

agInnovation Winter Business Meeting

Monday, March 2, 2026 - 4:00 - 5:45 pm

Connection details have been hidden prior to posting.

AGENDA

Time	Item #	Topic	Presenter	Action Requested
4:00 pm	1.0	Chair's Welcome Adoption of the agenda Approval of 9/18/25 meeting minutes	Chandra Reddy	Approval by Acclamation Approval by Acclamation
4:10 pm	2.0	Adaptive Roots Update	Stephanie Pearl	Discussion
4:30 pm	3.0	Investing in Capacity: Strengthening Land Universities for the Future FANR Update	Doug Steele, APLU	Discussion
4:45 pm	4.0	agInnovation Response to NIFA Listening Session on the Research Facilities Act	Anton Bekkerman and Steve Lommel	For Information
4:50 pm	5.0	What's new with the agInnovation website?	Eric Murich	For Information
5:00 pm	6.0	Lewis-Burke Associates Update	Bridget Krieger and Elizabeth Stulberg	For Information
5:15 pm	7.0	agInnovation Call for Excellence in Research Innovation Award Nominations	Nathan Slaton	For Information
5:20 pm	8.0	Update on agInnovation and Chair Priorities USDA Research and Development Priorities in 2026	Chandra Reddy	For information and Discussion

5:30 pm	9.0	BAA Board of Directors Elections	Gary Thompson	Discussion
5:35 pm	10.0	Update on the multistate guidelines	Chris Hamilton	For Information
5:40 pm	11.0	AG-NGINE Update	Wendy Fink	For information
5:45 pm	12.0	Unfinished Business	Chandra Reddy	Discussion
5:45 pm - Adjourn				

Upcoming Meetings:

- 2026 BAA Summer Meeting, July 13-15, 2026, Portland, OR
- 2026 agInnovation Annual Meeting, September 21-25, 2026, Grand Junction, CO
- APLU Annual Meeting, November 15-17, 2026, San Antonio, TX

Agenda Brief:

- BAA Board of Directors

Agenda Brief

BAA Board of Directors (Formerly BAA Policy Board of Directors)

agInnovation Board Member - Shibu Jose, University of Missouri

Alternate member - Vacant

March 2, 2026

This report covers the activities of the BAA Board of Directors at the November 11, 2025 Annual APLU Meeting and the January 21, 2026 virtual meeting. The Board has taken several important actions to strengthen its governance structure, clarify its strategic role within the national system, and advance unified advocacy priorities.

At the November 2025 meeting, members discussed elevating the Board's role in national decision-making and creating a more structured framework for oversight. Leadership proposed transitioning from the "Policy Board of Directors" to the BAA Board of Directors, supported by a clearer internal committee structure focused on advocacy and contracts, budget oversight, and governance. The Board also reviewed FY27 BAC appropriations recommendations and discussed renewal of the Lewis-Burke Associates (LBA) advocacy contract.

During the January 2026 virtual meeting, the Board formally approved the FY27 BAC Unified Appropriations Ask, maintaining core funding priorities across Hatch, AFRI, Evans-Allen, Smith-Lever (3b, 3c, and 3d), McIntire-Stennis, 1890 and 1994 Extension, and academic programs. The Board also approved the 2026 CARET, CMC, and BAA budgets, as well as the final year of the current four-year LBA contract. In addition, members formally adopted the name change to the BAA Board of Directors to reflect its broader strategic and governance responsibilities.

Looking ahead, the Board's priorities include finalizing updates to the Rules of Operation, strengthening representation across tribal, insular, and non-land-grant partners, aligning advocacy roadmaps in preparation for a coordinated FY28 capacity funding effort, and evaluating long-term advocacy contracting strategy in advance of July and November 2026 meetings.

Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC)

October 2025 through February 2026

Agenda Brief

Chair: Steve Lommel (NCSU)

Membership: [Budget & Legislative Committee \(BLC\) – ESCOP](https://escop.info/committee/blc/) (<https://escop.info/committee/blc/>)

Executive Vice-Chair: Jeanette Thurston (agNC)

Assistant Executive Vice-Chair: Christina Hamilton (agNC)

BLC Activity to Date—October 2025 through February 2026

Continuation: DC Update Meetings – Ongoing virtual update sessions for all agInnovation members that provide timely insights on federal budget developments, agency activities, and congressional actions impacting agricultural research. These sessions are led by Elizabeth Stulberg (LBA) and Matt Peterson and include time for directors’ questions and discussion.

Input to USDA Request for Input to the Research Facilities Act Program Implementation – BLC’s 2025 Question-and-Answer document was updated to align with statutory language, incorporate additional recommendations from agInnovation members, and respond to NIFA’s call for stakeholder input. BLC collaborated across agInnovation to gather feedback and submitted both written and verbal comments to NIFA in February.

USDA National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board – BLC met with Dr. Deirdre Chester, Director in the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist, to better understand the board’s role and responsibilities and to assess its potential as a pathway to elevate agInnovation’s visibility and influence, while helping inform USDA policies and programs.

Upcoming Activities

LGU Roadmap Collaboration – Partnering across agInnovation committees, including the Science and Technology Committee (STC), and with newly engaged consultants, to advance the LGU Roadmap—particularly in shaping a cohesive budget strategy.

AS ALWAYS, FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO STEVE (slommel@ncsu.edu) OR JEANETTE (jthurston@ksu.edu) ON TOPICS OR ACTIVITIES YOU BELIEVE BLC SHOULD BE ADDRESSING.



Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chair: Steve Lommel

March 2, 2026

agInnovation finances are sound and transitioning as we pass through the first quarter of the fiscal year (the calendar year). Herein, we report agInnovation holdings from three sources including our APLU account 5800 (the agInnovation operating account), TD Wealth Account (the agInnovation investment account, part of the APLU portfolio), and Chase for Business (agInnovation 501(c)(3) account).

APLU account 5800 (operating)

We closed **CY 2025 with an approximate cash balance of \$99,127.24**. We expect \$100,000 in revenues from institutional assessments to be included in agInnovation revenues by the end of the second quarter of CY 2026. For **CY 2025, agInnovation had total revenues of \$235,188.54** (assessments, transfers, and interest: \$121,062.33; CY 2024 carryover: \$114,126.21) and **total expenses of \$136,061.30**. The agInnovation APLU account 5800 has a current **cash balance of \$99,483.37**.

TD Wealth (agInnovation investment account)

The current value of the TD Wealth account is **\$748,126.41**. We are in the throes of migrating the assets in TD Wealth to JP Morgan.

Chase for Business (agInnovation 501(c)(3) non-profit account)

We closed **CY 2025 with a cash balance of \$49,771.36**. For **CY 2025, agInnovation 501(c)(3) had total revenues of \$99,928.86** (cash revenues: \$67,530.35; CY 2024 carryover: \$32,398.51) and incurred **\$50,157.50 in expenses** from the Chase Business account. The agInnovation 501(c)(3) Chase for Business account has a current **cash balance of \$55,923.97**.

The agInnovation 501(c)(3) tax return for CY 2025 has been submitted to the IRS by our accountant, Irene Stambaugh CPA.