

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

Call NOTES for Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 4 pm ET (4th Tuesday monthly)

Committee Members:

<p>Chair: Anton Bekkerman (NERA) Past Chair: Glenda Humiston (WAAESD) Incoming Chair: Steve Lommel (SAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates: Alton Thompson (ARD) Vernon Jones (ARD) Gary Pierzynski (NCRA) Marty Draper (NCRA) Puneet Srivastava (NERA) Steve Lommel (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Sreekala Bajwa (WAAESD) Shawn Donkin (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED) Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder)</p>	<p>Liaisons: Jason Henderson (ECOP) Katie Frazier (CARET) Doug Steele (APLU) Caron Gala (APLU) Elizabeth Stulberg (Lewis-Burke, Advocacy) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Laura Jolly (BHS)</p>
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Attendees: Gary Thompson, Matt Wilson, Gary Pierzynski, Cindy Morley, Gary Thompson, Elizabeth Stulberg, Sreekala Bajwa, Saied Mostaghimi, Vernon Jones, Anton Bekkerman, Puneet Srivastava, Shawn Donkin, Laura Jolly, Doug Steele, Paula Geiger, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton (recorder)

Meeting Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and introductions – Anton, Chris
 - Anton welcomed everyone to the call. No introductions needed since no one is new to the group.
2. Approval of the 9/28 meeting notes (see: <http://escop.info/event/blc-face-to-face-meeting/>)
 - Approved as distributed.
3. Approval of Today's Agenda – Anton
 - Approved with the addition of a discussion regarding Caron's email today sent to BLC members on sign-on letters to support research infrastructure.
4. ESCOP BLC Calendar: Review/Discussion – Jeff, Anton
 - Jeff led the group through the ESCOP BLC calendar he created.
 - Gary P. requested the addition of a "BLC potential actions" column. Jeff will add this in.
 - This calendar can be reviewed by BLC and updated, as needed.
5. LBA Assignment for FFY24 ESS Budget Advocacy (LBA request for BLC to prepare slides for Hatch, AFRI, and Infrastructure advocacy) – Anton, Gary, Jeff, Elizabeth

- Background on the request from Elizabeth: There will be lots of turnover on the Hill next year, so we need to be able to educate them on who we are, which programs are important to us. LBA can do the basics, we need to do the specifics with evidence to back it up with numbers and impacts, with emphasis on why they should care. All sections have been asked to do this.
- Group discussion on the slides presented by Anton ensured. Main comments:
 - Ideas and format are great, but overall, very text heavy.
 - Slide 1, text at the bottom could be worded more clearly, again with less text.
 - Add infographics, links, QR codes where possible for sharing more detailed information and present our impacts and why these programs should be supported.
 - Mark asked in the chat if we should we include comparisons to NSF, NIH? Elizabeth says no, that in her experience, that's not helpful, since those we will be contacting have no authority over NSF, NIH funding and we don't want to risk pitting us against them in any way.
 - Slide 2, can we adjust the states presented, depending upon who we are talking to? Possibly or we can just use a full US map. Also, we should note that Hatch amplifies the investment through AFRI and others. We want to show a unified connection between Hatch, AFRI, and infrastructure.
 - Slide 3, another possible point could be that without investment, food prices will go up even more.
 - Slide 4, start the Funding History figure at 2015 to be consistent with the Hatch slide figure.
 - Shawn expressed concern over the research outsourcing comments mentioned in all the Elevator Pitch slides, as it might be touchy when discussing domestic, private industries. Perhaps there's a different combination of words to express this?
 - Gary T: Emphasize publicly available research from LGUs and that we are creating impactful solutions, not just doing research for the sake of doing research.
- Anton reminded the group about the support letters sent out from Caron today and forwarded to BLC, please make sure your state liaisons are aware and share with Senate committee delegates. Regional associations/BLC directors should forward through their email lists, as well. FYI that \$2M is the starting point and that's the key, we've never had funds for this before, so this is a great start. October 28 is the deadline, so quick action requested on this. Jeff will send a note to EDs for sharing with their regions after the call (done).

6. APLU Update – Doug

- Messaging – as LBA stated earlier, it's important to pull out priorities for effective messaging, use links and QR codes for more details for staffers.
- Annual APLU meeting coming up with calendar invites for various committee/section meetings sent recently. Updates from REE administrators, NIFA as part of the BAA general session will occur. There's a short list for the new NIFA director and other leadership roles to be filled soon.
- Climate initiative: We've worked out a NIFA funding pathway for the external consultant via Colorado State.

- Kelly Dalton, the new BHS Executive Director, will give an update soon on developing and bringing people together on a LGU response for addressing ag, food, and wellness.
7. LBA Advocacy Update – Elizabeth
 - Nothing new to report today.
 8. Liaison Reports
 - a. NIFA update – Paula
 - Planning to release capacity funds at about 21% of last year for this quarter as part of the temporary funding measure due to the CR.
 - b. ECOP report – None, not on call.
 - c. BHS report – Laura
 - Laura is looking forward to attending the annual APLU meeting in November.
 - BHS will get together and review a draft of new strategic plan at the APLU meeting.
 - Leadership fellows’ program is going very well; it’s been great to hear about their projects and will share outcomes in the future.
 9. Status of Future BLC Calls
 - November 22 (Thanksgiving week) and December 27 (cancelled due to holidays) – should we schedule a BLC call on Tuesday, December 13? YES.
 - Group consensus was that a call on 12/13 would fine and just have it for directors only. Chris will schedule this shortly with the BLC members.
 - Doug concurred that there won’t be any items of importance to bring to BLC until January.
 - January 24 and beyond – Gary/Cindy take over with new Zoom link (stay tuned for updates)
 10. Other business, as needed – None identified.

Call adjourned at 4:57 pm ET.