



agInnovation Monthly Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC) Call NOTES 1/10/2024, 3 pm CT, 4 pm ET

Call Attendees: George Smith, Jeanette Thurston, Steve Lommel, Bret Hess, Gary Thompson, Alton Thompson, Brian Raison, Matt Wilson, Bob Stougaard, Anton Bekkerman, Nathon Slaton, Cindy Morely, David Leibovitz, Chris Hamilton (recorder).

Call Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome and introductions, as needed – Chair George Smith
 - Jeanette welcomed all to the call on behalf of George who was delayed.
2. agInnovation Research Roadmap Strategy Update (dates, location, facilitator, logistics) – George, Jeanette, Chris
 - This session will take place on March 7 and 8 at the Hilton Chicago O'Hare airport hotel (the Hilton attached to the airport).
 - A facilitator has been identified and contacts are being signed.
3. [LBA/BAC/CLP Vision Statements](#) (see below) – George, Jeanette
 - The group agreed that the statements below state below don't work for agInnovation as presented, so [Anton Bekkerman presented his and Gary Thompson's redesigned version](#) for CAC feedback.
 - The CAC agreed that Anton/Gary's bullet points presented are very strategic objectives and right in line with upcoming March agInnovation planning meeting. Additionally, these are good goal areas for everyone, not just research, and it would be nice to have BAC approve the same goal areas that we are using for our research strategy.
 - One area not mentioned is, "preserving world life." Perhaps include under resiliency?
 - The CAC agreed that more work can be done on Anton/Gary's points, but this is a great starting point.
 - **Next steps:** CAC leadership will work on this, polish, and submit in time for Friday's deadline. Jeanette will reach out after the call today to begin the process.
4. NCFAR Lunch-n-Learn Series—agInnovation sponsored session- George, Jeanette
 - Does agInnovation want to sponsor a session? The cost to sponsor is \$1000 and the audience is the Ag Appropriations/Ag Committee staff and others.
 - "Food Security is National Security" and/or Climate Smart Ag are ideas for our possible sessions. Joe Shultz, former Chief of Staff for Debbie Stabenow and now the executive director for *The Platform for Agriculture and Climate Transformation (PACT)*, has indicated he would like to partner with agInnovation; this would be a great opportunity to do so. Should we reach out to him and put together a session?
 - WAAESD EC requests Gene Kelly present Climate Change roadmap.
 - Steve Lommel also suggested a session on the terminology behind EPA endangered species policy and perhaps CRISPR technology.

- **Next Steps:** EDs will put together outlines for two sessions and then go to the Finance Committee for approval of the \$2000.
5. Update on below Action Items, as needed – George, Jeanette
 - Not done, out of time.
 6. Other Business, as needed.
 - None identified.

Action Items:

- Via regional offices, ask our regional communicators for volunteers to serve on an agInnovation communications advisory group, using the charge that George, Jeanette, Chris will pull together and share with EDs and ADs. **Status – on hold**

To: APLU BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) and Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP)
From: Doug Steele, FANR VP; Elizabeth Stulberg, Lewis-Burke Associates
Re: BAA BAC/CLP Vision Document

Dear BAC and CLP Members,

Following the discussion we held at our gathering on Nov 1, just before the APLU leadership summit, Elizabeth crunched through a collection of notes and statements to assemble a list of themes we may use for our draft vision document. As a reminder, this document is envisioned to illustrate progress towards goals that bring together the broader stakeholder community on cross-cutting and “big picture” topics that connect with scientists and non-scientists alike.

The statements, or “visions” Elizabeth compiled each must be compelling enough to answer the question of “So what?” to a general audience but specific enough so that it is obvious why they are land-grant/agriculture school (APLU BAA) priorities. There are ten statements grouped into five categories. **We need your help to choose one statement from 3 or up to 4 categories** (we don’t want more than one statement within a category).

Please choose 3 or 4 vision statements (no more than one per category) and rank them from most to least compelling.

- Rural Opportunity
 - Members of rural communities have more opportunities.
 - Rural communities are economically and environmentally healthy places to live.
- Global Competitiveness/National Security
 - The United States improves its national security by becoming food, energy, and water independent.
 - The United States enjoys a safe, abundant, and secure domestic food supply for the benefit of food safety and national security.
 - Americans benefit from the safety, trustworthiness, and dependability of American-grown and American-made products that are diverse and inexpensive.
 - The United States is the world leader in agriculture research and innovation.
- Food and Diet-Related Diseases
 - The United States cuts in half the number of Americans with diet-related diseases.
 - Americans have better, more satisfying diets and longer, healthier lives.
- Urban Opportunity
 - Urban areas have healthy trees and green spaces to the benefit of environmental and human health.
- Resilience
 - Americans will need less time and less money to recover from natural disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires, and pandemics.

For example, you might respond:

1. **Global Competitiveness/National Security.** Americans benefit from the safety, trustworthiness, and dependability of American-grown and American-made products that are diverse and inexpensive.
2. **Food and Diet-Related Diseases.** Americans have better, more satisfying diets and longer, healthier lives.
3. **Resilience.** Americans will need less time and less money to recover from natural disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires, and pandemics.

Please submit your comments by FRIDAY, January 12th so we can complete a draft summary. On behalf of BAC chair, Mike Boehm, CLP chair, Rich Bonanno, Lewis Burke Associates and the APLU Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources we appreciate your continued engagement in the process as we develop long term strategies and advocacy priorities.

Gary and Anton's BAC Response:

1. National Security and Resiliency

- The United States produces 95% of its food domestically while reducing the use of water, land, and energy inputs by 50%, capturing 75% more carbon through advanced food and fiber management practices, and ensuring food price inflation to be under 2%.

[Recent data indicate that the U.S. already consumes about 87% of food that was domestically produced, so I don't think 95% is a stretch. The bigger moonshots would be the input reductions and carbon sequestration. Median food price inflation since 1973 has been 3.4%, so reducing that by about 1.5 percentage points could be a reasonable goal as well...and 2% sounds nice too!]

2. Global Competitiveness and Leadership

- America will reinforce (re-establish) its global leadership position by tripling its annual agricultural and food science innovations and high impact patents, bolstered by a \$1.5 billion annual federal investment in agricultural research and extension.

[The \$1.5 billion represents \$1 b annual increase in competitive funds, raising the AFRI funding to \$1.5 billion annually (a doubling of the current \$700m authorization) plus a \$500 m increase in capacity funding.]

3. Food and Diet-Related Diseases

- Food deserts in America will be eliminated and smarter food production and consumption will cut in half the number of Americans with diet-related diseases and reduce national healthcare costs by 25%.

[Currently, U.S. spends about \$4.5 trillion in healthcare costs annually, so any double-digit percentage reduction will be significant! For example, 25% reduction is \$1.13 trillion = ~5% of U.S. GDP.]