

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC): <http://escop.info/committee/blc/>  
 November 2023 Agenda- **Members & Liaisons**  
 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:**

<p><b>Chair:</b> Anton Bekkerman (NERA)  <b>Past Chair:</b> Glenda Humiston (WAAESD)  <b>Incoming Chair:</b> Steve Lommel (SAAESD)</p> <p><b>Members:</b>          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)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons:</b>          Jason Henderson (ECOP)          Katie Frazier (CARET)          Caron Gala (APLU)          Elizabeth Stulberg (Lewis-Burke, Advocacy)          Paula Geiger (NIFA)          Laura Jolly (BHHS)</p> <p><b>Executive Vice-Chair</b>          Gary Thompson (SAAESD ED)          Cindy Morley (SAAESD)</p>
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**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.
  - Farm Bill deadline was extended within the CR.
    - Expect to see legislative text coming out in January from the House committee.
  - 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.
  - 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)
  - 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 (<https://agclimatealliance.com/>)

