

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC): <http://escop.info/committee/blc/>
Call Notes for Tuesday, November 23, 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 Srivastava (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>
--	--

Participants: Glenda Humiston, Caron Gala, Bret Hess, Gary Thompson, Alton Thompson, Rick Rhodes, Saied Mostaghimi, Laura Jolly, Paula Geiger, Doug Steele, Anton Bekkerman, Jon Boren, Shawn Donkin, Gary Pierzynski, Mart Draper, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder).

Meeting Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Done, see participants list above.
2. Approval of the 10/26 (<http://escop.info/event/blc-call-20/>) and 9/30 Hybrid Meeting Notes (<http://escop.info/event/blc-fall-ess-face-to-face-meeting/>) – Both approved together as distributed with the correction to Ray McKinnie’s name.
3. Approval of Today’s Agenda – Approved as distributed.
4. BAC Recap on FY23 and FY24 Advocacy – Glenda, Jeff
 - Jeff referenced the justification and budget numbers document distributed to the group with the agenda and now included below with these call notes.
 - The information was provided to BAC for information only with introductory remarks provided by each section/group, no decisions made at this time.
 - We don’t know what FY22 enacted will be, nor the outcome of the Reconciliation Bill, which is why none of the recommendations were approved. Much is still very much in flux.
 - Lively, vibrant discussion occurred on the justifications during the BAC call.

- Q: Was there any discussion around taking away programs and replacing them with new, more relevant/efficient ones to justify additional funds? No, not really. Good question, but one without an easy answer. It's easy to give up a line, but then adding back in can be difficult. We've been fortunate to never have been asked to help reduce programs within the NIFA budget. Perhaps this could be a start to a larger process, what can we build upon/improve on/how to operate more efficiently.
5. CLP Update – Caron, Alton, Glenda
 - We want to be very deliberate on choices between bigger picture and details when it comes to the new Farm Bill. This will need to include infrastructure and other longer budget strategies.
 - Alton: For 1890s, we discussed that we want reauthorization of our current lines, with optimization of the facilities program, centers of excellence and reauthorization of the 1890s scholarship program that also adds graduate students to the pool. Also requesting that 1890s research and Extension to both be up to 40% of 1862 Hatch and Smith-Lever levels, respectively.
 - In-person February 7-8, 2022, CLP meeting in DC being planned, much more discussion during that time. Can plan for that during the January BLC meeting.
 - Next summer, more serious Farm Bill discussions likely occurring.
 6. APLU Update – Doug Steele
 - Doug wished the group a Happy Thanksgiving and thanks for an excellent APLU annual meeting earlier this month. Peter McPherson (APLU President) announced his retirement in 2022 and the plan is to have a search team and process in place early in 2022.
 - CLP FY23/FY24 budget discussion was a good process. Excellent process to reevaluate efficiencies, priorities, etc. Will continue to watch the budget process unfold in Congress for right now.
 - Our new advocacy firm, Lewis Burke, will start in January and they are being included now in calls to help get them up to speed in advance. They provided a great proposal, unanimously ranked #1, and had a clear focus and response to our priorities, great connections and capacity for advocacy across USDA and also other federal agencies, also. Contract to be formally signed on 12/6. Looking forward to hearing their thoughts on Farm Bill advocacy. How they will interface with ESCOP committees is TBD still, probably some larger general introduction in March during CARET/AHS.
 - Planning for CARET/AHS in March 2022. Hoping for good, in-person attendance. Won't be able to offer all session as hybrid, but will try to focus on the most critical ones. The Hill is about 75% open, but Hill visits will look different than pre-pandemic with limited numbers, social distancing, etc.
 - Working on advancing Climate Resiliency program and putting a working group together by start of 2022.
 - Infrastructure: Still hopeful on this and we're working on a plan of action that will likely span multiple years going forward.
 - NAS Blue Ribbon Panel members have been announced. See: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/enhancing-coordination-between-land-grant-universities-and-colleges#sectionCommittee>
 7. Cornerstone Report – None given, not on call. Caron and Maggie will send bullet points to BLC on Monday.
 8. Liaison Reports

- a. NIFA update – Paula
 - Hired the External Communications manager position from UNH AES.
- b. ECOP report – Jon
 - ECOP has also been engaged in BAC FY23/24 budget justifications and numbers over the past few weeks. They approached theirs from an inflation standpoint.
- c. BHS report – Laura
 - Happy Thanksgiving all!
 - BHS Leadership Fellows program is starting, and they will have a call-out for mentors and participants soon.
 - Looking forward to BHS in-person meeting in DC in March.
 - BHS is evaluating their dues process, as compared to other APLU Council/Board dues models.
 - Looking at ways to be more engaged with other APLU Boards/Councils.
9. Other business, as needed
 - Hold or cancel December 28 BLC call? Action: Group consensus was to cancel the 12/28 call.
 - Glenda indicated she has a video clip she will share with the group when it's cleaned up, since it's the type of effort we need for NIFA advocacy. We'll include it in our January call discussions.
 - Please consider thanking Cornerstone for all their years of advocacy service to us.

Call adjourned at 4:51 pm ET.