

**ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee  
Teleconference Notes  
Tuesday, January 19, 2010– 4:00 pm EDT**

**Participants:**

Clarence Watson- ESCOP Chair  
 Eric Young – ESCOP Executive Vice-Chair, SAAESD  
 Carolyn Brooks – ARD  
 Arlen Leholm – NCRA  
 Dan Rossi – NERA  
 Michael Vayda – Budget & Legislative Committee  
 Hunt Shipman – Cornerstone  
 Jim Richards – Cornerstone  
 Donna Pearce – SAAESD, Recorder

**Action Items:**

Who	Action	Status
Eric Young	Add NIFA Update to ESCOP agenda	Done
Clarence Watson	Will send a follow-up letter to Roger Beechy inviting him to the fall meeting in Nashville later this spring	

1. Report from the Chair – Clarence Watson
2. Review of Action Items from December 14 CAC call – Clarence Watson
  - All action items have been completed.
3. Budget and Legislative Committee Update –Mike Vayda
  - White Paper discussion – still seem like appropriate levels to request budget increases in competitive and formula lines
  - Comments about establishing a Grassroots political effort for formula funding were discussed on the Budget and Legislative Committee conference call
4. Science and Technology Committee Update –Dan Rossi
  - Issues
    - Multistate Award announcement was sent out December 11
    - Nominations are due February 26 at regional level
    - Each region will make and submit their recommendation to the committee. The committee will evaluate all recommendations coming from all regions and then make a recommendation to the Executive Committee this spring
    - Social Sciences Committee will be meeting February 2 & 3 in Washington, DC

- Science and Tech Committee will have a face to face meeting the end of March
  - Science Roadmap
    - Committee members had a conference call with the ED's last week to discuss the nominations for science leaders on the 7 challenge areas
    - We have 24 nominations
    - Contacting those individuals through their director and in some cases directly to them
    - 20% are confirmed at this point and we hope to have all confirmed by the end of the month
5. Communication & Marketing Update –Arlen Leholm
- Wendy Wintersteen, Jerry Arkin and Arlen Leholm met as a sub-committee to put together an agenda for the February 21 meeting
  - Extension will not participate again after May, but they are still participating currently
  - Establishing a sub-committee that will work the next couple of months on operating procedures and communication metrics
  - During the ESCOP meeting we want to take up the issue of evaluating the first 3 years of this effort to make sure we are on target
  - Would like to layout a process for evaluating the marketing efforts so we can vote if we want to go forward or not beyond 3 years at the September meeting in Nashville.
  - Committee will meet twice a year face to face – once at CARET and once at the Joint COPS meeting
6. Agenda for ESCOP Meeting in Arlington, VA - Eric Young/Clarence Watson
- Eric will add NIFA Update to ESCOP agenda
7. 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop – Carolyn Brooks
- ED's will work on fall workshop program at their spring meeting
  - We have only 4 breakout rooms instead of 5 due to another meeting conflict. We can use the big room for a breakout if needed.
  - Clarence will send a follow-up letter to Roger Beechy inviting him to the fall meeting in Nashville later this spring
8. Other business –

Respectfully submitted by:  
Donna Pearce  
January 21, 2010

**ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee  
Teleconference Notes  
Monday, March 15, 2010– 4:00 pm EDT**

**Participants:**

Clarence Watson- ESCOP Chair  
 Eric Young – ESCOP Executive Vice-Chair, SAAESD  
 Mike Harrington - WAAESD  
 Arlen Leholm – NCRA  
 Jerry Arkin – Communications & Marketing Committee  
 Bill Ravlin – Science & Technology Committee  
 Nancy Cox – BAA/PBD Representative  
 Steve Pueppke – Past Chair  
 Dan Rossi – NERA  
 Jim Richards – Cornerstone  
 Donna Pearce – SAAESD, Recorder

**Action Items:**

Who	Action	Status
Eric Young	Will send a follow-up letter to Roger Beachy letting him know the date and place of the upcoming ESS meeting in Nashville	Done
ED's	Will assemble a list of willing nominees to serve on the Policy Board of Directors to share with the CAC group before the CAC call on April 19 <sup>th</sup>	
Jerry Arkin	Will share the Communication & Marketing roster with the ED's	Done

1. Report from the Chair – Clarence Watson
2. Review of Action Items from January 19 CAC call –Clarence Watson
  - Eric will send a follow-up letter to Roger Beachy letting him know the date and place of the upcoming ESS meeting in Nashville
3. Policy Board of Director's Nominees – Clarence
  - Nancy is finishing her second term so she's not eligible to be reelected
  - Eddie wants the nominees before the Joint COPS meeting in July
  - ED's will work on assembling a list of willing nominees to share with the CAC group by the next CAC call on April 19<sup>th</sup>
4. Meeting with Roger Beachy – Clarence
  - a. Possible agenda items
    - Discuss Roger's vision for NIFA & AFRI and Farm Bill requirements for stakeholders input

- How do we balance the five NIFA priorities with local needs?
  - Shift to larger multi institution, multi investigator grants and the possible short trip that will get single investigators
  - Concerns about animal agricultural funding in AFRI
  - An “Other” category for the single investigator awards will include a number of areas that we currently recognize in the AFRI program
  - Congress has questioned the announcement that \$800 million was to be given out, when only \$700 million has been authorized
  - Ralph Otto indicated at the PBD meeting that the total dollars granted will be closer the 2010 appropriated amount
  - Awards will be announced by September 30, but all the money will not go out the door before that date
5. Travel Funding for CGIAR Meeting in Montpellier, France – Eric
- CGIAR Planning Meeting in Montpellier, France on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Steve will join them via phone
  - Peter wants someone to be the point person as the CGIAR discussions continue
  - CGIAR has a new director who wants the CGIAR System to engage the land grants
6. Budget & Legislative Committee Update – Mike Harrington
- Don’t have a lot of updates from the Budget & Legislative Committee
  - In conjunction with the Science & Tech Committee, Mike, Dan and Bill Ravlin have worked on a set of priorities for input into the AFRI program in Plant & Pest Biology
  - Input was based on priorities that were identify in the Science Roadmap process as well as the Budget & Legislative process
  - A similar set of priorities were developed two years ago on specialty crops
  - A draft document was shared amongst the two committees
  - Face to face meeting to present priorities in Washington, DC on April 13<sup>th</sup>, Bill will attend and present
7. Science and Technology Committee Update – Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi
- Roadmap development continuing
  - Each of the 7 challenge area’s writing groups have been populated
  - One area has a draft document going around already
  - All 7 area teams have had at least one meeting and will have their second over the next couple weeks
  - S&T will have a face to face meeting in Dallas, TX on March 29 &30
  - Will discuss feedback from each of the groups to see if there is any adjustments needed mid course in terms of how we are proceeding
  - Plan to have a short introductory section that gives an overview for the Roadmap
8. Communication & Marketing Update – Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm
- Several charges for the re-instated committee

- Come up with a new roster of members
- Have evaluation tool in place and will proceed with evaluation of Podesta group's work
- End of contract with Podesta this fall
- Will have monthly calls – first one March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Primary membership of committee is up to each region – 2 people per region
- Current committee members need to be re-confirmed or replaced
- Jerry will share the current list with the ED's

9. 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop

- No report

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Pearce

March 18, 2010

**ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee  
Teleconference Notes  
Monday, April 19, 2010– 4:00 pm EDT**

**Participants:**

Clarence Watson- ESCOP Chair  
Eric Young – ESCOP Executive Vice-Chair, SAAESD  
Mike Harrington - WAAESD  
Arlen Leholm – NCRA  
Jerry Arkin – Communications & Marketing Committee  
Mike Vayda – Budget & Legislative Committee  
Bill Ravlin – Science & Technology Committee  
Nancy Cox – BAA/PBD Representative  
Dan Rossi – NERA  
Hunt Shipman– Cornerstone  
Donna Pearce – SAAESD, Recorder

**Action Items:**

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
ED's	Develop a draft of the AFRI response	
Budget & Legislative Committee	Will take the lead in collecting input for the 2012 Farm Bill process	

1. Report from the Chair – Clarence Watson
  - Appointed Ed Smith as the ECOP liaison to ESCOP
  - Appointed Nancy Cox to the ESCOP Communication & Marketing Committee
2. Review of Action Items from March 15 CAC call –Clarence Watson
3. Nominees for Policy Board of Directors – Eric Young
  - Clarence has received the nomination request and form from APLU
  - Due July 14
  - Nominees
    - North Central – Steve Slack
    - Northeast – Mike Vayda
    - South – N/A
    - West – will submit a nominee after Executive Committee call this week

4. 2012 Farm Bill Process (**handout attached**) – Eric Young
  - Start seeking inputs on the 2012 Farm Bill
  - Initial input would be changes, additions, deletions and new authorizations. There will be a number of questions asked to guide this input
  - Initial input is due July 15
  - Input will be compiled into a list initially, not bill language
  - Cornerstone will send the list back out to the section leadership before July 26
  - CLP will have a conference call on July 26 to go over list of inputs
  - From July 26 until the end of September they want the sections to look over the inputs from all the sections to consider if there any conflicts, things that should be combined, or additional inputs or modifications
  - Send out revised list of inputs on September 30
  - CLP Committee conference call on October 29
  - Cornerstone is suppose to draft Farm Bill language based on the input
  - CPL Committee will have a face to face meeting during the APLU Conference
  - Cornerstone hopes to have the initial language drafted and ready to go to CLP by the end of January 2011
  - Second draft of bill language will go out to the CLP members on March 31, 2011
  - To initiate the process Cornerstone is drafting a memo with instructions and format on how to send in the input
  
5. Coordinated response to AFRI (**handout attached**) – Arlen Leholm
  - Sufficient interest to have some type of coordinated response to AFRI's RFA
  - Science & Tech Committee discussed AFRI's RFA at their meeting in Dallas
  - Institute for Food Technology is also putting together a response
  - During the NCRA meeting there was concern that we might have some competing letters coming from the system
  - ED's will put AFRI RFA's response on their agenda
  
6. NRSP-1 funding and REEport input - Arlen Leholm
  - What mechanism do we have for input to make sure our NIMSS System is funded?
    - Support for NIMSS will be addressed
    - There's no intent to do away with NIMSS
    - Will proceed with a program to support NIMSS in the future
  
7. Budget and Legislative Committee Update –Mike Vayda/Mike Harrington
  - Conference call Tuesday, April 20
  
8. Science and Technology Committee Update –Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi
  - Multistate Award process is on track and we should have all nominees from the regions by the end of the month
  - Will have all the nominees mentioned during the APLU program during the award process
  - Roadmap
    - 7 challenge teams that are fully populated
    - 3 to 4 scientist working on the White Paper in each of the topics
    - On time schedule

- Will have at least half dozen people look over the first document to get some input
- Have asked teams to have first draft reviewed by mid-May then revised document to S&T committee by mid-June

9. Communication & Marketing Update –Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm

- 8 people have been nominated to join the committee from ESCOP
- South
  - Mary Duryea
  - Nancy Cox
- Northeast
  - Stephen Herbert
  - Mike Hoffman
- North Central
  - Wendy Wintersteen
  - Bill Ravlin
- West
  - Colin Kaltenbach
  - Ron Pardini
- 1890's

10. 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop – Orlando McMeans

- No report

11. Other business

- Next call Monday, May 17th

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Pearce

April 22, 2010



## Process Memorandum

TO: BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP)  
FROM: D.C. Coston, CLP Chair  
SUBJ: Preparation for 2012 Farm Bill  
DATE: March 18, 2010

Congress is expected to start work on the next Farm Bill in early 2011. Therefore, it is time for the CLP to begin to develop the recommendations of the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) for reauthorization of programs administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and other USDA agencies. This memorandum describes a proposed methodology and timeline for development of such recommendations. It has been developed in conjunction with APLU staff and Cornerstone Government Affairs and will be ratified by the CLP during our next conference call.

Cornerstone will be available to all members of the CLP for assistance as the process develops, with Vernie Hubert acting as the day to day CLP Farm Bill process manager.

### Proposed Process and Timeline

**1. Review by BAA Component Organizations.** As in prior Farm Bill rounds, we will begin by asking the sections and other organizations represented on the CLP to identify their individual Farm Bill priorities as well as programs/priorities that affect the entire land-grant system. These are the questions that should be put to your colleagues:

- Which NIFA programs should be reauthorized in the next Farm Bill?
- Which programs (if any) should be combined?
- Which programs (if any) should be eliminated?
- For programs to be reauthorized, should the existing authorized funding level be increased?
- For programs to be reauthorized is it desirable to change the authorization language? If such changes are necessary, what are the specific changes that you seek and why?
- Given the success in securing mandatory (not subject to annual appropriations) funding in the 2008 Farm Bill, are there other new/innovative competitive grant opportunities that should be pursued? Do the current mandatory research programs need to be reauthorized as currently constructed or do they need modification?
- Are the NIFA and broader USDA research, education, and extension structure and organization working as intended? Are legislative enhancements/modifications required?

***Deadline for broad recommendations: July 15, 2010***

**2. CLP Review and Ratification.** CLP component organizations should develop their own internal Farm Bill development process to ensure that proposals brought forward to the CLP for review and ratification have been thoroughly vetted and are broadly representative of that organization's membership. All such recommendations must be forwarded to me in writing, no later than July 15, 2010, so that they can be properly reviewed and organized by APLU staff and Cornerstone.

***Proposed Timeline:***

- July 15, 2010, deadline for submission of broad recommendations.
- September 30, 2010, collected recommendations distributed to CLP members for comment and review.
- November 15, 2010, CLP meets during APLU annual meeting in Dallas, Texas and reviews, modifies, and ratifies recommendations.

**3. Bill Language Drafting.** It is proposed that we follow a reiterative drafting/review process similar to the one successfully employed by the CREATE-21 and BAA Farm Bill Committees in preparation for the 2008 Farm Bill.

***Proposed Timeline:***

- January 31, 2011, first draft of bill language delivered by Cornerstone to CLP members.
- February 28, 2011, deadline for comments on initial draft.
- March 31, 2011, second draft of bill language distributed to CLP members.

**4. Meetings and Conference Calls.**

- April 12, 2010, conference call
  - Discussion of process memo
  - Questions on process and desired outcomes
- July 26, 2010, conference call, discussion of broad recommendations.
- October 29, 2010, conference call, discussion of collected recommendations.
- November 15, 2010, CLP at annual meeting.

Jim Richards  
Cornerstone Government Affairs  
Washington, DC and Baton Rouge, LA  
Direct: 202-448-9509  
Cell: 202-441-3675

**National Institute of Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Issues  
Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Experiment Station Section**

1. ESCOP recognizes and supports NIFA's focus on solving many of today's societal needs and issues and supports encouraging interdisciplinary teams to address such issues.
2. ESCOP also recognizes the need to demonstrate the system's ability to address societal issues as this will lead to continued Congressional support and increased fund availability.
3. Small institutions are somewhat isolated and have fewer resources than larger institutions. This may lead to not being included in AFRI project teams and/or not being competitive thus, not having access to AFRI funds. Even though there are small institutions there is significant expertise that can contribute to addressing AFRI issues. There is a need to find a means to provide/facilitate small institutions with a means to contribute.
4. The ESCOP S&T Committee recognizes the importance of large interdisciplinary, multi-institutional projects and agrees that these kinds of teams are essential to addressing today's most significant societal issues. However, the Committee has grave concerns over the de-emphasis of smaller, single investigator projects. It is these smaller projects that encourage creativity and attract young brilliant minds to science and specifically the agbiosciences. Young investigators begin their careers with projects such as these and often are selected to participate on large teams only after proving themselves with individual efforts. From a practical standpoint this can further impact promotion and tenure rates and ultimately the number bright young scientists progressing through U.S. higher educational systems. The ESCOP S&T Committee encourages NIFA to develop programs that encourage young scientists and ideas that fall outside the mainstream.
5. There is also a concern over the seeming de-emphasis of some selected components of agbioscience systems and are ability to capitalize on decades of progress. For example, in plant and animal systems many challenges can be addressed only by taking advantage of decades of progress in genomics but will falter without continued support. Exploring the intersection of these systems is without question critical but balancing broader perspectives with disciplinary focus will yield continued progress and many solutions to societal issues.
6. ESCOP encourages NIFA to actively seek broad-based input to future program (e.g., AFRI) development. While ESCOP is confident that NIFA has attempted to balance the needs of their many stakeholders and partners there is a widespread concern that the long-held partnership between the Land Grant system and USDA has eroded and this will constrain the U.S.'s ability to address local, regional, national, and international issues.

**ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee  
Teleconference Notes  
Monday, May 17, 2010– 4:00 pm EDT**

**Participants:**

Clarence Watson- ESCOP Chair  
 Eric Young – ESCOP Executive Vice-Chair, SAAESD  
 Steve Pueppke – ESCOP Past-Chair  
 Mike Harrington - WAAESD  
 Arlen Leholm – NCRA  
 Carolyn Brooks – ARD  
 Orlando McMeans – ARD  
 Jerry Arkin – Communications & Marketing Committee  
 Dan Rossi – NERA  
 Jim Richards – Cornerstone  
 Donna Pearce – SAAESD, Recorder

**Action Items:**

Who	Action	Status
ED's	Develop a draft of the AFRI response	Done
Budget & Legislative Committee	Will take the lead in collecting input for the 2012 Farm Bill process	
Eric	Send out letter to Beachy	Done
Eric	Put together a presentation and written comments for Clarence to present at the June 2 listening session	
Mike	Save survey as a PDF and send out as an attachment, so people won't have to go to the website to access the survey	Done
Eric	Send out letter of invitation to Catherine Woteki and Ed Knipling on behalf of Clarence inviting them to the ESS Meeting in September	

1. Report from the Chair – Clarence Watson
  - Appointed Michael Hoffmann to the ESCOP Communication & Marketing Committee
  - Appointed Stephen Herbert to the ESCOP Communication & Marketing Committee
  - Appointed Jonathan Pote to the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee
  
2. Review of Action Items from April 19 CAC call –Clarence Watson

3. AFRI letter to Beachy and presentation at June 2 listening session (**attached**) – Dan
  - The section on young investigators was edited out at one point, but after conversations with several people we decided it was important to put that back in under the headings that were provided
  - No additional comments have been received from the writers
  - Eric will send the letter to Beachy and cc Sheeley, Payne, Maw, ESCOP Members and us-directors list serve
  - Eric will put together a presentation and written comments for Clarence to present at the June 2 listening session
4. Nominees for new liaison to ECOP – ED's
  - No nominations at this time
  - Will add item to CAC agenda for next month
5. Approval of the ESCOP Agenda at Joint COPS Meeting (**attached**) – Clarence/Eric
  - Agenda approved
  - Donna will post draft agenda on the ESCOP website
6. Budget and Legislative Committee Update –Mike Vayda/Mike Harrington
  - Farm Bill input status
    - 8 people have provided responses
    - Deadline is June 28
    - Mike will save survey as a PDF and send out as an attachment, so people won't have to go to the website to access the survey
7. Science and Technology Committee Update –Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi
  - Multistate Award
    - Committee met last week and will recommend NE1033 “Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens and Pests”
  - Roadmap
    - Some committees have completed their initial white paper drafts
    - We received one nearly completed white paper and will share with the ED's so they can use as an example when writing their white papers
    - Final white papers should be submitted by mid-June
8. Communication & Marketing Update –Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm
  - Working with Podesta Group
  - Have 2 documents – Best Practices and Metrics & Evaluation of their activities
  - Will share the documents with our committee for feedback before the Joint COPS meeting
9. 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop (**program attached**) – Orlando McMeans
  - Eric will send out letter of invitation to Catherine Woteki and Ed Knipling on behalf of Clarence inviting them to the ESS Meeting in September
10. Other business
  - Next call Monday, June 21

Respectfully submitted by:  
Donna Pearce  
May 19, 2010, 2010



## EXPERIMENT STATION COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND POLICY

Experiment Station Section  
The Board on Agriculture Assembly  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

May 19, 2010

Dr. Roger Beachy, Director  
United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 2201  
Washington, DC 20250-2201

Re: National Institute for Food and Agriculture AFRI Program

Dear Dr. Beachy:

The Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) recognizes and applauds NIFA's development of an AFRI program that focuses on solving specific societal needs and issues and supports encouraging interdisciplinary teams to address such issues. The system's ability to address societal issues will lead to continued Congressional support. Increasing the resources available to support agricultural research is critical and we applaud these efforts and those to integrate the 1890 and small 1862 institutions and Cooperative Extension.

We, however, also feel that some of the procedures for implementing the AFRI program may lead to unintended consequences and would like to provide some suggestions to enhance the program:

### **Land Grant institutions wish to be engaged in NIFA planning ---**

ESCOP encourages NIFA to actively seek broad-based input to future program development, not only AFRI, but also capacity programs. While ESCOP is confident that NIFA has attempted to balance the needs of their many stakeholders and partners there is a concern that the long-held partnership between the Land Grant system and USDA may erode and this will constrain the U.S.'s ability to address local, regional, national, and international issues.

### **Single investigator and small-team grants are ALSO critical to answering agriculture's needs ---**

ESCOP recognizes the importance of large interdisciplinary, multi-institutional projects. We agree that this approach is essential for addressing broad societal issues. However, we have grave concerns over

**Clarence Watson**  
Chair  
Oklahoma State University  
139 Agricultural Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078-6019  
Phone: (405) 744-5398  
Fax: (405) 744-5339  
Email: [c.watson@okstate.edu](mailto:c.watson@okstate.edu)

**Eric Young**  
Executive Vice-Chair  
Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station  
Directors  
Box 7561, NCSU  
Raleigh, NC 27695  
Phone: (919) 513-1746  
Fax: (919) 515-7745  
Email: [eric\\_young@ncsu.edu](mailto:eric_young@ncsu.edu)

the de-emphasis of single or small-team investigator projects. Radically new innovative discoveries usually arise out of single-investigator projects. Small teams tend to clearly understand the abilities and contributions expected from each other resulting in significant productivity for a relatively small investment. Additionally, they encourage creativity and attract young brilliant minds to the agricultural sciences and underpin sustainable agriculture. Young investigators begin their careers with smaller individual projects and often are selected to participate on large teams only after proving themselves with individual efforts. If junior (tenure track) faculty members perform most of their research as part of large multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional teams, it will be very difficult for them to establish themselves as individual researchers within their disciplines. It is imperative that junior faculty establish a record of being lead investigators on successful grants and first authors on peer reviewed publications in order for senior faculty to evaluate the quality of their performance for tenure and promotion decisions. A change in emphasis toward the larger projects may impact promotion and tenure rates and ultimately the number of bright young scientists progressing through U.S. higher educational systems, especially in agriculturally-relevant disciplines.

### **Basic discovery and exploratory grants are important ---**

Focusing large team grants primarily on outcomes and solutions may discourage aspects of basic discovery research. This will drive researchers in areas like genomics and bioproducts away from AFRI to funding sources like NSF and NIH. These funding sources do not normally encourage research directly on agricultural products or systems but rather model systems that are more easily controlled. This leaves a critical gap in funding sources for basic, high risk research on agricultural crops, livestock, and food products. The result will be a lack of scientists and science to address issues of importance to our clientele in the agricultural industry. ESCOP encourages NIFA to develop programs that encourage young scientists and ideas that fall outside the mainstream (and outside the small number of prescribed target foci).

### **Small institutions can contribute great ideas ---**

Small institutions (both 1862 and 1890) have fewer resources than larger institutions. Some are remotely located from the heart of traditional agricultural production, processing, and distribution. This may lead to not being included in AFRI project teams and/or not being competitive; in short, not having access to AFRI funds. Even though small, these institutions employ scientists with significant expertise that can contribute to addressing AFRI issues. There is a need to find a means to provide and facilitate their contribution. While there is an attempt to address this issue, it is important to recognize that the infrastructure in smaller institutions is not always conducive to supporting participation in larger grants. There is a need to include language that speaks to capacity building in small institutions.

### **Planning grants can yield improved quality of large-scale team proposals ---**

Another concern is the relatively short time-line for both, letters of intent and for developing multi-institutional proposals in the current round of RFA's. The development of meaningful partnerships across disciplines and institutions requires sufficient time to develop systematic approaches and to build the trust upon which successful partnerships must be based. There are very significant transactional and management costs associated with these partnerships. Greater emphasis needs to be placed initially on planning grants particularly, if we transition to a new way of doing business.

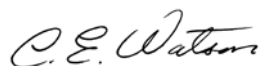
### **Local issues are excellent models to address national and international concerns ---**

Like politics, agriculture's concerns target what is happening on the ground and in the industry. Encouraging the use of regional and local specific agricultural issues to model national and international concerns will lead to greater commitment from agricultural clientele and create significant buy-in and political support for our research efforts.

ESCOP is very supportive of your vision to emphasize a problem solving approach to meeting societal needs and your efforts to increase resources to support agricultural research. Selected changes in the AFRI program will greatly strengthen it and decrease any potential negative impacts. We want to be a part of this effort. Our involvement is critical to making the transition to the new vision for funding of agricultural research as smooth and productive as possible. We look forward to working with you to develop a shared agenda. We want to help you succeed. Your success will lead to our success.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide input into the NIFA AFRI program.

Sincerely,



Clarence Watson  
ESCOP Chair



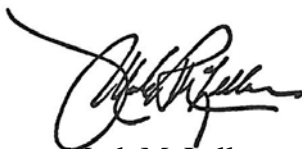
Orlando McMeans  
ARD Chair



Doug Buhler  
NCRA Chair



Thomas Burr  
NERA Chair



Mark McLellan  
SAAESD Chair



Carol Lewis  
WAAESD Chair

CC: Deborah Sheely  
[RFP-OEP@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:RFP-OEP@nifa.usda.gov)  
Jack Payne  
Ian Maw  
ESCOP Members



# Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy Meeting

*Red Lion Hotel  
Seattle, WA*

*July 21 - 22, 2010*

Time	Agenda Item #	Draft Agenda
<b><i>Wednesday, July 21</i></b>		
8:30 am		Call to Order and Introductions – Clarence Watson
8:30 am	1.0	Approval of the Agenda
	2.0	Approval of ESCOP Minutes of February 22, 2010
	3.0	Interim Actions of the Chair – Clarence Watson
8:35 am	4.0	BAA-PBD Report – Nancy Cox/Eric Young
8:45 am	5.0	Advocacy Report – Cornerstone
9:15 am	6.0	Budget and Legislative Committee – Mike Vayda/Mike Harrington
9:30 am	7.0	2012 Farm Bill Input – Mike Vayda/Mike Harrington
10:00 am	<i>Break</i>	
10:30 am	8.0	Communications and Marketing Committee – Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm/John Scofield
11:00 am	9.0	Science and Technology Committee and Science Roadmap – Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi
11:30 am	10.0	2010 SAES/ARD Workshop Program – Orlando McMeans/Carolyn Brooks
11:45 am	<i>Adjourn for Lunch and Joint Program</i>	
12:00 – 1:30 pm	<i>Lunch and Speaker – Roger Beachy, NIFA Director</i>	
1:30 - 5:00 pm		All COPs Joint Program (TBD by ICOP)
5:30 - 6:30 pm	<i>Reception</i>	

<b>Thursday, July 22</b>		
8:30 am	11.0	NIFA Report – ???
9:00 am	12.0	APLU Report – Ian Maw
9:20 am	13.0	NRSP Review Committee – Mike Vayda/Dan Rossi
10:00 am	Break	
10:30 am	14.0	National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee – Lee Sommers/Eric Young
10:45 am	15.0	Other Items
11:45 am	<i>Adjourn</i>	

<b>Written reports only</b>	
ECOP	Paul Coreil
ICOP	Chris Pannkuk
CARET	Dina Chacon-Reitzel
ARS	Ed Knipling

## 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop Schedule

September 27 – 30, 2010  
Nashville, TN

<b>MONDAY, September 27, 2010</b>	
3:00 – 6:00	Regional Meetings
6:00	<b>Opening Reception</b>
<b>TUESDAY, September 28, 2010</b>	
7:00 – 8:00	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:00 – 10:00	<b>Welcome – TBD</b> <b>Collaboration</b> – (Designed by 1890's region)
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Break</b>
10:30 – 12:00	<b>ESS Business Meeting</b> – Clarence Watson, Oklahoma State University
12:00 – 1:30	<b>Lunch – REE's Vision</b> – Catherine Woteki, REE Under Secretary
1:30 – 3:00	<b>ESS Business Meeting</b> – Clarence Watson, Oklahoma State University
3:00 – 3:30	<b>Break</b>
3:30 – 5:00	<b>Best Practices Session – Documenting Impacts, How &amp; Why</b> – Bob MacDonald, NIFA, and (one or two directors)
	<b>Dinner on your own</b>

<b>WEDNESDAY, September 29, 2010</b>	
7:00 – 8:00	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:00 – 10:00	<b>Science Roadmap Challenge Areas</b> – Speaker from each Challenge Area Writing Group (10 min overview of gaps & needs w/discussion, designed by S&T Committee)
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Break</b>
10:30 – 12:00	<b>NIFA's Vision</b> – Meryl Broussard <b>ARS's Vision</b> – Ed Knipling
12:00 – 1:30	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 – 3:00	<b>Developing and Managing Large Integrated Grants</b> – Sanjiv Singh
3:00 – 3:30	<b>Break</b>
3:30 – 5:00	<b>ESS Farm Bill Input</b> – (Designed by B&L Committee)

5:30	Walk to .....
6:00 – 10:00	<b>Banquet</b>
<b>THURSDAY, September 30, 2010</b>	
7:00 – 8:00	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:00 – 10:00	Meeting room available if needed

**ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee  
Teleconference Notes  
Monday, June 21, 2010– 4:00 pm EDT**

**Participants:**

Clarence Watson- ESCOP Chair  
 Orlando McMeans – ARD & Chair -Elect  
 Eric Young – ESCOP Executive Vice-Chair, SAAESD  
 Mike Harrington - WAAESD  
 Arlen Leholm – NCRA  
 Dan Rossi – NERA  
 Mike Vayda – Budget & Legislative Committee  
 Bill Ravlin – Science & Technology Committee  
 Hunt Shipman– Cornerstone  
 Donna Pearce – SAAESD, Recorder

**Action Items:**

Who	Action	Status
Budget & Legislative Committee	Will take the lead in collecting input for the 2012 Farm Bill process	Done
Mike Harrington	Talk to Steve to see if he is willing to serve as Budget and Legislative Chair and serve on the Policy Board of Directors	
Eric & Clarence	Talk to Mark McLellan to see if he is willing to serve on the Policy Board of Directors	Done
Dan Rossi	Send NRSP-RC committee member replacement recommendation to Eric	
Eric	Send an email appointing Nominations Committee, Lee Sommers has agreed to be nominated as ESCOP Chair-Elect	Done

1. Report from the Chair – Clarence Watson
  - Appointed Marshall Martin as the ESCOP liaison to ECOP
2. Review of Action Items from May 17 CAC call –Clarence Watson
3. Discussion on meeting with Roger Beachy
  - A conference call was held last Thursday to discuss our meeting with Roger Beachy in Washington on Tuesday, June 22
  - Committee members attending meeting
    - Bill Ravlin, NCRA
    - Dan Dooley, WAAESD
    - Tom Burr, NERA
    - Mark McLellan, SAAESD
    - Orlando McMeans, ARD
    - Clarence Watson, ESCOP Chair
    - Eric Young, ED

#### 4. NRSP-RC Update – Mike Vayda/Dan Rossi

- The committee met in Dallas, TX in June to discuss the current proposals and funding for all NRSP's
- The committee discussed the purpose of NRSP's and the role of the NRSP-RC Committee.
- Part of the NRSP-RC's charge is to identify new areas for possible NRSP's.
- Five areas of research with significant support needs are:
  - Germplasm
  - Climate change
  - Bioinformatics
  - Development of standardized methodologies for life cycle analysis
  - Development of a common database to serve as a science foundation for functional foods research
- It was suggested that NRSP Development Committees be proposed for these five areas.
- The NRSP DC's would be created with a two year life.
- Members of the NRSP-RC have agreed to prepare concept papers for these five proposed NRSP's
- The overall proposal will be discussed at the July ESCOP meeting.
- Reports on progress will be discussed during the August conference call and the proposals will be brought forward at the ESS meeting in September

#### 5. Nominees for PBD, B&L Chair and NRSP Review Committee Chair– ED's

- NRSP-RC Committee
  - Ralph Cavalieri has agreed to serve as the NRSP-RC chair for one year
  - Dan Rossi will continue to serve as the Executive Vice Chair for the coming year
  - Committee will rotate to the North Central region after one year for regular term
  - John Kirby will take on the chairmanship role
  - Arlen will take over the Executive Vice Chair as support
- Budget and Legislative Committee
  - Steve Slack has agreed to serve as Chair
  - Northeast region has agreed to Steve taking on the chairmanship role
  - Mike will talk to Steve to see if he is willing to serve as Budget and Legislative Chair and still be nominated for the Policy Board of Directors
- Policy Board of Directors
  - Eric and Clarence will talk to Mark McLellan to see if he is willing to be nominated for the Policy Board of Directors
- NRSP-RC Committee
  - Northeast has a replacement for Mike Vayda in mind and will confirm at upcoming meeting
  - Dan Rossi will send recommendation to Eric
- Nominations for Chair-elect for ESCOP must be presented by the Nominations Committee
- The Nominations Committee is chaired by past chair of ESCOP and senior reps
- Lee Sommers has agreed to serve as ESCOP Chair-Elect this coming year and serve as chair the following year
- Eric will send an email for Clarence appointing the Nominations Committee and informing them of the Western region's nominee for ESCOP Chair-Elect.

6. Budget and Legislative Committee Update –Mike Vayda/Mike Harrington
  - Reviewing the Farm Bill survey recommendations
  - Mike Harrington has prepared a summary of results we have to date
  - There are 30 completed survey responses with 75 visits to the site.
  - Regional responses are as follows:
    - ARD – 3
    - NERA– 8
    - NCRA – 5
    - SAAESD – 5
    - WAAESD – 7
  
7. Science and Technology Committee Update –Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi
  - We are still receiving white papers from the 7 challenge area teams
  - Received a few final and near final drafts
  - Have prepared the introductory section to the overall report
  - We plan to have a professional writing services come in and edit the papers after the July ESCOP meeting if funding is approved
  - We have 50 scientists all together working on these papers
  - We plan to identify all members of the writing teams in the Roadmap document
  - Most papers are currently being peer reviewed or are very close
  
8. Communication & Marketing Update –Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm
  - Having monthly conference call this Thursday with Podesta Group and Cornerstone
  - Jerry Arkin and Arlen Leholm will meet with John Scofield and Hunt Shipman to get ready for presentation at the Joint COP's meeting
  - Dan Dooley has agree to write a piece on water
  
9. 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop – Orlando McMeans/Carolyn Brooks
  - On schedule
  - Members have gone on line to register for meeting and hotel and everything is working nicely
  - All meeting and hotel information is on the ESCOP web page
  - Questions please contact Orlando McMeans or Carolyn Brooks
  
10. Other business
  - No call in July, Joint COPS meeting

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Pearce

June 22, 2010

## ESCOP CAC Minutes

August 16, 2010

### Participants:

Clarence Watson – ESCOP Chair  
Eric Young – ESCOP Executive Vice-Chair, SAAESD  
Mike Harrington – WAAESD  
Arlen Leholm – NCRA  
Dan Rossi – NERA  
Carolyn Brooks – ARD  
Ralph Cavalieri – NRSP Review Committee  
Bill Ravlin – Science & Technology Committee  
Steve Slack – Budget & Legislative Committee  
Jerry Arkin – Communication & Marketing Committee  
Steve Pueppke – ESCOP Past-Chair  
Nancy Cox – BAA/PBD Representative  
Hunt Shipman – Cornerstone

### Action Items:

Who	Action	Status
Arlen Leholm	Contact Wendy Wintersteen and tell her about our conversion on NCERA209 and get some insight from her on how to proceed	Done
Arlen Leholm	Contact the NCERA 209 group with options on how to proceed	Done
Carolyn Brooks	Send current meeting registration list out to all ED's	Done

1. Report from the Chair – Clarence Watson
  - Appointed Ralph Cavalieri as Chair of the NRSP Review Committee
  - Appointed Jon Wraith to the NRSP Review Committee as a NERA Delegate
  - Appointed Abel Ponce de Leon to the NRSP Review Committee as a NCRA Delegate
  - Appointed Steve Slack as Chair of the Budget & Legislative Committee
2. Review of Action Items from June 21 CAC call –Clarence Watson
3. Budget and Legislative Committee Update –Steve Slack/Mike Harrington
  - Have put together a draft plan for the 2012 Farm Bill session at ESS Workshop
  - Plan would entail a brief overview of all input that has been received including information from ESS
  - We would have 3 or 4 questions that would stimulate discussions for breakout sessions. Sessions would last 30 to 45 minutes
  - We will discuss this during our monthly conference call next Tuesday, August 24
  - Sent letter to D.C. Coston and all directors with ESS Farm Bill input
4. Science and Technology Committee Update –Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi
  - Main focus is Science Roadmap



- Dan has received the final versions from all the 7 Challenge areas
  - In the process of putting them together in a integrated document ~ less than 100 pages
  - Target date for having document ready is mid-September
  - Individual from the Western IPM Center will help with the editing and design and Bill is working with the print shop at Ohio State
  - The editor has been through 5 of the 7 Challenge areas and those have been returned to the Executive Directors for editing
  - Colin Kaltenbach has agree to review the completed document and Dan is in the process of contacting Daryl Lund to see if he would be interested in reviewing the document
  - We hope to have everything in their hands by mid-September
5. Communication & Marketing Update –Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm
- Administrative Heads have been approached by NCERA209 group for funding and are seeking a budget of \$75,000 for initial start-up
  - Wendy Wintersteen along with Sonny Ramashany are advocating for this group
  - Wendy Wintersteen has committed \$10,000
  - Faith Peppers, Chair of NCERA209, has agreed to participate in one of the Communication & Marketing Committee’s conference calls
  - NCERA209 started out as a different type of committee years ago and had very little to do with what they’re proposing to do now
  - There is no connection now to the ESCOP Communication & Marketing effort, but there should be
  - The committee decided to change the focus of the project 3 years ago
  - Objectives listed in the letter from Sonny are entirely different from the objectives listed in NIMSS
  - As the sponsoring region’s ED for the project, Arlen will send note back to Sonny, former AA and Chris Boone, current AA suggesting they do one or both of two things:
    - Terminate NCERA 209 and create a new project with appropriate objectives
    - Take a step back and try to find ways to ingrate their efforts into the existing structure, including Emerging Issues Task Force, which is a sub-committee of the Policy Board of Directors
  - Arlen will contact Wendy Wintersteen and tell her about our conversion and also get some insight from her on how to proceed
6. 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop – Orlando McMeans/Carolyn Brooks
- Currently have 88 participants registered
  - Roger Beachy will be attending the meeting...will arrive on Tuesday evening and will be in attendance all day Wednesday
  - Carolyn will send current registration list out to all ED’s
7. Other business
- No call in September, ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop

Respectfully submitted by:  
 Donna Pearce  
 August 17, 2010

ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee  
 Teleconference Notes  
 November 3, 2010, 4:00 pm EDT

Participants:

Orlando McMeans - ESCOP Chair  
 Lee Sommers – WAAESD, ESCOP Chair-Elect  
 Clarence Watson - SAAESD  
 Carolyn Brooks – ESCOP Exec. Vice-Chair, ARD  
 Eric Young – SAAESD  
 Mike Harrington – WAAESD  
 Steve Slack – Budget & Legislative Committee  
 Ralph Cavalieri – NRSP Review Committee  
 Dan Rossi – NERA  
 Hunt Shipman – Cornerstone  
 Ian Maw – APLU  
 Chris Hamilton – NCRA

Action Items:

Who	Action	Status
Lee and Mike	Continue to hone in on 2011 ESS/SAES/ARD details	
Bill and Dan	Get a better handle on cost estimates for Science Roadmap documents in order to ask for and obtain needed funding from ESS	
Carolyn	Make necessary corrections to the agenda for the ESCOP Exec. Com. meeting in Dallas; notify Eddie that there is not enough time to include Pioneer Representative on the agenda	done
Eric	Develop a plan to have a representative group of directors discuss generic-based products and associated intellectual property rights issues, hearing the perspectives of the industry	
All	Send thoughts on items to broach on behalf of ESCOP during panel discussion at the BAA Business meeting in Dallas to Orlando (mcmeanso@wvstateu.edu)	
Orlando & Carolyn	Meet with NIFA liaison to ESCOP, Meryl Broussard	done

1. **Report from the Chair** – Orlando McMeans (sent 13 thank you letters to speakers at the Nashville meeting; approved reimbursement for Hunt Shipman's travel to Nashville; sought confirmations from those on the proposed agenda for the ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting in Dallas. McMeans and Brooks have confirmed a face-to-face meeting with Broussard on 11/8 in lieu of the monthly conference call with him as the NIFA liaison to ESCOP).
2. **Review of Action Items since last CAC call** – Clarence and Eric had conference call with Meryl. Notes were sent out.

3. **Approval of the minutes of August 16, 2010, and the agenda** - Orlando McMeans – Seconded and Approved
4. **Follow up items from the 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD meeting in September (if any)** – All. Chair McMeans thanked everyone for successful conference. No follow up issues presented.
5. **2011 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop** – Lee Sommers. Lee and Mike have met to discuss tentative locations and have chosen Estes Park, about 1 hr from Denver; \$100 - \$110 cost for roundtrip shuttle. May be able to negotiate a better shuttle rate. Location is near Rocky Mtn. National Park. On Nov 19, Lee and Mike will look at some hotel locations, check facilities. Expect that by end of November, details will be in place. Dates considered: 1<sup>st</sup> choice - Mon-Wed, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, second choice Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> and last choice, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Send any input to Lee/Mike
6. **Update from the BAC** – Steve Slack/Mike Harrington (see attachment). 10/26 B&L meeting discussed the four options presented by Cornerstone to the BAC. Options 1&2 were favored (status quo and support the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Morrill Act in order to focus on capacity programs, AFRI, etc.) Option 3, a 1 yr break from earmarks should be watched because if earmarks are freed, the system would like to have them included in capacity lines as was done previously. Option 4, would be to consolidate NIFA lines, which will affect ECOP the most. Therefore it would be prudent to not weigh in on this option much.
7. **Update from the CLP** – Mike informed the group that he had forwarded a newer version of the stances of ESCOP as they relate to the compilation of proposals for the 2012 Farm Bill from the various sections. Notable comments from ESCOP are: remove the proposals to make capacity programs mandatory; not supportive of adding earmark type programs for AFRI; remove proposals that can be accomplished without legislation. CLP will meet next at a breakfast meeting in Dallas.
8. **Science Roadmap - Next Steps - Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi.** Submitted final edits on Roadmap, should be finalized in next day or so. Hardcopies of final report should be limited. Best to provide the extensive outputs on a printable version of .pdf on ESCOP site, and regional and APLU websites. Besides the full document, an Exec. Summary and one pagers for the challenge areas will be developed and may be more extensively provided than the full document. These will require printing costs as well. At the meeting in Dallas will continue the dialog on how to best handle budget request, which will exceed \$5000. The ESS section would have to approve additional costs, therefore should printing be done in pieces or should the entire budget go out to the section for a vote? Executive Committee should decide such things as the optimal number of the full document and the other abbreviated versions to be produced. But the Exec Summary, more so than the complete document, is the mechanism to help “sell” what we’re trying to achieve. First step, come up with recommendations for the number of copies to print before deciding on strategy to approach budget. Also bring estimates on the costs for the productions.
9. **Communications and Marketing Update – Chris Hamilton for Gerald Arkin/Arlen Leholm.** The marketing assessment was approved in Nashville and the Op-Ed articles are available at <http://ncra.wisc.edu/Marketing/AESoped.htm>
10. **Approval of the Agenda (see attachment) for the ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting in Dallas, TX.** S&T should be 3:50 pm rather than 4:50 pm. Pioneer (Mike Torrey) needs much more time, find another place to present this information. Hunt Shipman: Other side (Monsanto) needs time to present as well – need double the time! Exec Comm. meeting probably not the best place for this issue. Eric: Perhaps set up a time for directors to meet with both companies and set up a position statement. Eric will put together an idea for this meeting and report back. Also, CLP item on the agenda should be given by Mike not Eric along with Steve Pueppke. Agenda

approved with above modifications.

11. **Suggested Items for the ESCOP Chair for his participation in the Panel Discussion at the APLU BAA Business Meeting that includes Dr. Woteki – All.** Orlando will be speaking for ESCOP, please let him know what he should bring forth. Ian: Topic is future of partnership. Panel consists of chairs of sections. Roger Beachy will be in attendance; will also involve the greater audience as well; free-flowing discussion, hopefully. Steve Slack suggested 2 priority areas: 1) support base funds, and 2) robust competitive grants program. Also, specialty crops, biomass, communications – critical to get info out about system, and other key areas of discussion by ESCOP. Please send any other information to Orlando prior to the meeting in Dallas.
12. Discussion on the forming of the new ESCOP-ECOP committee on partnerships – Arlen Leholm and Eric Young. (Tabled, will leave discussion for Dallas meeting)
13. Request for discussion topics (not just reports) for the February ESCOP meeting during the annual CARET Meeting in D.C. (i.e. partnership with ECOP and NIFA) – All. (Tabled, will leave discussion for Dallas meeting)
14. Other business/announcements

Next call: December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. One week early because of Christmas. (**712-432-0080; access code 772879#**)

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Hamilton and Carolyn Brooks, Recorders

ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee  
 Teleconference Notes  
 December 15, 2010, 4:00 pm EDT

Participants:

Orlando McMeans - ESCOP Chair  
 Mark McLellan - BAA/PBD Representative  
 Carolyn Brooks – ESCOP Exec. Vice-Chair, ARD  
 Mike Harrington – WAAESD  
 Steve Slack – Budget & Legislative Committee Chair  
 Arlen Leholm – NCRA  
 Gerald Arkin – Communications and Marketing Com. Chair  
 Steve Pueppke – Committee on Legislation and Policy Representative  
 Dan Rossi – NERA  
 Bill Ravlin – Science & Tech. Com. Chair  
 Hunt Shipman – Cornerstone  
 Ian Maw – APLU  
 Jim Richards – Cornerstone  
 Vernie Hubbard - Cornerstone

Action Items:

Who	Action	Status
Orlando, Mark, Steve S.	Review and make suggestions on the REE Roadmap	
Bill and Dan	Dan will send CAC a listing of those who should receive the ESCOP roadmap. In response all should add additional names/groups for the “send to” list ASAP.	
Carolyn	Work with APLU on scheduling the ESCOP meeting in February	

**Approval of the minutes of November 3, 2010 and the agenda - completed**

**Report from the Chair** – Representing ESCOP, Orlando and the other section leaders met with Dr. Cathy Woteki on November 22, 2010 and the meeting was well received by all. Dr. Woteki agreed with the group on topics relating to increasing investments in single scientist projects, raising the priority of STEM education as a part of youth development initiatives, emphasizing local research more in addition to national research priorities, maintaining the importance of funding translational research, understanding the impacts of increasing indirect cost rates, continuing to educate OMB and OSTP about the importance of capacity funds and engaging herself more in PCAST. She intends to be fully engaged with the system and hopes to meet with the sectional leaders at least twice a year. The section representatives were asked to review the REE Roadmap and help provide more substance to it. Additionally Steve Slack and Mark McLellan have agreed to be additional ESCOP reviewers. Ian indicated the document should be received from her within the next week. Dr. Woteki is to submit the roadmap to Sec. Vilsack by the first week of January. Steve Slack indicated that the ESCOP Roadmap would be used by him and Mark to cross reference the REE document.

1. **The 2011 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop** – The meeting will take place in the historic Stanley Hotel in Estes Park. Contract is under review. Rates are surprisingly good for this popular

facility and will be in place pre- and post- meeting dates, which are September 26 – 29<sup>th</sup>. Mike will send Ian the annual meeting template so that Ian can assist with letting Dr. Woteki and Dr. Beachy know when they should arrive at the meeting.

2. **The ESCOP Science Roadmap** – Bill Ravlin reported that the roadmap will soon be released in the long version to the directors and the Executive Committee, and various other groups requesting it. The Communications and Marketing Committee, Podesta and Cornerstone have been providing guidance on how to best use excerpts of the document. J. Shipman and J. Scofield are helping to define how best to use the write-ups for marketing and J. Scofield will help to develop pieces that are useful for educating decision makers – legislators and their staffers. They are also considering a spokesperson for the roadmap who is outside the system. Additionally, Simon Tripp from Battelle is working with the committee to provide some impact estimates from the investment. Another initiative is to work with Dr. Beachy and put information from the roadmap in a review article for a journal such as *Science* to help hoist the flag of agricultural sciences. Steve Slack suggested that the process of doing the latter should have more thought as the REE and ESCOP documents should be in alignment before asking Roger to join in with the journal article. Dan indicated the PDF is ready to go along with a cover letter and it will be posted on the regional websites, ESCOP's, APLU's, etc. Dan will send the group a listing of those who should receive the document, i.e. Cathy, Ed Knipling, Roger. In response all should add additional names for the "send to" list ASAP.
3. **BAC Report** – Hunt indicated that at last report the Senate's omnibus bill is largely flat-lined but there were some increases to AFRI (increase of \$26M when House only gave \$6M increase.) There are still three options: 1. Senate passes its omnibus bill, sends it to House and if passed it goes to the President. 2. Senate will do as House has approved – do a one year long CR with no earmarks. 3. The most unwanted: Do a short term CR til February. The next Senate is going to be more frugal and we might go back to the funding levels of 2008.
4. **Update from the CLP** – Vernie reported that all submissions are in and some of the previous submissions have been revised. He will send out the updated compilation to the CLP in December and it will be discussed again at a face-to-face meeting in February. Ian will try to schedule the BAC meeting and the CLP meeting close enough so that those on both committees can minimize travel.
5. **Communications and Marketing Update** – Jerry indicated the Roadmap report (#2 above) included what he would have reported. He also indicated that the op-ed pieces by Podesta are well placed. Additionally, Jerry agreed that Simon Tripp is a great help in developing succinct marketing materials for the system.
6. **February ESCOP meeting** – Carolyn will work with Eddie and Suzette to schedule the ESCOP meeting and will inform the group accordingly through email with requests for agenda items.
7. It appears ECOP is determining the participants and the process of working on the 406 Integrated Programs issues. There is ESCOP participation however, but still there is probably no inclusion of the 1994s.
8. **The ESCOP-ECOP Committee on Partnerships** has started its work and are considering four topic areas. Dr. Singh from Carnegie Mellon could possibly be a speaker on partnerships at the COPS meeting for the entire body and on the following day ECOP and ESCOP can meet to further discuss partnership issues. The regions will be provided with key discussion questions to respond to in advance of the COPs meeting in order for broad input to be provided for discussion at the COPs meeting in Boston.
9. **NIMSS** – the system needed correcting in terms of inconsistencies of summary tables, double counting of data, data that was not current, etc. Formulas have been corrected, duplicate searches have been eliminated, and new summary tables are being added. The system is being tested and others are being asked to assist in testing the system to see if it is improved/corrected.
10. Steve Slack agreed to be appointed as liaison to the ECOP Budget and legislative Committee, a position usually held by the chair of the ESCOP B&L Committee.
11. **Announcement** – Jeff Armstrong, dean at MSU becomes President of Cal. State on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

12. Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Next call: January 24, 2011 at 4 PM. (**712-432-0080; access code 772879#**)

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Brooks, Recorder