

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

Call MINUTES for: 11/24/2020, 4 pm ET (Fourth Tuesday Monthly)

Committee Members:

<p>Chair: Glenda Humiston (WAAESD) Past Chair: Ernie Minton (NCRA)</p> <p>Delegates: Alton Thompson (ARD) Dyremple Marsh (ARD) Gary Pierzynski (NCRA) Shawn Donkin (NCRA) Puneet Srivistava (NERA) Anton Bekkerman (NERA) Steve Lommel (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) John Talbott (WAAESD) 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) Vernie Huber (CGA) Maggie Earle (CGA) Bill Hoffman (NIFA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Kate Fink (NIFA) Glen Hoffsis (BVM) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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Participants: Kate Fink, Saied Mostaghimi, Jon Boren, Maggie Earle, Doug Steele, Gary Pierzynski, Laura Jolly, Glenda Humiston, Hunt Shipman, Vernie Huber, Gary Thompson, John Talbott, Steve Lommel, Caron Gala, Rick Rhodes, Alton Thompson, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Call Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Glenda and Chris. Done, see Participants list above.
2. Approval of 10/6 meeting minutes (http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BLC_AGD_-_20201006.pdf) – Glenda.
 - **Action Taken:** Motion to approve the 10/6 minutes was made by Saied and seconded by Gary P. Approved by the membership.
3. Approval of today's agenda – Glenda.
 - **Approved as distributed.**
4. BAA BAC Meeting – Glenda
[Resources https://www.aplu.org/members/commissions/food-environment-and-renewable-resources/board-on-agriculture-assembly/policy-board-of-directors/budget-and-advocacy-committee/bac-minutes/bac_presentation_november_2020.pdf]
 - a) Cornerstone Report (COVID-19 and FY2021 Appropriations, Elections) – Hunt, Vernie.

- At the BAC meeting, Cornerstone gave an election report and described scenarios that they saw at the time. The election ambiguity has been resolved since then.
- There is an appropriations agreement on the topline numbers to move forward as an omnibus bill for FY21.
- The CR expires 12/11 and is likely to be extended for the short-term as long as progress on the FY21 omnibus continues, which is also likely and President Trump appears to be willing to sign the bill.
- Cornerstone will be sending out a Call to Action early next week on the omnibus bill, please keep an eye out for it.
- Regarding the fourth COVID-19 relief bill, it's possible we'll see a few high level pieces from it (vaccine distribution, unemployment extensions, etc.) added into an omnibus. This will take some pressure off the immediate need for another relief bill.
- Question from Gary T. on the SCRI match requirement not specifically waived in the new RFP - do we need to deal with this now? Vernie: RFAs are issued on the rules in existence and the SCRI RFA followed these existing rules. Discussion with USDA and others is on-going and they are working on a clarification that makes it clear that the waiver is in place for the length of the current CR. This also applies if the CR is continued. Waiver language is also under consideration for the coming appropriations bills. Gary: More explanation to come from USDA tomorrow in "NIFA notes". Kate F.: The new CR will indeed have more clarity/plain language on the match waiver.

b) FY 2022 Budget and Advocacy Proposal [Resources

https://www.aplu.org/members/commissions/food-environment-and-renewable-resources/board-on-agriculture-assembly/policy-board-of-directors/budget-and-advocacy-committee/fy2022_draft_november_2020.pdf]

ACTION needed: Discuss and vote on this proposal or alternatives.

- Summary: Proposal provides a 5% increase (just under \$60M) for BAC priority lines (aka Unified Ask), starting FY22. Today, we are voting only on ESCOP's position on this 5% increase. Other sections are considering this now to provide feedback at the December BAC meeting. There was general BAC agreement this month that 5% increase was reasonable. We want to include 1994s in this, but had to show them in three different lines because of how their lines are organized. Not sure if they will sign on, as they may be trying to push for a high %. Presidents at the 1994s decide on their priorities and are meeting mid-Dec. BAA effort will evaluate the near future 1994 positions and potentially adjust further.
- Need to continue to pay attention to our Capacity funds messaging and keep it as strong as that for Competitive funds.
- Stakeholders appreciate the simplicity of this Unified Ask.
- **Action Taken:** Motion made to approve this 5% proposal by Saied and John seconded.
- **Action Taken:** Proposal passed as presented by BLC directors.

- a) Academic Programs Proposal [Resources
https://www.aplu.org/members/commissions/food-environment-and-renewable-resources/board-on-agriculture-assembly/policy-board-of-directors/budget-and-advocacy-committee/bac-minutes/aps_bacpresentation_november_2020.pdf]

ACTION needed: Discuss and vote on this proposal or alternatives.

- Summary: Proposal would allow APS to receive new money to reach their full \$40M authorization.
- **Action Taken:** Saied made a motion of approval for this proposal, Steve seconded it.
- Discussion: Anything we can do to support and improve our STEM classroom efforts also supports research, helps with future recruiting.
- **Action Taken:** Proposal passed as presented by BLC directors.

5. APLU Update – Doug Steele

- Doug mentioned the BAC Unified Ask (discussed above), Infrastructure advocacy efforts, and the APS proposal (also discussed above) and how they illustrate APLU's efforts to seek out opportunities of the moment and make sure to get momentum behind them.
- Infrastructure and strategic realignment implementation efforts are moving forward.
- Capacity Fund Value messaging efforts happening behind the scenes, preparing for the right time to push this effort forward.
- Also, APLU is paying attention to President Elect Biden's new appointments for next year, see Caron's link pasted below for details. Jeff thanked APLU, especially Doug Steele, for sharing this and their efforts with the transition.

6. Infrastructure Update – Caron Gala

- For reference: https://www.aplu.org/members/councils/governmental-affairs/CGA-library/aplu-policy-considerations-for-president-elect-joseph-r-biden/file?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTkRrelltVm1NR00xWkRNNClSlnQiOiJWk2JRcnF2Sm9PeHIRV Gw0ZWJFMEZkRWgxbGIZUFVoZXpPZlNLMHU0cHY2Rm8wMG1lSWZSb2xEaTRITXJHanJSG5ZWUtMQlpuSitlQWhJTnY0VTVma25xODMyChliWVwvNVwvWGvXOXRndVwvVmYzdWxjZlNlV1E5MwDkRUtwekloVyJ9
- Caron presented the BLC with slides (attached below) describing the roll-out of their Infrastructure advocacy plan, along with the key team members and Phase activities. They will be working with Forbes Tate on development of a Powerpoint slide show for directors to use for garnering more support at their state level. They are also working with Cornerstone for national support of the effort.
- We are in Phase 2 now and Caron described how the team will be bolstering key messaging components.
- Mark your calendars for a December 14 webinar. Invite to be released very soon.
- Jeff will be reaching out to the EDs on this topic, as well.

7. NIFA update – Kate

- Bill and Paula send their regrets for not being able to attend.
- Nothing new to report at this time.

8. ECOP report – Jon

- ECOP BLC is working to develop more formal process for ECOP advocacy. Three primary objectives are: 1) approve timeliness of the Ask, 2) build a bold and compelling narrative around the federal Ask, especially with Capacity funds, 3) develop and awareness campaign for agencies beyond USDA.

- Areas of focus for this year include: Support the Unified Ask, health, workforce development and recovery, youth/4-H, also working with the CLP on broadband and infrastructure opportunities.
9. BHS report – Laura
- Advocacy efforts are broadly around health and wellness initiatives, framework for health and well-being.
10. December 22 BLC Call – **Action Taken: Canceled.**
11. Other business, as needed.
- Please look at the Horizon Topics below and let’s look more deeply at some of these during future calls. Please let us know if you have others and well add to the next agenda.

Horizon Topics

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.

Call adjourned at 4:56 pm ET.



Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy (ARIA) Plan

APLU FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
APLU CFERR BAA EXPERIMENT STATION SECTION
APLU OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
APLU PUBLIC AFFAIRS
CORNERSTONE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Advocacy Phases

September 2020 - Phase I Vision

November 2020 - Phase II Advocacy Tools

December 2020 - Phase III Influencers +
Champions

January 2021 - Phase IV Public Campaign

February 2021 - Phase V Public Advocacy

Groups to keep informed

CORE TEAM - ESCOP

- BAA PBD
- ESCOP
- ESCOP BLC
- Cornerstone Team
- APLU Council of Governmental Affairs Ag Teams
- APLU FANR

Please note that we will engage ECOP and ACOP as well.

Comms & Design

- APLU Public Affairs
- Forbes Tate
- CMC – University Ag Communicators

Network of Advocates

- APLU LGU Presidents
- CARET
- APLU Vice Presidents of Research
- Farm and Commodity Organizations
- AIHEC
- NAUFRP – Forestry
- NAUFWP – Wildlife
- NIFA Coalition
- Scientific Societies

November 2020 - Phase II: Advocacy Tools

Step 1: ***Bolster key national messaging components***

- **Themes:** Modern facilities serve as the backbone of **cutting-edge research and applied science solutions**.
 - Climate innovations
 - Food and personalized nutrition
 - Bioeconomy/energy/plastic alternatives
 - Agricultural and environmental sustainability
- **Job growth:** Modern facilities bring **high-tech scientific jobs** to rural areas.
- **Innovative Facilities:** **High-tech facilities that enable work in emerging areas of science** including artificial intelligence and sensor-based observation systems at geographically relevant locations across the nation.
- **Talent recruitment:** **State-of-the-art facilities** also helps recruit the best U.S. and global talent.
- **What is the alternative?** Losing ground globally and missing domestic growth opportunities.

Step 2: Identify ***shovel ready projects*** that will advance agricultural research for the ***region or state***

Step 3: Develop a ***professional slide deck, one-pager, and leave behind*** for sharing with state, regional, or national level contacts

ESS Infrastructure Webinar on Monday, December 14th – time TBA

December 2020 - Phase III: Influencers + Champions


Step 1: National Influencers (Cornerstone, FANR, and CGA (as appropriate))

- Biden Transition Team
- Rebuild Rural
- AFBF, NFU, Chamber of Commerce
- Societies

Step 2: State and Local Stakeholder Influencers (ESS– State)

- Identify updated list of stakeholder groups at state level
 - Garner testimonials
 - Develop Op Eds
- Get Ready to Participate in Calls to Action

Prepare Draft Op Eds



The Agenda
INNOVATION

Innovation vs. the ants

When cutting-edge research labs get old, they face a new kind of challenge: Upkeep is expensive, and it's not sexy.


By JENNY HOPKINSON | 07/06/2017 05:33 AM EDT

University of Florida

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LAKE ALFRED, FLORIDA — Put expensive high-tech scientific equipment in a former citrus packing house more than 60 years old, throw in an overworked air conditioner, a corroding foundation, and the sticky Central Florida climate, and you've got problems.

The University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center is doing cutting-edge work to find cures for new biological threats to the U.S. citrus crop, but its researchers and staff housed in some of the facility's older buildings are also waging a more immediate fight against bugs, rodents and other fauna that thrive



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Infrastructure Advocacy

Webinar on December 14th – 30 mins

Will provide the community with materials that they need to re-engage stakeholders on the request.