

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

Call NOTES for Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 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) 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) Bridget Krieger, LBA (Lewis-Burke Associates; advocacy) Bill Hoffman (NIFA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Josh Stull (NIFA) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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Participants: Vernon Jones, Saied Mostaghimi, Doug Steele, Bridget Krieger, Gary Thompson, Glenda Humiston, Gary Pierzynski, Jon Boren, Christina Laridaen, Martin Draper, Shawn Donkin, Paula Geiger, Caron Gala, Elizabeth Stulberg, Josh Stull, Anton Bekkerman, Laura Jolly, Alton Thompson, Steve Lommel, Sreekala Bajwa, Jeff Jacobsen

Meeting Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – Done, see participants list above.
2. Approval of the 1/25 call notes (see: <http://escop.info/event/blc-call-22/>) – Approved by consensus.
3. Approval of Today’s Agenda – Approved by consensus.
4. BAC Update - Glenda, Jeff (refer to BAC BAA comparison table sent via email)
 - Glenda referenced the BAC BAA comparison table sent via email. Rounded up numbers not included in the table due to PBD scheduling delays but should be sent to everyone by March 1. Be aware that they may be subject to change.
 - Bridget (LBA) gave three FY23 options seen on the table. Option 1 keeps same numbers that BAA settled on for FY22. Option 2 is FY22 plus 7% inflation number to it. Option 3 includes internal BAA requests from individual sections/groups requests and their justifications. Intend to have an infrastructure request, as well. Biggest unknown is final numbers for FY22, so we might need to adjust somewhat to that. Final numbers will be rounded up, which is easier for advocacy message.

- Jeff clarified that the AFRI and Hatch lines increase reflect thinking as: $FY22 = FY21 + 14\%$, then $FY23 = FY22 + 14\%$. We are hoping to keep that 14% increase in place over multiple years going forward.
5. Infrastructure Options (refer to Early Draft email attachment) - Glenda, Jeff
 - Might want to kill the Pilot approach (far right column, \$100M) and add the full authorization (far left column) \$11.5B. \$11.5B unlikely, but it's good to push for as much as possible and has been the talking point for several years. Pilot sounds like a single effort and we want to keep moving forward with these funding efforts over the long term.
 - Annual appropriation approach will be more difficult, i.e., how will NIFA run such a program, how can we show value, etc. Need to talk to appropriators and staff about this to ensure it runs smoothly. Best approach is to roll it out slowly over many years. Justification is critical for this effort, as well.
 - LBA (Lewis-Burke Associates) feels the \$3.65B amount is the most appropriate currently, even though they recognize that's less than even the 2015 amount of \$8.4B. Keep in mind also that the Federal government has issues funding facilities and has few programs to support them. Recommend we stay the course for now and focus on FY23, especially with the possible change in Congressional leadership next year.
 - Discussion ensued with BLC members and LBA around these different infrastructure options and how we would decide which to support, what would work best, etc.
 - Glenda gave big kudos to Caron for getting us as far as we are with infrastructure, due to all her efforts over the past year.
 6. APLU Update – Doug Steele
 - APLU Board meets on 3/1 with an update on presidential search committee. Please let Doug know if you have any possible candidates for this role (i.e., retired university presidents). They must live in the DC/NoVA/MD area under APLU constitution.
 - Slowly returning to office on 4/4. July Joint COPs will be the first big in-person meeting with very limited hybrid options.
 - Hope to have hired the new ED for BoHS by the end of this week, with a strong nutrition and health background.
 - Working hard on continued advocacy, consistent messaging, and building relationships. Planning to be very intentional and strategic with APLU efforts going forward.
 - LBA will need to be in person for Joint COPs, Annual Meeting, CARET/AHS, but other smaller, single section regional meetings might be harder for them to attend.
 7. CLP Update – Glenda, Alton, Jeff, Caron
 - Preparing for the Farm Bill has been the main discussion and each section has put forward their proposals with main priorities.
 - EDs are looking at and culling directors' priorities for ESS a bit right now and plan to have a document ready by the end of this week.
 8. Liaison Reports
 - NIFA update – Josh: He is excited to be back with NIFA, please reach out to him if you need anything between calls.
 - ECOP report – Jon: Met with ECOP BLC for FY23 discussions, Farm Bill priority discussion.
 - BHS report – Laura: Excited for new BoHS ED. Will have annual meeting next week, during which advocacy, Farm Bill will be a big topic. First time to be meeting with LBA, as well.
 9. Other business, as needed

- ESCOP Executive Committee was asked last week, “Where are we on Climate as a moonshot idea?”
 - We’ve been busy focusing on FY23 and infrastructure, but Climate has been permeating everything we’ve done recently, from fall ESS meeting to justifying infrastructure ask talking points.
 - NIFA has been releasing a lot of recent programs on Climate Smart Ag also.
 - Do we want to include this topic in a future BLC call (maybe April, after CARET/AHS debriefing)) to continue the conversation more directly? We should message it around current efforts, like *Infrastructure for Climate Smart Ag*.
 - Doug: Hoping to get additional funds from NIFA to use around this, beyond a conference grant. Kevin Kephart indicated that for maximum support, we need to get behind 1) climate smart ag, 2) net zero emissions, 3) environmental justice, 4) workforce development, and 5) nutrition and food security. Gary Thompson is the research ED connected to these various discussions.