

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

Call NOTES for Wednesday, 9/28/2022, 2-3 pm ET  
Marriott Baltimore Waterfront, Location: Harborside A/B

**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) Elizabeth Stulberg (Lewis-Burke, Advocacy) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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**Attendees:** Glenda Humiston, Gary Thompson, David Monks (for Steve Lommel, NCSU), Marty Draper, Anton Bekkerman, Sreekala Bajwa, Saied Mostaghimi, Puneet Srivastava, Chris Pritsos, Alton Thompson, Mark McGuire, Caron Gala, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

**Meeting Agenda/Notes:**

1. Introductions
  - To save time, this was not done since Chair Humiston needed to leave right away for a flight.
  - See Attendee list above for meeting participants.
2. Reflections as BLC Chair, Glenda
  - Glenda had to leave early, so she thanked everyone, especially Jeff, for an enjoyable and productive time on the BLC. The group thanked Glenda for all her hard work and efforts with as BLC chair.
  - Anton asked Jeff for examples where BLC has made a difference in the past. Jeff indicated that it's difficult to say, since even though we come up with many great ideas, whether they move forward is very dependent on politics, both some internal and with elected officials. PBD also has many reps of which we are only one, which can cause

policy disconnects from our efforts at this higher level. The EDs are working hard to make sure that LBA is following our needs and requests. Keep in mind that LBA is still moderately new and learning how to navigate the system most effectively. Also, relationships with APLU have improved from years past. The infrastructure story is a good example of how we've been showing our linkages, justification, champions. We're also looking long term now, as opposed to only an annual budget.

- It was mentioned that there's much support of AFRI in DC, but less for capacity. We are the main capacity champions, so be aware when putting out communication efforts.
3. Passing of the BLC Chair "Gavel," Glenda to Anton
    - Again, since Glenda had to depart early, this transition was informal, with Glenda thanking BLC members and wishing Anton well and a fruitful time as BLC chair.
  4. Review of ESCOP BLC Chair Linkages – Anton and Jeff at <http://escop.info/about/> (included here for information only)
    - Jeff reminded the group that the BLC chair serves as our ESCOP voice to many other groups, both within and external to ESS.
    - Sreekala asked Jeff where BLC fits in with the other APLU councils and commissions. Jeff clarified by stating that most of APLU's structure doesn't include Experiment Station directors and we fall just under Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (FANR). He also noted that LBA serves us, the BAA, within FANR. Regarding assessment, the APLU assessment goes out to each AHS member at the LGUs and mainly funds advocacy with LBA. LBA reports to Doug Steele at APLU FANR. ESCOP BLC recommendations feed into BAC then BAA PBD. Same with ECOP's BLC. APLU and ESCOP organization chart included here for reference: [http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CFERR\\_ORGCHART\\_20220622.pdf](http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CFERR_ORGCHART_20220622.pdf)
  5. Input from the Committee on Future BLC Discussion Topics and BLC Process Improvements – All
    - Jeff reminded the committee that active conversation and feedback to Anton is critical for effective information sharing. Please be sure to keep this in mind and actively engage in the conversation with him. LBA is still fairly new, but we expect they will be more fruitful with messaging and asks for us and they become more familiar with the system.
    - Anton asked the group:
      - Are the monthly meetings productive still or do we want to change it up, maybe have liaison updates every other month, allowing more time for topical discussion from BLC director members. The group was supportive of this idea.
      - Would the group be fine with assignments from time to time to collect information/feedback from their regions to help more strategically guide BLC calls? The group was supportive of this idea, as well.
    - Further group discussion suggested the following ideas:
      - Perhaps developing a template of the annual budget cycle would be helpful to guide monthly discussions with a running list of other topics to fill in, as needed. This could also be a listing at the end of every agenda and notes.
      - Developing a BLC orientation for new members might be helpful to share how BLC fits within the overall APLU FANR structure and process system.
      - It was suggested that EDs reach out to other entities (i.e., ECOP) to make sure we can be on the same page before PBD votes on critical ESS priorities. We have liaisons on those, but an ED might add an additional push.
      - Guest speakers could join, as applicable.

2. Other items, as needed
  - None identified.

Meeting adjourned at 3 pm ET.