

Item

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief

Presenters: Bret Hess and Mike Harrington

For information only

The committee holds regular conference calls on the last Tuesday of each month that have generally been well attended. The current B&L Committee membership is shown below.

<p>Chair: Bret Hess (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates: Barry Bequette (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Ernie Minton NCRA Tim Phipps (NERA) Gary Thompson (NERA)* Bill Brown (SAAESD) Bob Shulstad (SAAESD) Jim Moyer (WAAESD) Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>Liaisons</p> <p>Paula Geiger (NIFA) Emir Albores (NIFA) Caird Rexroad (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Dina Chacon-Reitzel (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone) Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p>
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Water Working Group: The B&L Committee endorsed the recommendation that a Water Working Group be established in the vein of the Pest management Working Group with a charge of developing a set of programmatic and funding recommendations that would be returned the ECOP and ESCOP B&L Committees, the BAC and the Policy Board of Directors. This intent is to identify possible budget initiatives and provide guidance to NIFA. The committee co-chaired by Steve Slack and Jimmy Henning has been constituted, an initial description of the issues has been drafted/distributed and a larger strawman document has been prepared for release to the committee within the next week. A draft WG document is expected by the Joint COPS meeting.

The B&L Committee held a face to face meeting on March 3 in conjunction with the AHS-CARET Meetings in Washington DC, during which the following were discussed:

Budget Priorities for 2016: For the last several years ESCOP has had two budget priorities, increasing both capacity and competitive funds. The other unwritten priority is to lose no ground. There was discussion of moving forward with another priorities survey; however, the same responses would be expected.

The Big Audacious Ask: The B&L Committee had further discussions on the possibility of bringing forward a Big Ask; that is an audacious initiative, which *all* could endorse. Such an initiative might include performance targets, timelines and deliverables and would necessarily include both competitive

and capacity program funding. Several possibilities have been advanced including water and pest management. Water appears to be the most desirable at this point given the wide-spread attention that these issues are receiving. This effort should be in conjunction with our Extension colleagues, in consultation with Cornerstone and would require the endorsements of the ESCOP and ECOP B&L Committees, ESCOP and ECOP, the BAC and the Policy Board.

BAC Priorities: The BAC met by conference call on Feb 18 to finalize the system's FY 2015 appropriations requests for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). No changes to priorities as stated to the seven core priorities: AFRI, capacity funds for Hatch, Evans-Allen –McIntire-Stennis, Smith-Lever, 1890 Extension and 1994 Research and Extension. The first priority is to lose no ground relative to 2014. Cornerstone expects 2015 to potentially be a difficult budget year. In keeping with past practice, The BAC position is to endorse the President's Budget or our 2014 numbers whichever are higher. Click [here](#) for 2015 NIFA Budget details and Cornerstone's Report is [here](#).

All documents related the federal budget and the Farm Bill are located at the land-grant.org website. The BAA priorities are documented in a one-pagers (two-sided) at www.land-grant.org/documents.html

ECOP Liaison: Rick Klemme Chair ECOP Budget and Legislative Committee, was added as a liaison.