

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

Call NOTES for Thursday, October 26, 2021, 4 pm ET

Committee Members:

<p>Chair: Glenda Humiston (WAAESD) Past Chair: Ernie Minton (NCRA) Incoming Chair (FY23): Anton Bekkerman</p> <p>Delegates: 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) Sreekala Bajwa (WAAESD) Shawn Donkin (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) Glen Hoffsis (BVM) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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Attendees: Glenda Humiston, Alton Thompson, Vernon Jones, Paula Geiger, Anton Bekkerman, Steve Lommel, John Talbott, Sreekala Bajwa, Shawn Donkin, Jon Boren, Doug Steele, Hunt Shipman, Maggie Earle, Laura Jolly, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (Recorder)

[For reference, click here for ESCOP BLC FY23 24 Unified Ask document.](#)

Meeting Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Glenda, Chris. Done, see participants list above.
2. Describe new or enhanced programs, if Hatch funds were increased.
 - Q: What was the cause for the Hatch increase between FY21 and PBR for FY22? Climate, increased desire for investment in ag research because we're falling behind China, increased support from stakeholder groups, bipartisan support for ag research.
 - Human health, such as air quality from fires. Fires in the west affected air quality much further east. Don't be restricted by state or regional confines for ideas.
 - Water is an issue throughout the nation.
 - Supply chain can be affected by climate, especially rivers, dams, etc.
 - Pest introduction and adaptation, zone shifting.

- Plant breeding, increases in ag diversity to adapt to changes. We need Hatch for long term support and solutions.
 - Climate affects specialty crops, and the funds aren't there from commodity groups to support this.
 - Competition from other parts of the world, trade embargoes.
 - Environmental justice, food deserts - environmental and income inequality can affect supply changes.
 - Native food systems.
 - Digital agriculture. Sreekala will send Jeff more information on her ideas for directions on this topic.
 - Bring universities, industries, state government together for product development.
 - 1890s Extension focus: Low-income communities, socially disadvantaged farmers, soils, climate, health, health/climate relations, health disparities, food insecurity, 4-H and youth development.
3. How much in each year (use the FY22 Unified Ask number as base) would be needed in Hatch to have this impact?
- Q: Where does infrastructure fit into our current budget? A: Fit into an additional line (see #6 below).
 - Do we run with the \$70M and do extra work to justify and keep receiving it for the next several years?
 - Perhaps 25-50% increase would work for now; easy to justify and then increase later with our additional accomplishments.
 - Look at gap between US, China, Brazil funding. How much do we need each year to close the gap within 10 years? See: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/gallery/chart-detail/?chartId=85038>
 - Compare to other industries, then reverse engineer from there for ag funding.
 - Two or three justifications are fine for a high number.
 - Tap into economists, Anton, and Caron for coming up with real numbers to use.
 - Timing is right for a big Capacity increase ask.
4. Describe new or enhanced programs, if AFRI funds were increased.
- Workforce development, biofuels, bioenergy.
5. How much in each year (use the FY22 Unified Ask number as base) would be needed in AFRI to have this impact?
- Authorized amount (\$700M) has not been appropriated, so what do we do to get there? Maybe we should focus on getting this fully funded, rather than coming up with something new. PBR has been at \$700M recently. Use efforts then to focus on Hatch. Q: Would this have implications for Capacity lines, if AFRI was fully funded? A: It's up to the ag appropriation subcommittee to find, so we need good justification to fund us and help our supporters. It's a careful game and balance between supporting AFRI and Capacity. SoAR and others are already pushing for AFRI, so could we focus our push for Capacity and end up succeeding with both?
 - Could also extrapolate ROI from NIH, NSF numbers and use as justification for any AFRI increases.

- What does a multi-year strategy look like (5 years is probably good, 10 is too long)? Identify and justify, be more aggressive in our asks, like NIH, NSF.
6. What one other program line is important to ESS?
 - Infrastructure. (With self-imposed cap?) Adding infrastructure elevates it as an issue of critical importance for us.
 7. Other – Consider additional thoughts, concrete ideas. Go beyond just “more research,” make it exciting. Please send all to Jeff before COB Thursday, 10/28/2021.

Call adjourned 4:59 pm ET.

NIFA Appropriations in Millions of Dollars

Program	FY21 Enacted	FY22 PBR	FY22 Unified Ask	FY23 Unified Ask	FY24 Unified Ask
Hatch	259	329.38	329.38		
AFRI	435	700	700		
Smith-Lever	315	315	400.05		
Evans-Allen	73	92.837	92.837		
1890 Extension	62	62	78.74		
McIntire-Stennis	36	45.783	45.783		
1994 Extension	8.5	8.5	10		
1994 Research	4	4	6		
1994 Equity	4.5	4.5	6		

The BAA BAC (Budget and Advocacy Committee) has created a new timeline and approach for future Unified Ask advocacy efforts. The timeline for submission, review and BAA approval is early November, revisions in December, and final in January! Each Section/Group is to identify an amount above the FY22 Unified Ask for their important program line (for ESCOP BLC Hatch, green) plus one more (infrastructure? tbd) that is important to their organization. All Section/Group are to contribute to the AFRI (green) amount and justification. This is to be done for FY23 and FY24. Other Section/Group members will be discussing their own lines (non-green). All of this information will be compiled and discussed at a BAC meeting in November, hence the need for a quick turnaround.

Formal instructions from the BAA BAC will come in a number of days, yet we wish to jump start your thinking before the ESCOP BLC call on Tuesday October 26, 4-5 ET. If you can not make the call, please send in your thoughts (to Jeff jjacobsn@msu.edu or Chris christina.hamilton@wisc.edu). Ideally, if every director could come to the ESCOP BLC meeting with **climate-related** examples (e.g. plant breeding, digital agriculture, regional food systems, urban agriculture, disturbance/disruptions, water resources, workforce development, bioenergy, biofuels, soil health, food security, ESS Grand Challenges (http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Updated-Science-Roadmap-Report_FINAL20181220_optimized.pdf), other) of:

- 1) Describe new or enhanced programs, if Hatch funds were increased.

- 2) How much in each year (use the FY22 Unified Ask number as base) would be needed in Hatch to have this impact?
- 3) Describe new or enhanced programs, if AFRI funds were increased.
- 4) How much in each year (use the FY22 Unified Ask number as base) would be needed in AFRI to have this impact?
- 5) What one other program line is important to ESS?

These will be compiled into a (short) document that justifies increases in Hatch and AFRI and provides talking points for use in making the case. The above information and our ESCOP BLC discussion will help to inform and frame our positions as the research community.