

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

February 2023 Agenda- **Members Only**

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 3pm (CT)/4pm (ET)

**Attendees:** Gary Pierzynski, Steve Lommel, Shawn Donkin, Glenda Humiston, Scott Senseman, Vernon Jones, Anton Bekkerman, Sreekala Bajwa, Marty Draper, Laura Jolly, Brett Hess, Rick Rhodes, Jeanette Thurston, Alton Thompson, Gary Thompson, Cindy Morley

**Committee Members:**

<p><b>Chair:</b> Anton Bekkerman (NERA) <b>Past Chair:</b> Glenda Humiston (WAAESD) <b>Incoming Chair:</b> Steve Lommel (SAAESD)</p> <p><b>Members:</b> Alton Thompson (ARD) Vernon Jones (ARD) Gary Pierzynski (NCRA) Marty Draper (NCRA) Puneet Srivastava (NERA) Steve Lommel (SAAESD) Scott Senseman (SAAESD) Sreekala Bajwa (WAAESD) Shawn Donkin (WAAESD)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons:</b> Jason Henderson (ECOP) Katie Frazier (CARET) Doug Steele (APLU) Caron Gala (APLU) Elizabeth Stulberg (Lewis-Burke, Advocacy) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p> <p><b>Executive Vice-Chair</b> Gary Thompson (SAAESD ED) Cindy Morley (SAAESD)</p>
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**Meeting Notes:**

- **Council on Governmental Affairs (CGA) Discussion Update-** Gary P., Vernon, and Marty reporting on discussions with their CGAers on the Idea of “taking a thematic approach that supports our priorities”
  - Adam Ward, Ohio State University director of government affairs. Thematic approach might be useful to get desires embedded in what eventually becomes public. This approach might be especially useful when advocating for capacity funding. More nuanced regarding the experience level of the staffers. Inexperienced staffers need to hear about the budget lines rather than thematic topics, so they are better aware of the ask. The thematic approach would resonate with experienced staffers to advocate for increasing capacity or competitive funding. Cautioned that a thematic approach can end up looking like a special request with the expectation that a portion of the increase could be focused on that thematic topic.
  - Vernon and Alton spoke with the 1890 Presidents during a recent meeting. They had the same concerns as Adam Ward but liked the idea of themes. One suggested theme was

“Climate Smart Commodities”. Whatever theme we choose they felt they could support it with an 1890 slant asking how it affects low-income communities, communities of color, and underserved producers. Infrastructure is another priority theme. 1890 Extension is also on board. They want to engage with the broader 1890 community before a final comment can be made on this approach.

- Sue Peterson (K State) wanted to make sure that we are addressing issues from an educational standpoint. Thought it could be a good approach but recommended “topics” as the language we use instead of “themes” as that is language congress already uses. Multiple funding lines connected to a given topic should be considered.
- **Mission Driven Approach** - Debrief from recent meetings.
  - Policy Board of Directors (PBD) meeting
    - Voted to approve documents from the BAC and CLP.
  - Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) meeting
    - Final BAC discussion to set the FY 24 annual appropriations. Proposal to increase to AFRI by 14% above FY23 appropriations to \$520M per the BLC’s strategy to remain competitive with foreign research investments was not approved.
    - BLC discussion centered around developing strategies to better engage and advocate for our priorities.
- **BLC Rules of Operation**
  - Draft operating guideline document was distributed in advance of the meeting.
  - Will distribute the document again for edits and comments due by Tuesday, March 6.
  - Vote for adoption will be taken at the March BLC meeting.
- **Meeting Adjourned**