

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC): <http://escop.info/committee/blc/>  
March 2023 Agenda- **Members & Liaisons**  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3pm (CT)/4pm (ET)**

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://uada.zoom.us/j/99810222789?pwd=cFk2Z0Mrek1YOvNVSmRSY3ByRjVUUT09>  
Password: 030119, Or join by phone: +1 312 626 6799 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

**Attendees:** Shawn Donkin, Anton Bekkerman, Alton Thompson, Vernon Jones, Marty Draper, Laura Jolly, Steve Lommel, Sreekala Bajwa, Caron Gala, Katie Frazier, Elizabeth Stulberg, Scott Senseman, Paula Geiger

**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) 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 Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of the February meeting notes
  - Motion to approve - Shawn Donkin, second – Sreekala Bajwa - Approved.
3. Approval of Today's Agenda
  - Motion to approve by acclamation
4. Rules of Operations Vote
  - Motion to approve - Shawn Donkin, Second - Steve Lommel
  - Approved and will be posted on the website
5. Reflections on Hill Visits  
Directors:
  - Considerable interest in helping with the infrastructure effort, however, some skepticism about where to get the money.
  - Concern with China is spending twice the amount on research as US (good talking point)
  - Not surprised by the ask: Democrats willing to submit programmatic requests - Republicans want to better understand the need.

- Important to show ag staffers the full range of facilities when in the district, building on initial hill conversations.
- Talking points provided during visits (hill or district) sometimes show up in hearings and one-pagers were well received.
- 1862 and 1890 coalition hill visits are powerful.
- Representative Tracey Mann (Kansas) wants to push the RFA forward.

Caron and Elizabeth:

- Farm bill and appropriations processes are heating up with a lot of hearings in which research infrastructure is part of the conversation.
- Undersecretary Jacobs-Young's testimony last week reinforced that infrastructure is a critical issue and she provided ARS examples (strategies to engage the Undersecretary with our talking points should be considered).
- CARET meeting this year focused on the research facilities request and next year's CARET meeting to focus on capacity programs.
- Dear colleague letter got 50 signatures. Numerous republicans on that letter.
- Sign on letter (Farm Bill letter) has ~300 signatures and closing on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Farm Bill conversations: working with several senators to see what coalitions they can build in both chambers.

#### 6. BAC FY25 Priorities

- Looking for an earlier more proactive approach to developing appropriations priorities and sharing justifications.
  - Joint COPs (July 18-20) want initial set of parameters and priorities.
  - BLC can work with other ESS committees in developing plans (topic for next meeting?)
  - BLC can develop coalitions with other BAC members and better coordinate activities.
- BLC possible approaches
  - Members can solicit the regional perspective to bring to the committee.
  - BLC will put together our recommendation and our justification (story behind it).
  - 14% increases is our current long-term strategy but how do we develop the story about our priorities (thematic approach)
  - BAC has different groups and a coalition to develop a complementary approach for telling our stories will lead to a stronger effort.

#### 7. Infrastructure – RFA Implementation

- Assuming it gets funded, the BLC will need to work closely with the infrastructure working group to consider elements of an equitable implementation plan.

#### 8. Liaison Reports

- NIFA update – President's budget details are available online. USDA budget summary is easily findable.
  - USDA FY24 Budget summary: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-usda-budget-summary.pdf>
  - 2024 USDA Explanatory Notes – NIFA: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/22-2024-NIFA.pdf>
  - Secretary Vilsack testifying at upcoming hearings
  - Looking forward to 2025 to see what legislative priorities will be developed.
- BHHS report – Board met right before CARET
  - Focus on health reflecting the revised name Board on Health and Human Sciences.
  - Just finished up first cohort of leadership fellows, a program that is working well.
  - Developing an appropriations vision and are willing partners with ESS.