

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC): <http://escop.info/committee/blc0/>

Call NOTES from HYBRID BLC Meeting During Fall ESS

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 9-11 am PT

Room: SV Conference Center

**Committee Members:**

<p><b>Chair:</b> Glenda Humiston (WAAESD) <b>Past Chair:</b> Ernie Minton (NCRA) <b>Incoming Chair (FY23):</b> Anton Bekkerman</p> <p><b>Delegates:</b> Alton Thompson (ARD) Vernon Jones (ARD) Gary Pierzynski (NCRA) Marty Draper (NCRA) Puneet Srivistava (NERA) Anton Bekkerman (NERA) Steve Lommel (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) John Talbott (WAAESD) Shawn Donkin (WAAESD) Sreekala Bajwa (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) Caron Gala (APLU) Jim Richards (CGA) Hunt Shipman (CGA) Vernie Huber (CGA) Maggie Earle (CGA) Bill Hoffman (NIFA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Glen Hoffsis (BVM) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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**Participants:** Glenda Humiston, David Monks (for Steve Lommel), Chris Pritsos, Keith Coble, Alton Thompson, Sreekala Bajwa, Parag Chitnis, Saied Mostaghimi, Hunt Shipman, Vernie Huber, Caron Gala, Anton Bekkerman, Gary Pierzynski, John Talbott, Maggie Earle, Puneet Srivistava, Vernon Jones, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder).

**Meeting Agenda/Notes:**

1. Welcome and roll call – Done, see participants list above. Included in person and virtual attendees.
2. Climate-smart Agriculture and Findings from ESS Meeting Climate Panel
  - Glenda described the panel sessions, which were excellent. We don't have feedback from those sessions yet, so we'll plan on having this discussion during our October call with identifying action items.
  - Alton said that Slido worked well for collecting feedback, as did Anton, although there were some logistic issues with breakouts. Could have used more time, but otherwise it went well.
  - We'll get the report out as soon as possible, hopefully in time for our next BLC call
3. BAA Committees and Topics

- Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) - Meeting next week, more to report after that.
  - Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) – Same for CLP. Will have topics soon after input collection is finalized. It is an iterative process and membership has until 10/15 to submit input to BLC for CLP.
  - Capacity and/or Competitive Funds
    - Hunt: Senate is taking up a CR through 12/3, expected to pass House this evening to avoid a shutdown. Negotiations are still on-going regarding budget reconciliation bill, and infrastructure.
    - Vernie: Reminder that the match waiver is included in the CR. Hoping that SCRI RFA won't cause confusion with included match requirement. We are in discussions with USDA on this right now on how best to make sure it remains clear for everyone.
    - Caron: \$3.75B for infrastructure as Research Facilities Act is in the reconciliation bill. Very important to work with your Senators on maintaining the \$3.75B, since there are threats to this amount. Reach out to Caron with questions, interests in participating with press releases, etc. Work with champions is still on-going, even though it might not be evident to all.
  - Tribal College and University (1994 LGUs)
    - Research EDs have been working with John Phillips, ED for Tribal Colleges, about future advocacy efforts. More comprehensive picture is being developed, to include full Tribal community, not just the 1994s. Many on BLC will be involved with these conversations and we'll roll out discussions to Extension and full BLC for discussion at BAC. Effort will be annual and multi-year approach. More to come on this effort.
    - Online FALCON conference coming up October 21-22, 2021. See <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/falcon-2021-conference-tickets-169638859395>.
  - Annual and/or Multiyear Efforts - We tend to focus on annual budgets, but future should include aspirational, multiyear goals. BLC will consider what this might look like for capacity and competitive funds. Will need to provide examples of what would be different with new funds. Consider 3-5 year goals, future Farm Bills, how we're working with communicators, etc. Useful for NIFA to know this in advance, as well, to incorporate into RFAs and priority areas.
4. Advocacy Efforts
- CARET/AHS:
    - Prepping for March CARET/AHS, hoping it will be in person.
    - Planning for March 6-9, 2022, includes meetings, reception. All trainings will move online in December to free up time for Sunday sessions. Tuesday session for Congressional members, then attendees will go to their Hill visits.
    - Strategic Action teams will include AHS members from research, teaching, and Extension. Reach out to Caron for ideas for additional members.
  - System and/or Institution Foci with advocacy
    - Reminder that we represent both state and system priorities when conducting advocacy efforts (think: Unified Ask) with Congressional staffers.
    - Consider also Earmark discussions from CARET reps, versus Unified Ask. This can be challenging and unsure where these discussions will go, might be something we need to be mindful of as we move forward (No official NIFA earmarks this

year, only ARS). CARET represents individual states, not system priorities. We need to be mindful to have a careful balance with these conversations.

- **Action: Further BLC discussion topic to include handling earmark discussions versus system priorities. Perhaps work through Caron to invite CGA folks to discuss this with us at a future meeting.**
- Chris P.: Let's include the full ESS group and other section in these discussions, as well.
- Overall, "United we stand, divided we fall." Focusing on state priorities, earmarks only will adversely affect our national, system efforts and we need to push a unified story.
- Council on Government Affairs (CGA) – as mentioned above, include CGA in our earmark/system priority discussions as we move forward.

5. ESCOP BLC

- Value-add Topics from Directors
  - NERA: Large population centers in this region. Local/regional food systems need to be elevated as a topic, how can we better showcase regional work and strength of local food systems and expand more broadly? NE has the expertise and could use this to focus on food security issue discussions, i.e., NE was more resilient during the pandemic due to the regional/local systems.
  - Disaster preparedness responses from states (CA, OH, etc.)
  - Perhaps we could also use EDs to work with directors in their regions on the Unified Ask with an added focus on regional issues, expertise.
- Membership Gaps
  - CGA members from some states? They are very busy, but would be appropriate for specific, strategic initiative discussions.
- Guest Invites – CGA, other. Please send ideas to Jeff, Glenda.

6. Other, as needed. None identified.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 am PT.