

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

2/07/2022

1-2 pm PT, Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88134284585?pwd=enF0NmFIY25teUNKN3k5WUVoYU12UT09>

Meeting ID: 881 3428 4585; Passcode: STC

Committee Members:

<p>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 Recording Secretary)</p>	<p>Liaisons: Robert Matteri (ARS) Wendy Powers (ECOP) Kevin Kephart (NIFA) Daren Mueller (NIPMCC) Tim Killian (SSCC)</p>
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Minutes:

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Bernie welcomed the group.
2. **Attendance** – Bret Hess, Wendy Powers, Kevin Kephart, Daren Mueller, Bernie Engel, Susan Duncan, Chris Davies, Jody Jellison, John Dyer, Nathan McKinney, Tim Killian, Gene, Kelly, Gary Thompson, Jennifer Tippetts (recording secretary).
3. **Liaison Updates, as needed**

ARS- John provided an update on the current pandemic policy. If a job can be done remotely, it should be done remotely. Locations are still working under the 25% building capacity restrictions; exceptions are in place if safety protocols can be met. The previous plan was to bring employees back to the workplace no earlier than January 3, and no later than March 14; the new target window is no earlier than March 28 and no later than May 27.

The recent mandate for all government employees to be vaccinated has been overall effective. There was a minor loss of staff who chose not to be vaccinated. The mandate is on hold, but it is anticipated that the regulation will be back in place in the near future. It was determined that many staff members can and will continue to work from home, such as administration, as part of the new normal when restrictions are lifted.

ARS continues to work under a continuing resolution, which set to expire February 28. There is anticipation that the House will pass a new continuing resolution lasting through March, but they want agreement on the spending caps.

ECOP- The Spring meeting is scheduled to be in person the last week in March in southern California. All meetings will take place outdoors to ensure safety. Meeting topics will include processes/practices for identifying priorities within ECOP and partnering and identifying resources to build capacity within institutions. There will be continued work on ECOP impact and the relevance narrative.

ECOP leadership will be meeting with the national impact statement database team leaders later this week. There will be a push to gain support from Extension directors to input strong impact statements. Do we need a statement or theme for the year? Wendy believes it could be very impactful to show the power of the Land-grant mission from research and discovery to implementation and change, and how this continuum affects lives across America.

NIFA- The agency is receiving lots of questions on when the RFA will be published, and hopefully the RFA will be released soon.

Carrie Castille has asked NIFA to pull together a Climate Summit. Kevin noted that partners such as ESCOP, Extension, 1890's, tribal colleges, etc., will make such a summit successful. The goal is to have this take place in early summer 2022.

Thanks to members for submitting input on the agency's climate adaptation plan. The plan is due to Secretary Vilsack by the end of February.

Justice 40 is an environmental justice initiative from the White House. NIFA is working on an action plan. This will include a broad level of headings to include greenhouse gases, environmental justice, climate smart ag and forestry.

NIPMCC- Daren reported that the CPPM RFP is out, there is a lot of discussion about diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The national group continues to meet and work on a strategic plan that will complement the roadmap generated by the federal IPM group.

There is an International IPM Meeting at the end of the month taking place in person that Daren plans on attending.

SSSC- Tim does not have an update. SSSC will be meeting in the spring. Kevin asked about including the social sciences for the Climate Summit. Tim will take request to SSSC committee.

4. **Approval of meeting notes from 12/06/2022** – Gene Kelly moved to approve minutes from November 06, 2021. Motion approved unanimously.
5. **Status of 2022 Work Plan** –
 - a. **Grand Challenges Template** – Sara updated the template and shared with the Western Region Communicators. The communicators made the suggestion to provide a guide on how to use the templates. Bernie asked how to share the standardized templates to ensure the best impact possible. Bret recommended a request from the ESCOP Chair to the Executive Directors to distribute. Jody made a motion for the ESCOP Chair to broadly share, track users and specific examples. Chris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Map of Branch Stations** -A map has already been generated. Jenn is working with CSU to either fix the broken link on the map they have generated or gain access to the data already generated. The refereed paper in which 600+ experiment stations have already been verified, and we are working to use the data already generated and verified. Bret noted the need to take the content document and distill it down to another form as we build the advocacy toolkit.

- c. Jody added when she works with State delegates, they always ask what good are you doing in their area? Jody shared a map that has resonated on the State level and recommended for the group.
 - d. **ESCOP letter to NIFA regarding climate adaptation plan**
 - 1. **Organizing multistate research committees**-How is this committee going to facilitate? The climate summit could be a great opportunity. Kevin asked STC for help to gather and recruit broad participation.
 - 2. **Bernie asked the group how we can engage groups in this broader effort?** It was determined to ask regions to engage their Multi-State Review committees to make recommendations. Bret will reach out to each region to confirm the best point of contact. Gary recommended not making vague requests.
 - 3. **Kevin noted the key areas are climate change, DEIA, Market Opportunities, Workforce Development, Nutrition Security.**
 - e. **ESCOP Talking Points**- These were prepared as a request from NIFA. These could be used in a toolkit for education and communication. Last year ESCOP generated an infographic that Director Castille used several times. Should we hire a communication professional to generate a strong communication product?

Gene made the motion for the Executive Directors to hire a communication professional to generate more compelling communication products from the ESCOP talking points. Chris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Other business**
- a. [Excellence in Multistate Research Award Nominations](#) – Due February 28th. Please make and encourage nominations. There has been a request to share the nomination that won the award, as an example of what won last year. Nathan recommended looking at the nominations from last year as they were above average. The group agreed to share the winning submission, so people have an example of what it takes. The group asked what it would take to potentially add another award, STC could make the recommendation to ESCOP. Gary recommended including a statement for winners that their award may be made with the call for nominations.
7. **Actions**
- a. Share the Grand Challenges Template
 - b. Share CSU map of branch stations
 - c. Bret to contact each region to identify the best point of contact for each multi-state review committee to ask them to help identify projects that focus on climate. **Kevin noted the key areas are climate change, DEIA, Market Opportunities, Workforce Development, Nutrition Security.**
 - d. Executive Directors to hire a communications professional to develop products from the ESCOP talking points.
8. **Monthly Meeting Schedule** –
4-5 pm ET the first Monday of each month: March 7; April 4; May 2
9. **Adjourn**