

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

Call NOTES for Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 4 pm ET

**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 Srivastava (NERA) Anton Bekkerman (NERA) Steve Lommel (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Sreekala Bajwa (WAAESD) Shawn Donkin (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) Advocacy Firm Liaison, TBD Bill Hoffman (NIFA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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**Participants:** Glenda Humiston, Vernon Jones, Saied Mostaghimi, Gary Pierzynski, Steve Lommel, Alton Thompson, Bret Hess, Gary Thompson, Jenn Tippetts, Rick Rhodes, Marty Draper, Caron Gala, Shawn Donkin, Laura Jolly, Paula Geiger, Puneet Srivastava, Jon Boren, Sreekala Bajwa, Bridget Krieger, Elizabeth Stulberg, Christina Laridaen, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Welcome and roll call – Glenda, Chris. Done, see Participant list above.
2. Approval of the 11/23 call notes (see: <http://escop.info/event/blc-call-21/>) – Approved as distributed.
3. Approval of Today’s Agenda – Glenda – Approved as distributed.
4. APLU Update – Caron Gala for Doug Steele
  - New lobbying contractors from Lewis-Burke are on the call today.
  - Working to hire a new BoHS Executive Director.
  - On boarding Flannery Bethel now to support BAA BAC and CLP.
  - All APLU meetings will be virtual through July 1, including Hill visits. Virtual went well last year, so we’re hoping for the same this year. Make sure your CARET reps are aware of our issues and recommendations for the new Farm Bill.
5. Lewis-Burke Introduction – Bridget Kreiger, Elizabeth Stulberg, Christina Laridaen

- Caron introduced Bridget, Christina, and Elizabeth on the call as our new Lewis-Burke advocacy representatives. Bridget will be our team lead for ag for the next several months until a complete picture is established on needs, desires and their contract align.
  - Each representative introduced themselves and gave some background information on Lewis-Burke. See <https://lewis-burke.com/experts/bridget-krieger/>, <https://lewis-burke.com/experts/elizabeth-stulberg/>, <https://lewis-burke.com/experts/christina-laridaen/>
  - Glenda thanked them for joining and led introductions around the Zoom room with the rest of the attendees.
6. ESCOP BLC Priority Discussion – Glenda, Bridget, Alton, Jeff
- FY2022 Unified Ask:
    - FYI that PBR might not be released until March/April as agencies have not yet received their pass-backs for FY23 from OMB. This makes it hard to craft our Ask for FY22, so it's in limbo right now.
  - FY2023 Requests to BAC (Hatch, Evans-Allen, AFRI):
    - Requested a 14% increase for AFRI and with higher percentage for Tribal Colleges across their three lines as a package to build capacity.
    - We build upon the with the previous PBR of 22% increase for Hatch, Evans-Allen.
  - Infrastructure:
    - Build Back Better bill is on hold. Might end up as a smaller, BBB bill “lite”, but unsure what that means right now. All is currently on stand-by.
    - Senate Ag majority is still very supportive of ag research in the packet, so once things get moving again, we should hear back from APLU and Lewis-Burke on mobilization activities.
    - We need to keep these conversations going, regardless.
7. CLP Update – Glenda, Alton, Jeff, Caron
- CLP meeting to discuss Farm Bill priorities is in two weeks (Feb 7), when we will work more on FY23 Unified Ask across the section and finalize specifics.
  - ESS recommendations seem very solid, with possibility of hearings in the next month or so.
  - We are out ahead of the new Farm Bill discussions better than we ever have been before. More system-wide communications to come as the process proceeds.
8. Liaison Reports
- a. NIFA update – Paula
- Posting positions on USA jobs continues for NIFA.
  - Drenda Williams, Director of Civil Rights staff, will be Acting Deputy Director of Operations starting next week.
  - NIFA is working on 3-4 FY years simultaneously right now!
  - Caron: Can there be an extension on the deadline for climate adaptation feedback effort? Paula will check in with Kevin Kephart on that and let Caron know. Glenda offered to send a letter to Carrie Castille, if needed. Caron will check with Doug Steele. Gary indicated that Kevin Kephart said they will accept input through February 28. Caron also reached out to NIFA. Ultimately, the deadline was extended to February 4 cob with input to be sent to [megan.orourke@usda.gov](mailto:megan.orourke@usda.gov).
- b. ECOP report – Jon

- Finalizing Farm Bill Priorities. Meeting coming up to discuss on 2/4 in advance of CLP discussion.
    - Working on Smith-Lever and 1890s Extension Unified Ask and look forward to working with Lewis-Burke on these numbers.
  - c. BHS report – Laura
    - Meeting virtually in March.
    - New chair moved into the role in late fall; more updates are to come.
- 9. Other business, as needed
  - Glenda: Climate Smart Ag as our moonshot has been a previous discussion; we may want to re-visit with Build Back Better to refine our talking points as funding opportunities appear.
  - Puneet: Organized a University of MD/UMES (Moses Kairo)/Farm Foundation/House Ag subcommittee staff group event and round-table discussions which showcased a variety of “on the ground” UMD (and other LGU) ag research innovations, education, Extension, and outreach. Nine people came, Caron was there also. Not only did they show off newer facilities, but they also toured more run-down labs with the hope that staffers would understand the real need for investment in ag research infrastructure. Caron thanked Puneet for his leadership on this event and encouraged other BAA members to do similar, strategic events in the future.
  - Jeff thanked Lewis-Burke reps for attending and said we are looking forward to working with them going forward.

Call adjourned at 4:51 pm ET.