

ESCOP Science & Technology: <http://escop.info/committee/scitech/>

09/30/2021

9-11 am PT, Hybrid Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81859210417>; Meeting ID: 818 5921 0417; no passcode needed.

Committee Members:

<p>Incoming Chair: Bernie Engel (NCRA) Past Chair: Jody Jellison (NERA)</p> <p>Delegates: Alton Thompson (ARD) John Yang (ARD) Frank Casey (NCRA) Shibu Jose (NCRA) Indrajeet Chaubey (NERA) Mark Hutton (NERA) Susan Duncan (SAAESD) Nathan McKinney (SAAESD) Gene Kelly (WAAESD) Chris Davies (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice Chair: Bret Hess (WAAESD ED) Jennifer Tippetts (WAAESD Admin Mgmt)</p>	<p>Liaisons: Robert Matteri (ARS) Wendy Powers (ECOP) Tim Conner (NIFA) Jim Farrar (NIPMCC) Tim Killian (SSCC)</p>
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Agenda:

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Jody welcomed the group.
2. **Roll Call** –Gene Kelly, Bret Hess, Bernie Engel, Adrian Ares, Gary Thompson, Chris Davies, Nathan McKinney, John Yang, Susan Duncan, Jennifer Tippetts (recording secretary) Virtual Participants: Jody Jellison, Shibu Jose, Frank Casey, Indrajeet Chaubey, Jim Farrar, Kevin Kephart, Shibu Jose, Valerie Schattilly
3. **Approval of meeting notes from 07/12/2021 and 08/02/2021** – *Gene Kelly Moved to approve both sets of minutes; Nathan McKinney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*
4. **Crowning the new chair** – Official crowning of the new chair, Bernie Engle.
5. **NIFA Director, Carrie Castille**- Director Castille thanked the members for their involvement and work that is done with our LGU and Experiment Stations. NIFA wants to make sure to be available and provide the resources that are needed for our members. Director Castille asked for continued communication so she can continue to be our advocate. Director Castille noted that capacity is critical because it gives flexibility to address emerging issues. The capacity funds provide continuity. The Secretary is interested in the connection to the producers, and if STC is interested in working with NRCS, Carrie would connect us to Robert Bonnie to explore opportunities. There is a strong desire to have STC help define what equity in science

actually is and what it looks like. There is also interest in bio products and their use in aviation. The Secretary has a dairy background and is interested in methane emissions and food security and food safety. Data and technology are also something that resonates with Director Castille. A question was asked about alignment with NIFA Communicators and STC. One message with one voice is critically important. Perhaps STC can help bridge the gap with policy, but let's be clear that the Secretary makes policy and we need science to support policy.

6. Liaison Updates, as needed

ECOP-Wendy shared that there is great opportunity to pair with STC and ESCOP. There is an ESCOP representative on each of program action teams.

1. Diversity Equity and inclusion
2. Climate Mitigation, Resiliency, and Adaptation
3. Economic and Workforce Development
4. Healthy Equity & Well-Being
5. Urban Agriculture

NIFA- Kevin shared that he sees a great need for understanding technology development pipeline, and experiment stations are a great resource. Kevin will work with our experiment stations to help bring us to the table.

NIPMCC- Jim shared that they are preparing for upcoming committee meeting that will be held virtually. They are working on the public research extension and education, and IPM strategic plan. There is a core team of ten. They will be leveraging Marty Draper's existing work, including the SWAT map. At the annual meeting is when the chair changes, starting November Darren Mueller from Iowa State will be the new chair representative for STC.

7. Brief overview of the committee scope and objective for this meeting: Discussion of STC priorities for the coming year. Bernie asked how we are going to continue to enhance collaboration among multi-states?

1. --**Enhancing collaboration among multi-state committees to more effectively address the ESCOP roadmap grand challenges (<http://escop.info/roadmaptext/>) and work towards informing policy** – Bernie asked members to review the materials, and asked for input on how to use the material we already have. Bret recommended looking at the one-page document from STC on the Grand Challenges that are from the science road map. Regarding the gaps and needs there are three areas that were pointed out that we could consider working on: interdisciplinary systems-level research, Evidence based guidance for policy and regulation, and strategies for communicating information and sharing technology. As an example, there is some overlap addressing climate change in the grand challenge areas. View the research priorities listed under the sustainability completeness's & profitability of food & agriculture as an example could relate to climate change. As a specific example under the research priorities reduce the carbon footprint of ag, and improve the energy efficiency of ag systems. As it turns out we already had a grand challenge related to climate: Adapting to mitigating the impacts of climate change, and all of the research priorities would be relevant. A special note to guide policy and regulation and enhance global cooperation and the research priorities. The

grand challenge on environmental stewardship & sustainable practices also included reduce the carbon footprint and many other research priorities related to the topic of climate change.

- a. Susan recommended updating the national flyer to a local level, keeping the overall national levels with more current and local examples. Gene and Susan recommend because it will create consistent messaging.
- b. The goal of this meeting is to develop a work plan for the year that will support the chair. When the APLU meeting is held the chair will present our initiatives and the plan of how we are going to support. We know that the chair of ESS wants a toolkit to enhance our brand and that is on STC's list.
- c. Bio energy and food security are both current topics that STC has already begin work on. Bret recommended we should pick one topic and dive deep. Thank you to Gary Thompson because of his work with FACA experiment station are already being used. Gary recommended bringing in Caron, she will turn the conversation around and help determine a great strategy on how to bring these documents to life. They are not as readily available as they could be. Bret asks how we can align with the communications office of NIFA, and we should include the end users of the information such as Faith Peppers and her team on some level. Susan followed up with recommendations to have every state update the flyers with their information so that can be handed out to state legislators and then the information can start to circulate. Nathan has a strong desire to receive feedback from ESCOP because they commissioned the information. Who is our end user, how many times are they using it, we need feedback so we know how to move forward Gary questioned if the best format is virtual or is there a better format?
- d. In response to how this information is used, the survey results were provided to Carrie and she used them in a meeting with the Secretary the next day. NIFA is supporting and promoting experiment stations because we have been empowering key members to be educated and promote our efforts.
- e. The group agreed to include food supply chain, data, and update the success stories on the communications.
- f. Jody mentioned that the unique piece of STC is to evaluate the multi-state and how they could be more effective. Multi-states often integrate the two missions. Susan followed up with support of Jody's statement. Susan recommended consistent hash tags to help multi-states connect on strategies and project on a national level.
- g. NRSP 1 will be up for renewal next year. Can we ask the programmers how we can use #'s to enhance connectivity and demonstrate the linkages?
- h. Bret also recommends engaging CMC and Andrea Putman.
- i. If we are going to pull several multi-state committees together, is there an incentive to have the groups work together? Bernie shared an example that a \$60K fund will be available for a single or multi-state project in the north central region.

c. Western Water Network as an example – Chris Davies shared that the West is working on building a collaboration among multi-state committees in the water space. The network is trying to identify major funding sources for research efforts. Bret looked at all of the multi-state committees working in water, the intent was to bring them together at the regional meeting for WAAESD at a mini-summit. The ask was for each of the multi-states to give a brief presentation. There were three areas that were identified and each multi-state was divided into working groups. Volunteers were identified to serve on a leadership team, sustainable intensification, environment and climate and policy literacy. We are now working together as a team to expand the network. There are eight priorities that have been identified from a survey that was distributed to over 500 individuals.

Bret asked the group if there is a recommendation or a way, we can incentive with financial support? Jody recommended small amounts of off-the-top money could be used as incentives. Gary recommended the ESS investment fund as a possibility. Kevin shared that NIFA has conference grants of up to \$50K. Chris highlighted that the timeline is more flexible with conference grants.

Indrajeet questioned if NIFA would entertain re-establishing water specific grant projects like the 1513 program.

--Longer term how can the system address recommendations from the Blue Ribbon

Panel – Parag mentioned the blue ribbon panel is going to focus agriculture instead of the entire land grant, because the footnote came from the ag appropriations committee. We want to have land grant participation on the panel. How can land grants work together to solve bigger challenges. There are several success stories already from the work being done. We are waiting for recommendations that can be included in the next farm bill.

a. Recommendations may be a good starting point

The effort we have described this far may be perfect for alignment with possible recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Panel. The other opportunity that would be appropriate for STC to consider is responding to the ensuing listening session that is going to be held by the Blue-Ribbon Panel.

2. Strategies for supporting the ESCOP priorities and chair initiatives – Engel

Wendy as incoming ECOP chair has already begun working with Chris Pritsos on water, fire, climate change, and DEI. Parag shared that this meeting has been very helpful to connect topics. It would be great to create connections between ECOP and ESCOP.

a. Liaison from 1994s and enhancing DEI within STC-

Gene volunteered to provide contacts for the 1994's. Bret will also ask John Phillips for recommendations. Please send Bret any others suggestions for a 1994 Liaison.

b. Climate Science – We merged this portion of the agenda with the earlier conversations.

c. Communications and Advocacy Toolkit – Again, had been previously discussed.

3. Increase support and interaction with STC subcommittees – Bret stated that this group developed white pages and he shared those with Bill Hoffman and Dr. Castille. We have engaged the committee in social sciences to include involvement in Climate Science in their GAP analysis.

a. NIPMCC (<http://escop.info/committee/nipmcc/>)

b. SSSC (<http://escop.info/committee/social-sciences-subcommittee-sssc/>)

4. Additional areas for funding – We have touched on national resources, quantity/quality of water. What are other opportunities should be pursued? Creation of an NRSP is another possibility for what could be expected for convening several multi-state committees.

5. Faculty research award? – Bernie and Susan noted that their colleges have faculty research awards. Gary mentioned that it is interesting that we do not have a faculty research award, where as there are awards for teaching and extension that acknowledge individuals. Do we want to recognize one winner or five winners, one from each region? A conversation ensued with Parag about including such an award(s) with the awards for teaching & extension that are funded by NIFA. Susan recommended more awards to create broader awareness of the research enterprise. It was decided that each region should evaluate nominations and decide on a winner for each region. Bernie noted that there is a huge backlog of recognition. Bret offered to create a template for the awards if members send current calls for nominations from their colleges/institutions.

a. Decision to be made will be the monetary award, \$1,000 per winner or \$1,000 split between the regional winners.

b. Each region would pay membership fees to belong AAAS.

8. Monthly Meeting Schedule– STC members agreed to meet on Monday afternoon, October 4th, to review action from this meeting. STC will meet as indicated below, except for the holidays.

4-5 pm ET the first Monday of each month

October 4, November 1, December 6

January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2

June 6, JULY 4, August 1, September 5

9. Adjourn

Next steps, action items and deliverables for consideration at the APLU fall meeting.

- a) Work on the gaps and needs identified in the ESCOP Grand Challenges summary sheet
 - i) Acknowledge the STC efforts and explain how the summary documents will be used
 - ii) Update the national-level success stories
 - (1) Create consistent messaging by including local information on the national flyer
 - iii) Ask the NRSP1 management committee about the possibility for the NIMSS programmers to use hashtags as a method to enhance connectivity and demonstrate the linkages regarding how the multistate committees are working on the Grand Challenges
 - iv) Interdisciplinary systems-level research**
 - (1) Enhance collaboration among multi-state committees to more effectively address the ESCOP Grand Challenges and work towards informing policy
 - (a) Possible approaches to incentivize with financial support
 - (i) Regional off-the-top funding
 - (ii) ESS investment fund
 - (iii) Regional carryover funds
 - (iv) Regional/National Assessments
 - (v) Competitive Conference Grants
 - (vi) Create an Emerging Innovation NRSP
 - v) Evidence based guidance for policy and regulation**
 - (1) The Secretary makes policy and we need science to support policy, should include information on the administration's priorities and the following areas
 - (a) Bioproducts for energy and aviation
 - (b) Food supply chain
 - (c) Food security and food safety
 - (d) Data and technology
 - vi) Strategies for communicating information and sharing technology**
 - (1) NIFA is supporting and promoting experiment stations/continue communications with NIFA so that the agency will be our advocate
 - (a) Involve NIFA Communicators
 - (2) Bring in Caron Gala to turn the conversation around and help determine a great strategy on how to bring these documents to life.
 - (3) Engage CMC and Andrea Putman
- b) Develop a work plan for the year that will support the chair (refer to everything above)
 - i) Climate Science
 - (1) Climate change in the Grand Challenges with overlap in research priorities
 - (a) Sustainability completeness's & profitability of food & agriculture
 - (b) Adapting to mitigating the impacts of climate change
 - (c) Environmental stewardship & sustainable practices
 - (2) Utilize results from the ESS Session on Climate Change
 - ii) Include a liaison from the 1994s
 - iii) Partnership opportunities with ECOP and Extension
 - (1) Diversity Equity and inclusion

- (2) Climate Mitigation, Resiliency, and Adaptation
- (3) Economic and Workforce Development
- (4) Healthy Equity & Well-Being
- (5) Urban Agriculture
- (6) Multi-State Committees
- iv) Develop a communications and advocacy toolkit
 - (1) Create an infographic and map of the system's branch stations
 - (2) Refer to c) i) above
- v) Explore opportunities with Robert Bonnie, NRCS
 - (1) Connections with producers

- c) Define equity in science
 - i) What is it and what does it look like?

- d) Development of a faculty research award
 - i) One winner per region
 - (1) Regions provide AAAS membership
 - (2) Monetary Award for each regional winner to be paid from ESS
 - (a) \$1,000/awardee or \$200/awardee?