

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

August 2023 Agenda- **Members**  
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3pm (CT)/4pm (ET)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uada.zoom.us/j/99810222789?pwd=cFk2Z0Mrek1YOVNVSrRSY3ByRjVUUT09>

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**Attendees:** Anton Bekkerman, Scott Senseman, Gary Pierzynski, Vernon Jones, Glenda Humiston, Shawn Donkin, Bret Hess, Alton Tompson, Rick Rhodes, Sreekala Bajwa, Steve Lommel, 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) Derek McLean (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:**

- Welcome – Anton
- Approval of the July meeting notes – Anton
  - **Approved by Acclimation**
- Approval of today's agenda – Anton
  - **Approved by Acclimation**
- In person BLC meeting at agInnovation Fall Meeting – September 26, 2:45-4:30 pm
  - **Consensus is to meet in person at the agInnovation annual meeting.**
  - We will use this meeting as a strategy building session with LBA partner Elizabeth Stulberg.
    - How does the BLC fit into the BAC goals?
    - How can we work better with LBA? Bi-Directional meeting opportunity.
    - What do they need to advocate on our behalf? What are long-term strategies?
    - How do we develop a broader funding portfolio?
  - We will also discuss George Smith's (incoming agInnovation chair) goals of looking for broader approaches/scope and alliances.

- We will review the Decadal/5-year plan proposed by the BAC/CLP (see attachment from Agenda).

**General Discussion:**

- How does BLC fit in with the BAC as a whole? How does the BAC see the BLC providing value to the overall advocacy process? There is confusion about the BLC role and how we are perceived by the entities beyond the section. What is the role of the EDs within the APLU structure?
  - Mike Boehm is organizing 2 Fly-ins. One in September and one in October
    - September meeting is research-oriented and to include voices beyond the BLC Chair.
    - What role will the BLC continue to play within the BAC structure?
- How can the BLC utilize LBA's expertise and access to legislative offices? How can we engage in long-term strategic planning (decade long strategy)? NSF and NIH developed long-term strategies that paid off and could be models for NIFA.
  - Should we re-visit this with Elizabeth?
    - What do we want out of the relationship with LBA? What is our value to LBA?
  - DoD considers Food security = national security (DoD partnership?).
    - Infrastructure funds also contribute to Food Security
  - Food, Agricultural and Health resonates with Republicans. Elevating importance of Food, Agricultural and Health to the national level.
    - Opportunities for NIFA to align with NSF or NIH on Food and Health.
  - How does advocacy at the state-level (state legislatures) overlap with federal strategy? Should there be more integration? How can state-level strategies fit into the national strategy and vice versa?
- Long-term strategic planning
  - Create a united message with overlapping priorities in the BAC and CLP.
  - LBA will help develop that strategy.
    - This strategy could focus more on the agriculture-by-food-by-nutrition-by-health nexus.
    - Determine what agInnovation wants their relationship with LBA to be. What are the specific needs from LBA to agInnovation?
  - This committee will feed information to create this plan. What do we see as our 5-year goals and what can we contribute in those 5 years. What are our value-added tactics?
  - Connecting strategies from across different universities into a united, national perspective.
  - What other groups should we connecting with?
    - Professional societies or other groups who can advocate for us.
    - Aligns with one of George's goals as chair - what are our gaps and figuring out how to fill them.
    - Good discussion topics for the in-person meeting in September