## ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC): <a href="http://escop.info/committee/blc/">http://escop.info/committee/blc/</a> November 2023 Agenda- <a href="https://escop.info/committee/blc/">Members & Liaisons</a> Tuesday, November 28, 2023 3pm (CT)/4pm (ET)

Attendees: Vernon Jones, Bill Hoffman, Laura Jolley, Paula Geiger, Anton Bekkerman, Katie Frazier, Scott Senseman, Caron Gala, Derek McLean, Sreekala Bajwa, Shawn Donkin, Alton Thompson, Elizabeth Stulberg, Steve Lommel, Jason Henderson, Cindy Morley

## **Committee Members:**

Chair: Anton Bekkerman (NERA)

Past Chair: Glenda Humiston (WAAESD)
Incoming Chair: Steve Lommel (SAAESD)

Members:

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) Liaisons:

Jason Henderson (ECOP)
Katie Frazier (CARET)
Caron Gala (APLU)

Elizabeth Stulberg (Lewis-Burke, Advocacy)

Paula Geiger (NIFA) Laura Jolly (BHHS)

**Executive Vice-Chair** 

Gary Thompson (SAAESD ED) Cindy Morley (SAAESD)

## **Meeting Agenda:**

- Welcome
- Approval of the October meeting notes **Approved by Acclamation**
- Approval of today's agenda Approved by Acclamation
- DC update
  - Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) through January.
    - House passed 7 of 12 appropriations bills.
    - Senate passed a minibus with overwhelming bipartisan support.
  - Implications of a year-long CR
    - Will get into the election season.
    - 1% across-the-board funding cut to agencies.
    - USDA grants will likely be smaller instead of reducing already obligated funds.
  - o Farm Bill deadline was extended within the CR.
    - Expect to see legislative text coming out in January from the House committee.
  - o War (Ukraine, Israel and possibly Thailand) is taking a lot of DC time.

- Republicans are trying to tie immigration and border policies to future war funding bills.
- Advocating for agInnovation requests in the Farm Bill.
  - LBA submitted requests to House and Senate committee staffers.
  - Questions about the retirement piece and staffers are hoping to talk to someone about how the cap on capacity spending on retirement funds would impact them.
    - Action: Bret to follow up with Shawn and Sreekala and provide examples from various universities.
    - Explain impacts of the 5% cap impacts and how it differs from other grants. If the cap was lifted, how would it help you? What does it mean to you and why is it important?
- CR at FY23 levels until January 2024, will FY23 levels continue in a post-CR budget?
  - Possible to pass a budget that maintains CR levels of funding without a 1% cut.
  - None of the earmarks would go through with a CR.
- O Would a post-January CR impact speakership?
  - Yes, there is a chance. Speaker Johnson is opposed to new "clean" CRs. Freedom caucus doesn't want to take a hit in an election year.
- National Leadership Advocacy Summit Review (November 1-3, Washington, DC)
  - O Day 1: BAC and CLP meetings in the morning and work on BAA level strategic advocacy plan framework (decadal vision) in the afternoon (Elizabeth will draft a document).
  - Day 2-3: Advocacy Summit (BAC, CLP, and other leaders)
  - Key takeaways for the BLC.
    - Caron: One of the most poignant moments was hearing that all the members feel like they are contributing. Scenario building exercise made the group think about the weight and meaning of asks. **Encourage Anton to bring that exercise to this group.**
    - Anticipate better engagements with Congress by hearing from staffers and congressional members that they care about these issues.
    - Innovation to implementation: stakeholder engagement portfolio, not a science-based portfolio.
    - Elizabeth: A poignant moment was when someone asked the question about If we get all this funding, then what? What are the possibilities rather than hurdles?
    - Vision document to communicate the urgency (global scale) of our goals and benchmarks for those goals.
      - What are our goals/vision? They need to be broad enough to be clearly important to *any* audience, but specific enough to be obvious why they are important to APLU/BAA and need to pack a punch.
      - Timeline: finished by Joint COPS next July. Before the document is completed, 4-5 goals (visions) will be decided upon as basis to advocate for FY25 priorities. Expect a progress report at next BLC (liaison) meeting.
- Expanding our support network through strategic conversations with stakeholder groups
  - Randy Russell (FACA) was instrumental in putting together an alliance of unlikely stakeholders for support and advocacy for climate impacts to agriculture (<a href="https://agclimatealliance.com/">https://agclimatealliance.com/</a>)

- <a href="https://www.aplu.org/news-and-media/news/aplu-300-ag-groups-urge-congress-to-pass-extramural-agricultural-research-facilities-in-2023-farm-bill/">https://www.aplu.org/news-and-media/news/aplu-300-ag-groups-urge-congress-to-pass-extramural-agricultural-research-facilities-in-2023-farm-bill/</a>
- Could a similar model be developed to expand our supporters for Agriculture Research Infrastructure initiative?
- Should we engage a facilitator like Randy Russell to create a framework and talking points to engage potential supporters for a coordinated approach to infrastructure?
- Our strongest advocates can be Extension to connect with individual farmers and stakeholders to write letters to Congress.
- Action: Discuss further at the next meeting.
- Liaison updates: Anton is committed to having more in-depth conversations this next year with our liaisons during our "members only" meetings.
  - CARET: Executive Committee meeting prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Initiated targeted outreach with commodity groups in DC. Part of their strategic plan is to continue to build a rapport with those stakeholders. Preparing for the CARET-BAA meeting in February. Webinars are being held that could be shared with this group.
  - BHHS: It has been a year since the Board has changed its name to Board on Health and Human Sciences. Currently working on a white paper. Looking at member cultivation and outreach to colleagues about joining. Some folks participated in the leadership summit. Will have their spring meeting February 20-22, 2024, in Washington, DC.
    - BHHS themes: strong emphasis on health and human science; food is medicine; food production to consumption (farm to table and producer to consumer; mental health.
  - ECOP: Extension is interested in following agInnovation's lead about updating their messaging, especially in the context of the decadal advocacy conversation. What are the resources needed to support the message? Determining key stakeholders and champions then tailoring the message to them.
  - NIFA: Keeping an eye on 2024 and the CR. With the CR, will be allocating \$2M for urban ag, \$10M for 1890's scholarships, and \$25M to citrus. They are starting 2026 budgeting discussions in January.
- Other business- none

Note: There will be no BLC meeting on December 26. See you in the new year!