, verified science, technology, and recommendations

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



Federal and state funding allows AES to mobilize scientists to respond quickly to local issues



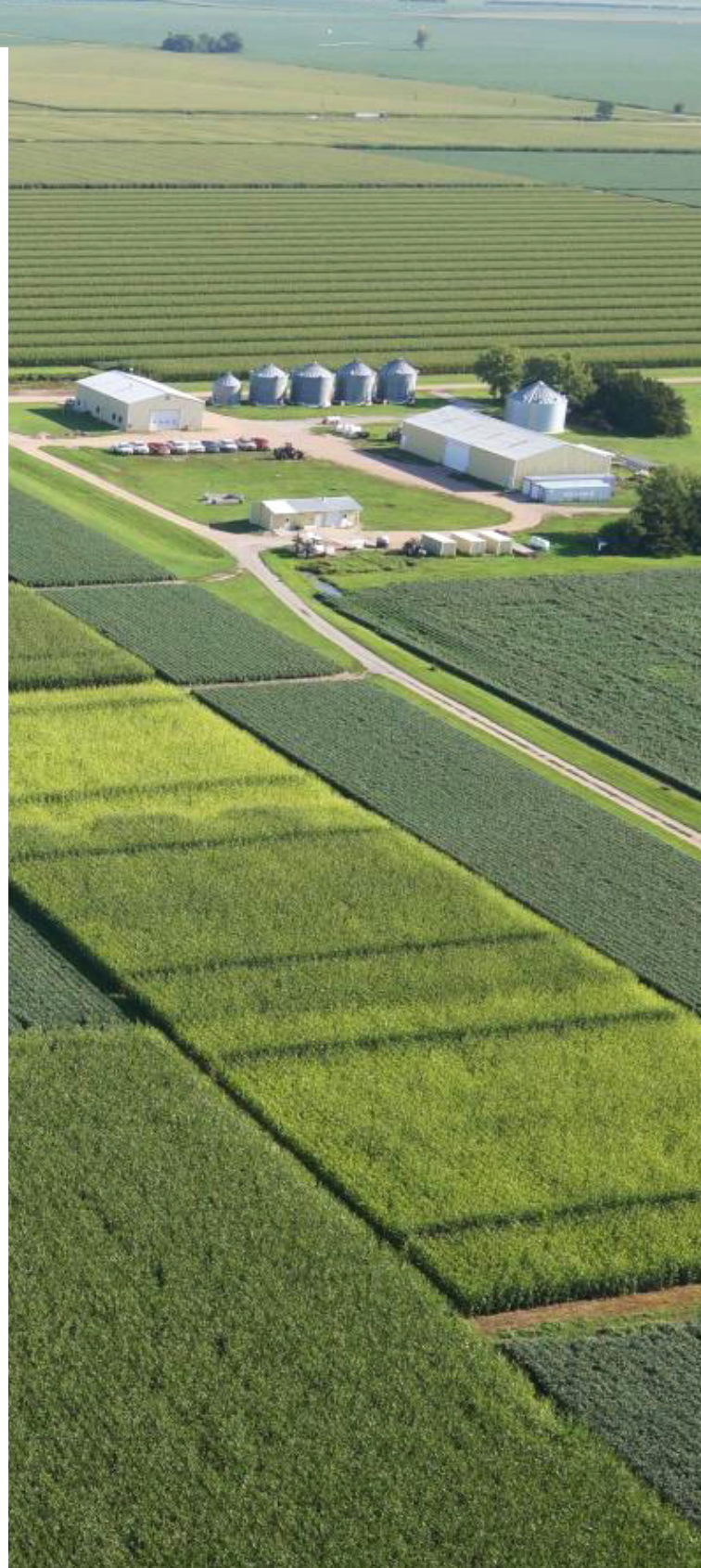
Multistate projects bring together scientists from AES across the country to tackle regional and national issues, creating state synergy, reducing duplication, and leveraging funds, facilities, and other resources



A close relationship with Extension and educators creates a feedback loop from research to application



Strong relationships with government agencies, farm and commodity groups, and the private sector transform innovations into economic development and business opportunities



South Central Agricultural Laboratory. Photo by University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Experiment Station
Committee on Organization
and Policy (ESCOP)

<http://escop.info>

HOW ARE AES ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE?

Improving sustainability, competitiveness, and profitability

Onion growers applied **75%** less insecticide and saved **\$300 per acre** using pest management programs developed by researchers.

Researchers **quadrupled** the length of the strawberry growing season, increasing production **80%**.

Research-based recommendations saved **10,500** honey bee colonies, enough to provide crop pollination worth **\$6 million each year**.

Cutting-edge research has minimized the impacts of cattle diseases, which cause **billions of dollars** in losses.

In just one generation, soybean yields have **doubled** and corn yields have **quadrupled**.

Adapting to and mitigating climate change impacts

Researchers have developed crop varieties that grow well on marginal land and bred animals that can tolerate heat.

Researchers found that changes in temperature and precipitation caused soybean yields to be **30%** lower over the last 20 years, resulting in losses of **\$11 billion**.

Supporting energy security and the bioeconomy

Growers using recommended lighting and heating sensors and strategies have reduced energy use **up to 30%**.

Researchers increased the oil content of sugarcane tissues **80-fold** and genetically modified cell walls, improving ethanol production efficiency by **more than 60%**.

Scientists developed bio-based textiles that add value to agricultural byproducts, reduce waste, and provide alternatives to synthetic, petroleum-based textiles.

Ensuring a safe, secure, and abundant food supply

Researchers designed antimicrobial sprays, high pressure processing, and other technology that ensures food safety without damaging quality.

24 peanut varieties worth **\$200 million per year** were bred from a single peanut sample collected by researchers in 1952.

Improving human health, nutrition, and wellness

Pioneering research on bioactive compounds is guiding diet-based interventions, new food products, and accurate food labels, helping people make healthy choices, stave off illness, and reduce healthcare costs.

85 colleges are using a research-based program to create healthier campuses and encourage healthy diet, exercise, and stress management choices among their students.

Heightening environmental stewardship

Information about the economic value of ecosystem services has helped land managers and policymakers weigh the costs and benefits of management options, estimate losses under certain land use and climate scenarios, and predict how mitigation strategies might reduce losses.

Researchers helped install prairie strips on **35 farms** in **9 states**, reducing soil, nitrogen, and phosphorus runoff from these farms by **up to 95%**.

80% of commercial egg producers have adopted new feeding strategies that reduce ammonia emissions.

Building personal, family, and community resilience

Research on rural areas is guiding programs and policies, increasing the likelihood they successfully meet needs.

Nationwide, residents, businesses, and government agencies use research to guide disaster preparedness and recovery and to adapt to climate change impacts.

Research has shown that diversity and tolerance can lead to richer stores of social capital and economic prosperity.

WHAT DO AES NEED NOW?

With enhanced support, AES and agricultural research programs at universities and historically black and tribal colleges can continue to address challenges in food and agriculture more efficiently than any other system in the world. Filling current gaps and needs will require:



Enhanced funding to support diverse research, enable exploratory and early-career projects, and give AES the flexibility to respond to emerging local issues



Resources to improve campus infrastructure and facilities for cutting-edge research



Interdisciplinary, systems-level research



Broader focus on sustainability and wellness



Models and decision-making tools that account for interlinked variables and uncertainty



Harnessing advances in big data, genetics, nanotechnology, and other emerging fields



Strategies for communicating information and sharing technology

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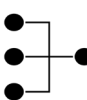


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Strategies for communicating information and sharing technology



Experiment Station
Committee on Organization
and Policy (ESCOP)

<http://escop.info>

Agenda Item 11.3: Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC)

Date: July 21, 2020

Presenter: Ali Fares (Chair)

1. **Committee Membership** (as of July 21, 2020): See [ESCOP Committee Diversity Catalyst Committee \(DCC\)](#)
2. **Meetings:**
 - The DCC hosted a training session on March 3, 2020 in Washington, DC (see below.)
 - The DCC met via teleconference on April 2, 2020.
 - The DCC met via teleconference on July 2, 2020.
3. **Accomplishments/Upcoming Plans:**
 - Henry Fadamiro will assume leadership of the DCC after the ESS/SAES/ARD Fall Meeting.
 - The DCC issued a call for nominations for the National Experiment Station Diversity and Inclusion Award. Nominations were screened by the DCC's Award Review Panel. The Award Review Panel recommended the University of Florida (IFAS) Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS) Diversity and Inclusion Committee as the winner. The recommendation was accepted by ESCOP. The team will be recognized at the virtual meeting of the ESS/ARD in September.
 - The DCC hosted a training session dedicated to resolving conflict across cultural boundaries during the annual CARET/AHS meeting on March 3, 2020. The meeting was facilitated by Nehrwr Abdul-Wahid, a certified trainer for the [Intercultural Conflict Style Inventory](#). Participants recommended that the DCC extends this training to all station directors during the ESS/ARD Fall Meeting in Baltimore. When the ESS/ARD meeting was moved to a virtual format, this training will be delayed until the section has an opportunity to meet face-to-face. Mr. Abdul-Wahid is a powerful speaker and the directors would benefit from direct interaction with him.
 - The DCC met on July 2 and discussed how current events revolving around racism and social injustice will inform the DCC agenda and what actionable steps will the DCC take.
4. **Action Requested:** For information only.
5. **Attachments:**
 - a. none

Agenda Item 12.0: ESS/ARD/AES Fall Workshop**Presenter: Moses T. Kairo****July 21, 2020**

The 2020 ESS Annual Meeting Planning Committee, chaired by Moses Kairo, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, had its first meeting February 7th and has been meeting every three weeks. ARD is the host region. The theme of this meeting is “Inclusive Excellence.” Because of travel restrictions and/or travel reluctance because of COVID-19, a survey of directors (N=73) revealed that only 19 percent indicated they would attend the ESS fall meeting, 60 percent indicated that they would not attend, and 21 percent did not know. Given these data, the Planning Committee, supported by the ESCOP Chair and Chair-Elect, is currently changing the meeting format from face-to-face to virtual. Nonetheless, our virtual meeting will be engaging and beneficial for the membership. The sessions have been determined, including the ESS Diversity & Award Program, and the speakers have been confirmed. A draft program will be posted on-line next month. There will not be a registration fee.

Finally, the hotel contract is being renegotiated with the Baltimore Waterfront Marriott to host the 2022 ESS meeting in late September or early October.