

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

Call MINUTES for: 4/27/2021, 4 pm ET (Fourth Tuesday Monthly)

Committee Members:

<p>Chair: Glenda Humiston (WAAESD) Past Chair: Ernie Minton (NCRA)</p> <p>Delegates: Alton Thompson (ARD) Vernon Jones (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) 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: Vernon Jones, Vernie Huber, Samantha Ogura, Bret Hess, Wayne Schintgen, Ashley Riordan, Katie Fraizer, Caron Gala, Gary Pierzynski, Shawn Donkin, Saied Mostaghimi, Chris Pritsos, Glenda Humiston, Hunt Shipman, Jon Boren, Gary Thompson, Laura Jolly, Anton Bekkerman, Kate Fink, Alton Thompson, Shawn Donkin, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Call Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Done, see participants list above.
2. Approval of 3/23/2021 meeting minutes http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/BLC_MIN_-20210323.pdf) – Approved as distributed.
3. Approval of today's agenda – Approved as distributed.
4. Infrastructure Update – Alton, Caron
 - Alton thanked everyone who has been so intentionally involved with this effort, especially Cornerstone and APLU.
 - The stakeholder sign-on letter closes tomorrow, 4/28. ARIA team has reached out to a few key missing states to give them one last opportunity to sign on. The letter will be formally shared with members of the House Ag Appropriations committee later this week. About 350 signatures have been presented.
 - Alton described his conversations with House legislator Alma Adams on the ARIA effort in which she indicated to him that Ag Appropriation committee is aware of the effort

and was positive about it. Alma is championing a larger infrastructure effort for HBCUs (~\$50 billion) and was wondering how the 1890s fit into the ARIA effort. Alton indicated to her that he felt the ARIA effort would do more for the 1890s than the HBCU effort. Alton also mentioned to Alma that our effort is still in need of a champion and if she couldn't serve, perhaps she could help locate someone for us.

5. APLU Update – Doug Steele ([see written update below](#))
 - Glenda reviewed Doug's update with the group.
 - Jon Boren indicated he had a question that is described and answered by Hunt in the next item, the Cornerstone report.
6. Cornerstone Report – Hunt
 - Regarding the annual appropriations process, office deadlines are closing in the House this week. The Senate is farther behind, with no subcommittees set yet. Senate is awaiting the President's budget, which may be released at the end of May. After that, June/July is the earliest that we'd see House action, with the Senate later in July. A Continuing Resolution is likely this year.
 - Q from Jon Boren: What is the process for reviewing/providing feedback on bills with direct implications to AES/CES? The Climate Stewardship Act, for example, its specifics are contradictory to some of our ag operations. Jeff suggested that we bring comments and concerns to Doug/Caron at APLU, Marshall Stewart with CLP, Cornerstone, and of course, this committee (BLC).
7. NIFA update – Samantha Ogura and Wayne Schintgen from Paula Geiger's office, Kate Fink
 - Glenda welcomed Samantha and Wayne to the call.
 - NIFA right now is tracking all the bills and waiting to see how they turn out. They are unable to make any more specific comments on them until things are firmer and more decided.
8. ECOP report – Jon
 - ECOP, through the Extension Foundation and eXtension, is almost finished developing the web-based toolkit for the concept notes of the 8 ECOP priorities mentioned on previous BLC calls.
 - They are also working on SNAP-Ed highlights for upcoming Farm Bill and coordinating with Marshall Stewart of CLP on this effort.
9. BHS report – Laura
 - Currently in the process of identifying a replacement for Eddie Gouge, who recently retired.
 - BHS is also creating a leadership development program for Human Sciences.
 - Jo Brit Rankin is in conversations with CLP on efforts to bridge funding across sources, agencies in a multidisciplinary effort.
10. Climate Change Moon Shot Discussion – Glenda and All
 - Glenda gave a high-level review of the shared ESS Climate Change Survey Results.
 - Some questions posed to the committee: How can we frame this work so that we can do something huge, like an NIH "cure cancer" moonshot effort? How can we get the public to view the LGU system as able and the best to work on this? What framing should we do? Multidisciplinary, focused, or combo efforts?
 - Group efforts on gaps over individual state-by-state summaries were favored.
 - The missing social science aspect was identified by Anton and several others on the call. Since the human factor is critical in solving and adopting practices to mitigate climate change issues, we need to include social scientists within whatever plan we decide upon. We must also consider how social science fits into our other research priorities,

too. Social science can help tell the whole story, from researchers to producers, and how everyone in each step of the process interacts with the technology/research findings. They all have different needs and reasons, and all are critical to success. Bret mentioned in the chat that the SSSc is working on how the Social Sciences can be included in climate research and should be included as we go forward. The group specifically mentioned that social sciences must be a component of the conclusions.

- Whatever we decide to do should be a solid team effort and include a variety of partners, ARS, NRCS, non-LGUs, etc.
- Consider options for both regional and national topics in our portfolio. Each would have different funding needs and programmatic emphasis but are ultimately under the same umbrella.
- Q: We have a big infrastructure push with ARIA, but what about facilities specialization for climate research? A: ARIA advocacy materials are positioned to be all about climate, so yes, it is part of the conversation.
- Consider influence on food security. That would further draw attention to the effort.
- Environmental justice opportunities abound. We should think about this more and as we proceed with these discussions (definition: fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.)
- Q: Did EXT do a similar Climate survey? A: Jon Boren was not aware of one with EXT. He will share ours with them and there's likely some overlap within the concept notes under development. Gary T. mentioned that the S EXT group has had discussion on Climate change capacity and indicated that there's a lot going on.
- What are some tangible next steps?
 - NIFA conference grants are rapid and could be used.
 - Develop a one sentence, Moon shot aspirational goal statement - what are we going to do and when. Something to capture imagination and excitement is crucial. Something measurable. For instance, "By 2040, we will quadruple the amount of C ag sequesters from the atmosphere." We need a statement that embraces and overlaps across disciplines and institutions so we can all get on board.
 - Jeff indicated that these discussions are indeed ongoing with the EDs. STC, SSSC, BLC will all take this to ESS and organize around the table to make something happen with tangible action steps.

11. Other business, as needed – none identified.

Call adjourned at 4:59 ET

BLC Horizon Topics

Infrastructure, Moon Shot ideas for research, Capacity Funds Advocacy, BAC/CLP issues, next annual budget, Biden/Harris Administration Team Priorities, Government Affairs engagement, etc.

APLU Written Update:

Update on Food and Agriculture Alliance Priorities
Tax Credits language for carbon capturing
Funding to increase NRCS Soil Testing Labs

Carbon Bank certification/credentialing

Ag Research Working Group Recommendations: Our group recommends a suite of proposals from codifying and funding the USDA Climate Hubs, better funding of ag research specific for measurement, data and modeling, to better integration of extension and trials on the ground to prove out technologies.

Overview and Summary of Climate related legislation that we are currently tracking:

Growing Climate Solutions Act S. 1251. Senator Braun (R-Indiana): A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program to reduce barriers to entry for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in certain voluntary markets, and for other purposes.

Climate Stewardship Act. Senator Booker (D-New Jersey): Under the legislation, the Conservation Reserve, now 20.8 million acres, would remove up to 40 million acres of fragile farmland from production. Funding would triple for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and contracts for climate-smart practices “would result in more than 100 million acres engaging in new stewardship practices.” Funding for the Conservation Stewardship Program, a “working lands” program that helps farmers make soil and water conservation part of their daily operations, would expand tenfold.

America Grows Act of 2021. Senators Durbin (D-Illinois) and Moran (R-Kansas): Appropriates a 5% inflation-adjusted annual increase for the next 10 years for agricultural research in the following USDA agencies:

- Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- Economic Research Service (ERS)
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Research Facilities Act: The Secretary shall establish a program to make competitive grants to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities.

(Potential funding line for increases in ag research infrastructure.

American Jobs Act

Additionally, APLU has decided that we would not be hosting any in-person meetings, nor will we be traveling to attend in-person meetings, until at least Labor Day. We will/can participate in any meetings that provide a virtual attendance option.