



ESS Business Meeting Agenda
Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Jekyll Island, GA
Wednesday, October 1, 2014

Duration	Time	Agenda Item	Topic and Presenter(s)
10 m	11:00 am	1.0	Call to Order – Steve Slack, Chair 1.1 Approval of the Agenda 1.2 Approval of September 25, 2013 ESS Meeting Minutes (in Columbus, OH) 1.3 Approval of Interim Actions 1.4 Experiment Station Section Awards for Excellence in Leadership
10 m	11:10	2.0	Budget and Legislative Report – Bret Hess/Mike Harrington
10 m	11:20	3.0	Science and Technology Committee Report – John Russin/Jeff Jacobsen 3.1 Multistate Research Award winners and 2015 funding approval (vote with NRSP requests)
10 m	11:30	4.0	Communications and Marketing Committee Report – Dan Rossi/Darren Katz, kglobal
5 m	11:40	5.0	Futuring Initiative – Mike Hoffmann
5 m	11:45	6.0	Capital Infrastructure Survey – Mike Hoffmann
5 m	11:50	7.0	Water Security Working Group – Mike Harrington
30 m	12:00	8.0	NRSP Review Committee Report – Bret Hess/Mike Harrington; 8.1 Recommendations for project approval and off-the-top funding (ballots distributed during regional meetings)
65 m	12:25		Lunch
15 m	1:30	9.0	Results of NRSP Balloting/Discussion – Bret Hess/Mike Harrington
5 m	1:45	10.0	Impact Database Update – Bill Brown/Eric Young
15 m	1:50	11.0	NIFA Update – Robert Holland, Deputy Director
15 m	2:05	12.0	BAA-Policy Board of Directors – Steve Slack/Eric Young
5 m	2:20	13.0	Pest Management Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC) – Mike Harrington/Jeff Jacobsen
5 m	2:25	14.0	Nominations and Election of Chair-Elect – Steve Slack
10 m	2:30	15.0	Resolutions Committee Report – Marc Linit
10 m	2:40	16.0	Remarks, Announcements and Changing of the Guard – Steve Slack 16.1 Tentative Plans for 2015 ESS Meeting – Shirley Hymon-Parker 16.2 Other future ESS Meetings
5 m	2:50	17.0	Final Remarks and Adjourn – Robert Shulstad
30m	3:00		Break – University of Georgia Session begins @ 3:30
			Agenda Briefs Only
		18.0	Lead21 Update – Dan Rossi
		19.0	125 th Anniversary Commemoration of the Second Morrill Act – Carolyn Brooks
		20.0	NIMSS Update – Jeff Jacobsen, Dan Rossi (within the NRSP-RC Report)
		21.0	ECOP Liaison Report to ESCOP – Daryl Buchholz
		22.0	ERS Update (materials will be sent separately) – Mary Bohman

2014 ESS Business Meeting Notes and Action Items

10/1/14

Item #	Notes/Highlights	Actions
1.0	Approval of 9/25/2013 minutes, current agenda, interim actions of the ESCOP Chair	All Approved
3.0	Motion to approve \$15,000 off the top funding for Multistate Award each year unless a future vote changes that amount. This funding will not be included on future ballots	Motion seconded and unanimous approval
8.0	NRSP Balloting/Discussion:	
	Motion from NRSP-RC to change Section III. A. General: bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to recommend investment of up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”	Approved
	Motion from NRSP-RC to change section IV. B. Management & Business Plan: Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”	Approved
	NRSP_temp001 budget and renewal proposal	NRSP_temp001 budget and renewal proposal approved.
	NRSP_temp003 budget and renewal proposal	NRSP_temp003 budget and proposal renewal approved.
	NRSP_temp301 budget and renewal proposal	NRSP_temp301 budget and proposal renewal approved
	NRSP_temp321 budget and renewal proposal	NRSP_temp321 budget and proposal renewal approved

11.0	NIFA Update: Please see agenda linked presentation	
14.0	Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD) nominated for ESCOP Chair-Elect, effective 10/1/2015	Approved Shirley Hymon-Parker as ESCOP Chair-Elect
15.0	Resolutions read by Marc Linit, motion for approval as read	Resolutions Approved
16.0	Plans for 2015 ESS Meeting (ARD hosts). Ballantyne Hotel, Charlotte, NC Tuesday – Thursday, September 22-24, 2015	
17.0	ESCOP Chair transferred to Dr. Bob Shulstad, University of Georgia	

Item 1.3: Interim Actions
Presenter: Steve Slack

FY2014 INTERIM ACTIONS OF THE ESCOP CHAIR

Steven A. Slack
The Ohio State University

Appointments:

- Communications and Marketing Committee - Dan Rossi, Executive Vice-Chair
- Science and Technology Committee
 - John Russin (Chair); Jeff Jacobsen (Executive Vice-Chair)
 - Marakis Alvarez (Incoming Chair)
 - Teferi Tsegaye (ARD); Tom Burr (NERA)
 - Joe Coletti (NCRA/Social Sciences)
 - Philip Watson (WAAESD Social Sciences);
 - Deb Hamernik (NCRA); Nathan McKinney (SAAESD)

Appointments Continued:

- Budget and Legislative Committee
 - Bret Hess (Chair); Gary Thompson (NERA, Incoming Chair)
 - Jim Moyer (WAAESD); Jeffrey Steiner (WAAESD)
- NRSP Review Committee Chair - Bret Hess (WAAESD)
- ESCOP Chair Elect - Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)
- ECOP Rep to ESCOP - Daryl Buchholz
- NPGCC Chair - Jim Moyer (WAAESD)
- LEAD21 - David Benfield (NCRA)
- Futures Task Force - Mike Hoffmann (NERA)
- Capital Infrastructure/Facilities Task Force - Mike Hoffmann (NERA)

Nominations:

- Milo Shult, 1862 LGU Rep to NAREEE Advisory Board
- Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research Board ESCOP Nominees
 - Fred Cholick, Kansas State; Barbara Valent, Kansas State
 - Douglas Randall, Missouri; Michael R. Ladisch, Purdue
 - Y. M. Saif, Ohio State *; Victor Louis Lechtenberg, Purdue
 - C. Colin Kaltenbach, Arizona (retired); James Tiedje, Michigan State
 - Chandra Reddy, Tennessee State; Doug Buhler, Michigan State *
- Gary Thompson, Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP)
- Anugrah Shaw, National Committee for the Pesticide Safety Education Program

Communications:

- ESS Excellence in Leadership Award Names to APLU
Carolyn Brooks (ARD)
Colin Kaltenbach (WAAESD)
Arlen Leholm (NCRA)
Bruce McPheron (NERA)
Craig Nessler (SAAESD)
- ECOP/ESCOP Climate Hub MOU
- ESCOP's recommendation for expansion of Communications and Marketing Committee to PBD
- ECOP/ESCOP Strategic Alliance conference calls with Chairs/EDs prior to major meetings/events

Other Actions:

- DC meetings with ECOP
- Invited Natural Resources to present Roadmap to PBD
- Approved ESCOP funds to support research in national impact database
- Served as Co-Chair (Jimmy Henning, ECOP) on Water Task Force
- Hosted NAREEE Board visit in May to Ohio State University
- Worked with Mike Harrington/Jeff Jacobsen/Robin Shepard to create the National Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC) now under Science and Technology
- Clarence Watson/Steven Slack nominees for PBD

Item 1.4: Experiment Station Section Awards for Excellence in Leadership **Presenter: Steve Slack, Jeff Jacobsen**

Background:

This award was conceived by the S&T committee in 2013 and will be considered part of the ESCOP Chair's duties going forward. Please refer to the 2014 version of this award announcement below for more details. Winners will be presented with their award during the APLU Annual Meeting's awards ceremony (8:30 – 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2, 2014).

Winners this year are:

Dr. Carolyn Brooks, Executive Director, Association of 1890 Research Directors

Dr. Colin Kaltenbach, Dean and Director Emeritus, University of Arizona

Dr. Arlen Leholm, Executive Director (retired), North Central Regional Association

Dr. Bruce McPherson, Dean and Director (former), Pennsylvania State University; Vice President and Dean (current), The Ohio State University

Dr. Craig Nessler, Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

Final version of award announcement to share annually with each region:

Experiment Station Section Awards for Excellence in Leadership (June 2014)

Purpose

To recognize those who have served the Regional Associations, the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP), the Experiment Station Section (ESS) and/or the national Land-grant System with exemplary distinction. Through this person's leadership, he/she shall have personified the highest level of excellence by enhancing the cause and performance of the Regional Associations and ESS in achieving their missions and the Land-grant ideal.

Award and Presentation

Up to five awards, one from each ESS region, will be presented each year. The awards shall be signified by the creation of a suitably inscribed piece approved by the ESCOP Executive Committee and presented to the recipient or his/her proxy at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) annual meeting and will be further memorialized by a resolution to be read during the ESS fall meeting. The home institution shall be made aware of the recognition by formal letter from the ESCOP Chair to the Chief Executive Officer of the institution and its governing body (Board of Trustees, Board of Regents, etc.) with others copied as appropriate. The expense of the actual award recognition will be borne by the Regional Association, while the expenses associated with travel of the winners to the APLU meeting will be borne by the Associations and/or home institutions.

Eligibility

Eligible for this award are former or current State Agricultural Experiment/Research Station (SAES or ARD) leaders who have provided service as assistant director, associate director, director, or as chief operating officers with equivalent, but variant titles (e.g. vice chancellor, associate vice chancellor, associate vice president, dean for research) and/or as a regional executive director. This award is distinctive in its expectations and not necessarily coincident with retirement, election to specific office or any other specific professional benchmark.

Nominations

Nominations shall include a statement of accomplishments prepared by the nominator(s) unbeknownst to the candidate and supported by letters from up to five (5) former or current members of the ESS. Other letters of support from the home and other institutions may be submitted with the discretion of the nominator(s). Nominations shall address the contributions of the nominee to the Land-grant ideal through service to include offices held, committee assignments, other service and, in particular special and extraordinary service activities. Such service should include for example: active participation in affairs of the Regional Association and/or ESCOP; regional, national and/or international special assignments with distinctive performance that has advanced the mission of the ESS and the land-grant ideal; and a record of significant accomplishments in the agricultural sciences. Specific examples of contributions may include the enhancement of cooperation across institutions, creation of model administrative systems useable by other institutions, and development of new strategic directions for the Regional Associations or the ESS. Although testimony as to the nominee's contributions to his/her home state and institution are welcomed, they are not pivotal to assessing the contributions to ESS and related activities.

Submission and Review

Nominations for the recognition should be submitted to the Regional Associations by February 1 of each year. The Regional Associations will review the nominations and will select one regional winner. The Associations will submit the names of the winners to the ESCOP Chair by July 1 and he/she in turn will forward them to APLU. The winners will be announced at the fall ESS meeting and the awards will be presented at the APLU annual meeting. Regional Associations may also choose to recognize the Awardee in addition to the above venues.

[Back to Top](#)

Item 2.0

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. Gary Thompson will assume chair at the ESS meeting.

Chair: Bret Hess (WAAESD)	Liaisons
Delegates:	Rick Klemme Chair ECOP BLC
Barry Bequette (ARD)	Paula Geiger (NIFA)
Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD)	Emir Albores (NIFA)
Karen Plaut (NCRA)	Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med)
Ernie Minton NCRA	Eddie Gouge (APLU)
Tim Phipps (NERA)	Ian Maw (APLU)
Gary Thompson (NERA)*	Dina Chacon-Reitzel (CARET)
Bill Brown (SAAESD)	Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS)
Bob Shulstad (SAAESD)	Jim Richards (Cornerstone)
Jim Moyer (WAAESD)	Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)
Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)	Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)
Executive Vice-Chair	*Chair elect
Mike Harrington (WAAESD)	

Water Working Group: The B&L Committee endorsed the program description and supports bringing forward a “Big Audacious Ask” on Water Security based on the Water Working Group efforts. This effort is in conjunction with our Extension colleagues, in consultation with Cornerstone and endorsed by ESCOP and ECOP, the BAC and the Policy Board. The Initiative is for \$100m/yr. for 5 yrs. The Committee recognizes that it may take a year or two to accomplish.

Status of NRSP-7 Minor use Animal Drug Program: The project has requested a one year budget (NRSP-RC approved \$325,000) which does not provide for program sustainability and is insufficient to cover a single drug approval. This may be a terminal year for the project unless they are successful in obtaining additional funds.

The NRSP-7 Committee has developed a request for approximately \$6 m which would provide realistic support for the project. Unfortunately, it is difficult to rally support from the diverse stakeholder groups e.g. sheep goats, llamas, catfish, deer etc. There is language in the 2014 Farm Bill that authorizes this type of program. The NRSP-7 Committee intends to spend the year exploring alternative funding options and bolstering stakeholder support for a proposal that would provide realistic funding.

Survey in Science Roadmap Implementation: The B&L Committee is conducting a survey to determine the impact of the Science Roadmap has had on decision making in the SAES system. As of this writing, there have been 50 responses. The results indicate the following:

- 68% of respondents report that the Science Roadmap has guided programmatic decisions.

- Of those reporting no change
 - 47% reported the priorities were already aligned with the Roadmap
 - 26% indicated a lack of resources
 - 20% of responses indicated lack of awareness

Challenges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 were most influential in programmatic decisions:

Challenge 1: We must enhance the sustainability, competitiveness, and profitability of U.S. food and agricultural systems.	87.18% n=34
Challenge 2: We must adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on food, feed, fiber, and fuel systems in the United States.	82.05% N=32
Challenge 3: We must support energy security and the development of the Bioeconomy from renewable natural resources in the United States.	74.36% N=29
Challenge 4: We must play a global leadership role to ensure a safe, secure, and abundant food supply for the United States and the world.	82.05% N=32
Challenge 5: We must improve human health, nutrition, and wellness of the U.S. population.	84.62% 33
Challenge 6: We must heighten environmental stewardship through the development of sustainable management practices.	82.05% N=32
Challenge 7: We must strengthen individual, family, and community development and resilience.	61.54% N=24
— The Grand Challenges have had little to no impact on programmatic decisions for my unit.	7.69% n-3

Among the highest priority action items from within the Challenge areas:

Improving agricultural productivity by sustainable means, considering climate, energy, water, and land use challenges	82.05% n=32
Developing new plant and animal production systems, products, and uses to increase economic return to producers	82.05% n=32
Improving existing and developing new models for use in climate variability and change studies; addressing carbon, nitrogen, and water changes in response to climate; assessing resource needs and efficiencies; identifying where investments in adaptive capacity will be most beneficial; and addressing both spatial and temporal scale requirements for agricultural decision making	58.97% n=23
Developing economic assessments to provide more accurate estimates of climate change impacts and the potential costs and benefits of adaptation, and to validate and calibrate models	33.33% n=13
Developing technologies to improve production-processing efficiency of regionally-appropriate biomass into bioproducts (including biofuels)	61.54% n=24
Assessing the environmental, sociological, and economic impacts of the production of biofuels and coproducts at local and regional levels to ensure sustainability	46.15% n=18
Developing technologies and breeding programs to maximize the genomic potential of plants and animals for enhanced productivity and nutritional value	79.49% n=31
Developing effective methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, trace the origin of, and respond to potential food safety hazards, including bioterrorism agents, invasive species, pathogens (foodborne and other), and chemical and physical contaminants throughout production, processing, distribution, and service of food crops and animals grown under all production systems	61.54% n=24
Investigating the potential of nutritional genomics in personalized prevention or delay of onset of disease and in maintenance and improvement of health	43.59% n=17
Developing community-based participatory methods that identify priority areas within communities, including built	58.97% n=23

environments, that encourage social interaction, physical activity, and access to healthy foods— especially fruits and vegetables—and that can best prevent obesity in children and weight gain in adults	
Reducing the level of inputs and improving the resource use efficiency of agricultural	64.10% n=25
Developing ecologically-sound livestock and waste management production systems and	69.23% n=27
Understanding how local food systems actually work, particularly for small producers and low-income consumers, and how local food production contributes to the local economy, to social and civic life, and to the natural environment	64.10% n=25
Understanding the relative merits of people-, sector-, and place-based strategies and policies in regional economic development and improving the likelihood that rural communities can provide supportive environments for strengthening rural families and spurring a civic renewal among people, organizations, and institutions	46.15% n=18
The action items have had little to no impact on programmatic decisions for my unit.	12.82% n=5

Types of Programmatic Decisions Influenced:

Created new faculty/staff positions that were better aligned with Roadmap priorities	32.35% n=11
Allocated funds to new programs/projects that were better aligned with Roadmap priorities	58.82% n=20
Redirected funds to existing programs/projects that were better aligned with Roadmap priorities	67.65% n=23

Responses by Region:

ARD	12.50% n=5
NCRA	27.50% n=11
NERA	12.50% n=5
SAAESD	27.50% n=11
WAAESD	20.00% n=8

[Back to Top](#)

Agenda Item 3.0: Science and Technology Committee

Presenter: John Russin and Jeff Jacobson

ESCOPI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

John Russin, Chair

*Fall ESS Business Meeting
Jekyll Island Club, Jekyll Island, GA
October 1, 2014*

PREVIOUS ESS EXCELLENCE IN MULTISTATE RESEARCH AWARD WINNERS

*2008: NC229 - Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory
Disease: Methods for the Integrated Control, Prevention and
Elimination of PRRS in United States Swine Herds*

*2009: S1039 - Biology, Impact and Management of Soybean
Insect Pests in Soybean Production Systems*

*2010: NE1033 - Biological Improvement of Chestnut through
Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its
Pathogens, and Pests*

PREVIOUS ESS EXCELLENCE IN MULTISTATE RESEARCH AWARD WINNERS

2011: S1032 - *Improving the Sustainability of Livestock and Poultry Production in the United States*

2012: NCERA208 - *Response to Emerging Threat: Soybean Rust*

2013: SERA005 - *Sweet Potato Collaborators Conference*

2014 ESS EXCELLENCE IN MULTISTATE RESEARCH AWARD NOMINEES

North Central

NCERA197: *Agricultural Safety and Health Research and Extension*

Northeast

NEg: *Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources*

South

S1049: *Integrated Management of Pecan Arthropod Pests in the Southern U.S.*

West

W2128: *Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use*

2014 ESS EXCELLENCE IN MULTISTATE RESEARCH AWARD

National Award

W2128: Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use

ESS EXCELLENCE IN MULTISTATE RESEARCH AWARD FUNDING

Background

- *Use of \$15,000 of off-the-top MRF as award to national winner*
- *Up to \$5000 for travel to award ceremony*
- *Balance of funds to support activities which enhance & contribute to research and/or outreach objectives of project*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: PATH FORWARD

- *Committee members surveyed to help choose and identify greatest issues affecting the AES system*
- *Of the nine initial topics, those chosen by 60% or greater of the committee membership were selected as focus items*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: PATH FORWARD

Topics initially selected by the committee:

- *Future of down-sized signature research programs (e.g. plant breeding)*
- *Water security and related issues*
- *Participation in USDA and other stakeholder listening session*
- *Engagement of a broader group of scientists (biomedical, veterinary, engineering, social science, etc.) to create the next future cross-cutting agenda*
- *ESCOP response to the NRC Report on NIFA programs*

We welcome other thoughts! Please connect with John, Jeff, and Chris

Agenda Item 4.0: AES/CES Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)

Date: October 1, 2014

Presenter: Nancy Cox/Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

1. Committee Membership:

Wendy	Wintersteen	AHS
Ian	Maw	APLU Representative to CMC
Hunt	Shipman	Cornerstone Government Affairs
Nancy	Cox	ESCOP CMC Representative to NC-FAR; CMC ESCOP Co-Chair
Steve	Slack	ESCOP Chair, FY2014
Michael	Harrington	ESCOP ED
Mary	Duryea	Southern Region ESCOP
Ronald	Pardini	Western Region ESCOP
Jenny	Nuber	kglobal
Daniel	Scholl	North Central Region ESCOP
Robin	Shepard	ECOP ED
Jane	Schuchardt	ECOP ED&A Point Person
Carolyn	Brooks	1890s Region ESCOP; ESCOP ED
Kirk	Pomper	1890s Region ARD
William	Hare	Northeast Region ECOP
Tom	Coon	North Central Region ECOP
Gina	Eubanks	1890s Region ECOP
Darren	Katz	kglobal
Tony	Windham	Southern Region ECOP
Daniel	Rossi	ESCOP ED&A Point Person
Connie	Pelton Kays	CARET
Jimmy	Henning	ECOP Chair, FY2014
Richard	Rhodes	Northeast Region ESCOP
Scott	Reed	CMC ECOP Co-Chair
Faith	Peppers	ACE Representative to CMC
Linda	Martin	ACOP Representative to CMC

2. Meetings – The CMC met by conference call on September 25, 2014. Its next conference call is scheduled for November 20, 2014.

3. Update:

- The CMC works closely with kglobal and Cornerstone on a targeted educational effort to increase awareness and support for basic and applied research and transformational education provided by Land Grant Universities through Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension.
- We are into the second year of a partnership with ECOP to support the Project. ECOP has funding to support one additional year (2015).

- The AHS had indicated an interest in joining the effort and suggested the possible expansion the effort. An expansion proposal was prepared by kglobal in response to a request from the CMC. It included three potential alternatives for expanding the initiative:
 - Being Smarter: Messaging – includes regional focus groups and national survey for message validation, \$80,000 – 100,000
 - Being Broader: Targeting More Districts – adding 10 additional target districts, \$120,000
 - More Integrated: Leveraging the Power of the Communicators – working with all communicators from system rather than only those in target districts, \$75,000
- The PBD requested that the CMC prepare a set of recommendations concerning the expansion alternatives. A report with recommendations was submitted to the PBD at their July meeting. The AHS supported the report and overall initiative but decided to continue the initiative at the current level of \$400,000 with funding evenly split between ESS and CES. The AHS is also interested in supporting a workshop for ag communications to interact with kglobal and learn how to better support the effort.
- The CMC has focused its messages during the past year on nutrition and health. It is now considering adding a second focus – water security.
- The CMC will also be working on updating its operational guidelines and developing a plan of work for the coming year.

Action Requested: For information only.

[Back to Top](#)

Agenda Item 5.0: BAA Futuring Initiative

Date: October 1, 2014

Presenter: Mike Hoffmann/Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

1. BAA Futuring Task Force Membership:

Josef Broder	APS
Tim Burcham	Non-Land-grants
John Ferrick	IAS
Mike Hoffmann	ESS (Chair)
Govind Kannan	1890s
Doug Lantagne	CES
John Phillips	1994s
Dan Rossi	ED support
Lou Swanson	AHS

2. Background – ESCOP proposed to the BAA PBD and the Board approved embarking on a system-wide futuring initiative to help position the Land-grant System to address the grand challenges facing society, now and as they intensify in the future. This futuring initiative will not duplicate the roadmapping and strategic planning efforts made by the various BAA sections in recent years, but rather use those and other relevant plans as a starting point to develop a long-range integrated vision for the system 20 - 25 years in the future.

3. Update

- The first step was the appointment of a steering committee consisting of representation from the various BAA sections. The charge to the Steering Committee was to determine the charge, goals, outputs, timeline and composition of a Futuring Task Force that would guide the initiative.
- The Task Force has prepared a draft report, “Land Grant University Futuring Task Force Plan,” which included an estimated budget of \$50,000.
- The Plan and budget was approved by the PBD at their July meeting. The PBD suggested that the Steering committee transition into the BAA Futuring Task Force with the addition of a representative from the Non-Land-grants.
- The following representatives have been added to the Task Force: Timothy Burcham (Non-Land-grants), Govind Kannan (1890s) and John Phillips (1994s). Several of the original Steering committee members have also been replaced.
- The initial conference call for the Task Force is being scheduled as well as a face-to-face meeting for members attending the APLU meeting in Orlando.

Action Requested: For information only.

[Back to Top](#)

Agenda Item 6.0: Capital Infrastructure Task Force

Date: October 1, 2014

Presenter: Mike Hoffmann/Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

4. Committee Membership:

Michael Hoffmann Experiment Station Committee on Organization & Policy (Chair)
(ESCOP)

Jim Kadamus Sightlines

Dale Gallenberg Non-land-grant Agricultural & Renewable Resources Universities
(NARRU/NLCGA)

Pamela J. White Board on Human Sciences

Tim White National Association of University Forest Resources Programs
(NAUFRP)

Eleanor M. Green Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)

Carolyn Brooks 1890 Land Grant Institutions

Dan Rossi ED Support

5. Background – Sonny Ramaswamy has requested an estimate of the backlog of capital infrastructure needs among APLU institutions. ESCOP was asked to coordinate a process to develop such an estimate. A Capital Infrastructure Task Force with representation from all elements of our system was appointed with the charge to work with Sightlines to design a survey to collect information to allow Sightlines to extrapolate capital infrastructure needs on our campuses.

6. Update

- The Task Force worked with Sightlines in the development of a survey proposal. The proposal with a price tag of \$100,000 was presented to the Policy Board of Directors (PBD) at their March 2014 meeting.
- The PBD asked the Committee to prepare a plan for funding this project through assessments from the participating institutions. A funding plan was presented to the PBD at their July meeting and was approved.
- Further review of the potential lists of invited institutions has resulted in a smaller population of invited institutions. Ian Maw and Dan Rossi are working with Sightlines to finalize a price for the shortened list.

Action Requested: For information only.

[Back to Top](#)

Item 7.0

National Initiative on the Improvement of U.S. Water Security

Presenter: H M Harrington

For information only

Recommendations of the Water Working Group representing the nation's Land Grant Institutions have been endorsed by ESCOP and ECOP, the respective Budget and Legislative Committees, the BAC, and the Policy Board of Directors. The recommendations have been shared with NIFA.

Background and Specific Recommendations:

Water availability and quality are essential to U.S. security interests. While it is vital to human health, water is a finite natural resource upon which our economy depends. Many important challenges exist for managing and protecting our water resources that can, and must, be addressed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the vast expertise and capacity of the nation's Land Grant Institutions (LGIs).

Examples of these challenges include: agricultural systems threatened by drought, fire, and flood; concerns over water reallocation and its impact on agricultural production and natural resources; the vitality of communities; impacts from agricultural and rural activities on fresh water systems, drinking water, and recreation; toxic algal blooms and nutrient rich dead zones in surface waters and coastal estuaries; lost diversity in our terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; expanding needs for energy production; uncertainties due to climate variability; a range of human health and disease problems exacerbated by lack of water, too much water, or excess loading of nonpoint contaminants; and the long-term implications to local, regional and national economic conditions. Such problems often are framed and aggregated as national issues; however, a robust program to mitigate and solve them requires a response that reflects the unique local attributes (e.g., the interaction of people, land and water) that influence decisions about water management and protection. The tripartite mission of research, teaching, and community-based extension uniquely positions Land Grant Institutions to apply site-specific, science-based solutions that will protect, sustain, and improve U.S. water security. The challenges associated with protecting U.S. water security are among the most pressing issues of our present and future generations. Addressing future U.S. water needs will require USDA to reinvigorate its partnership with the nation's Land Grant Institutions. There is tremendous capacity in the Land Grant Institutions to conduct agricultural research, develop adequate water resource management strategies, train future generations of scientists, educators and water professionals, and to work directly with citizens on their problems through the community-based Cooperative Extension Service.

The following recommendations call for bold steps in research and program funding that should be taken by USDA and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). **This report outlines a \$100 million (annual) initiative by the nation's Land Grant Institutions (LGIs) to address the nation's water security challenges.**

The National Water Resources Working Group

Land Grant Institutions are central in USDA's response to protecting the nation's water resources. To develop a strategy for enhancing how Land Grant Institutions can help USDA, the Board on Agriculture Assembly [by way of the Policy Board of Director's Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC)] created an *ad hoc* national Working Group on Water Resources in Fall 2013. The 23 member Working Group was charged with developing recommendations for how Land Grant Institutions can best address U.S. Water Security (e.g., water quantity and quality issues) following their tripartite mission of research, education and Extension. Members were selected based on experience with previous programs, their expertise, and regional representation.

The Working Group focused on two phases of activities leading to a final set of recommendations.

1. The identification and prioritization of **The Grand Challenges in Protecting and Improving U.S. Water Security**. These are the issues and problems that the nation's Land Grant Institutions have a critical role in addressing – ranging from problem identification and needs assessment, problem solving, resource protection and management, and remediation.
2. The prioritization of **The Essential Elements to an Integrated Response by The National Network of Land Grant Institutions** to address the highest area of need – this included programmatic priorities and institutional structures/mechanisms/expertise/etc...

Guiding Principles Behind the Working Group's Recommendations

In developing recommendations the working group started with several important side-boards to its discussions. These principles provided valuable guidance in keeping the group focused on the most critical water issues, and on the strategic role of the nation's Land Grant Institutions in dealing with those issues. These principles included:

- Focusing on water resources issues that include both water quality and quantity;
- Identifying opportunities for enhancing integrated responses to water challenges with research, education and extension functions of the nation's Land Grant Institutions;
- Applying Land Grant University expertise to water problems that span agricultural, rural and urbanizing landscapes;
- Linking to, and leveraging the broader expertise within our universities (e.g., state water resource centers);
- Addressing local and multistate problem solving and program implementation (and where appropriate geographic and watershed-based problem approaches);
- Fostering effective localized responses and implementation to solving water problems and reducing threats (especially by strengthening community-based extension, academic teaching programs, and applied research and demonstration);
- Stressing how multistate and interdisciplinary approaches (and/or expertise teams) will employ natural sciences, engineering and social sciences;
- Ensuring regional/multistate collaboration among Land Grant Institutions and NIFA;
- Building upon the recommendations from the Section 406/Integrated Activities Task Force – a Task Force formed jointly by the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) and Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP). [The Task Force authored two reports, June 2011 and April 2013.] Strong consideration was given to maintaining the intent (functional equivalency) of programs already prioritized by the Task Force;
- Identifying opportunities for partnerships and leveraging both expertise and fiscal resources within USDA (e.g., NIFA, ARS, USFS, and NRCS), as well as other agencies (e.g., Department of Interior, Environmental Protection Agency); and
- When identifying fiscal elements, a consolidated budget proposal (as few lines as possible) shall be considered.

The Grand Challenges - Protecting and Improving U.S. Water Security

The Working Group's first phase of actions focused on the identification and subsequent prioritization of the water issues and problems that the nation's Land Grant Institutions have a critical role in addressing. This broad array of problems is the basis for what the Working Group identified as "National Issues of Significance" (See Figure 1). These issues represent both current and emerging threats to U.S. water security and are thus primary drivers for future Land Grant University research, teaching programs and extension-outreach to communities. Addressing U.S. water security interests will require substantial investment in new/additional funding.

In its effort to categorize the dominant national issues associated with U.S. water security, the Water Working Group conducted a review of more than two-dozen recent priority identification efforts. This review included: academic papers; reports on priority setting processes by USDA, Land Grant Institutions and other partner agencies; and previous work by Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), ESCOP and ECOP.

This comprehensive approach to issue identification resulted in the emergence of five National Issues of Significance: (1) Food and Agricultural Production, (2) Environment and Ecosystem Services, (3) Energy Production, (4) Human Health and Safety, and (5) Community Vitality [See Figure 1, next page].

These five issues represent themes, or categories of challenges, that Land Grant Institutions are well equipped to make a difference in solving through efforts that are science-based, targeted, and integrated across Agricultural Experiment Stations (AES) and Cooperative Extension Service (CES).

The titles and descriptions for the Issues of National Significance were carefully chosen to reflect how citizens understand problems. Under each of the five issues, the Working Group offers a few specific examples of problems that can be generally grouped under a respective issue. This list of examples is not intended to be comprehensive or exhaustive, rather an illustration of the issues that will be addressed by Land Grant Institutions.

Figure 1. National Issues of Significance

Grand Challenge

The Improvement of U.S. Water Security

Water Security is important for the vitality and resiliency of U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities

**(Keystones)
Issues of National
Significance**

Food and Agricultural Production	Environment And Ecosystem Services	Energy Production	Human Health and Safety	Community Vitality
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Examples

**We recognize that many of these examples overlap across themes.*

***Issues listed also reflect prevalence in CRIS data.*

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop and Animal Production • Conservation • Groundwater • Irrigation • Reuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered species • Groundwater recharge • In stream flows • Nutrients • Pesticides | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-fuel production • Fracking • Dams and hydropower | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteria • Drinking water • Food safety • Personal care • Pharmaceuticals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community planning • Economic/business development • Land use changes • Extreme events |
|--|--|--|---|---|

Approaches

Issues of National Significance (stated above) are compelling examples in which Land Grant Institutions are well positioned to have a strong role in understanding, analyzing and documenting the nature of the problem. Equally important are the applied problem solving responses and programs from our Land Grant Institutions which will be based upon the following principles:

- Holistic water management solutions (e.g., especially when addressing water quantity);
- Interagency coordination with government and non-governmental entities;
- Integration of science-based information and science-evaluated solutions into policy development and public decision making;
- Objectivity in community-based education, and fostering inclusive dialog and in citizen-based responses;
- Addressing trans-boundary issues involving receiving waters;
- Understanding risk and uncertainty; and
- Solutions (where appropriate) will be deployed at the watershed and landscape scales.

Essential Elements of the Integrated Response from the Land Grant Institutions

The Issues of National Significance should greatly influence how Land Grant Institutions organize their expertise and infrastructure. These national issues are targets for the research programs, teaching and instruction that occur on campuses, and the extension work that happens in our communities.

To ensure research, teaching and extension, are used to the fullest extent, the Working Group identified five **Essential Elements** of a Land Grant University-led national water security initiative. These Essential Elements reflect:

- How Land Grant Institutions mobilize expertise (faculty, staff, and students);
- How that human-capacity is integrated with the institution’s infrastructure (campuses, classrooms, laboratories, research stations, field stations and county Extension offices); and
- How intramural and extramural funding can support a national water security initiative.

These Essential Elements connect universities with each other, connect universities to stakeholders and other partners, and clarify the linkages with NIFA.

The Level of Funding for a USDA/NIFA – Land Grant University Response to U.S. Water Security

The Working Group’s approach to prioritizing funding for the Essential Elements was driven by the Issues of National Significance. After first considering the issues that Land Grant Institutions are best positioned to address, the Working Group then defined the five Essential Elements to meet those issue-challenges, and then finally what is required for each element to succeed. **To effectively address water security challenges we must “enhance” Land Grant Institutions through a major financial commitment to new and expanded initiatives. Therefore, the Working Group strongly recommends \$100M (annually) in new/additional funding. That funding would be allocated across the five Essential Elements.**

#1. State/Institution-based Coordination	\$4M	Fixed costs
#2. Regional Water Centers	\$6M	Fixed costs
#3. Integrated Regional Water Grants	\$45M	50% of competitive funds
#4. AFRI National Grants	\$36M	40% of competitive funds
#5. Instructional Grants	\$9M	10% of competitive funds
TOTAL	\$100M	Annually - for a minimum of five years.

[Back to Top](#)

Agenda Item 8: NRSP Review Committee Update

Presenter: Bret Hess

Action Requested: For action/vote

NRSP Review Committee Members

<p>Bret Hess, Chair (WAAESD)</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shirley Hymon-Parker (ARD)• Doug Buhler (NCRA)• Tom Bewick (NIFA)• Clarence Watson (SAAESD)• L. Washington Lyons (Cooperative Extension)	<p>Executive Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eric Young (SAAESD)• Mike Harrington, Executive Vice-Chair (WAAESD) <p>Interim Delegate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Phipps (NERA) <p>Stakeholder Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don Latham (CARET)
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Background:

The NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC) met in Denver, CO on June 17, 2014 for its annual meeting and held a follow up conference call on August 18th to discuss resources needed for the NRSP-1/NIMSS revision (see attached proposal and update) and remaining questions on the NRSP_temp321 proposal.

The following actions were taken by the NRSP-RC:

(Note: These actions are seconded motions that require a majority vote of the Directors to overturn. If this occurs there will be an alternative motion put forward for consideration.)

- **Guidelines Changes:**

Motion and second and unanimous approval of the following recommendation for substantive changes to the NRSP Guidelines:

- **Section III. A. General:** Change bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”
- **Section IV. B Management and Business Plan:** Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”

- **Funding recommendations:**

A summary of the NRSP portfolio, including NRSP-RC actions, is below.

NRSP 2014-2015

Requests for Off-the-Top Funding

Project	Request FY2012	Authorized FY2012	Request FY2013	Authorized FY2013	Request FY2014	Approved FY2014	†Request FY2015	NRSP Review Committee Recommendation
NRSP1 ¹	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000		
NRSP3	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP4	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	481,182	
NRSP6	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	
NRSP7	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	<i>see below</i>	
NRSP8	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
NRSP9	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	
NRSP_TEMP001 (NRSP1)							300,000	Approve 3-year budget ¹
NRSP_TEMP003 (NRSP3)							50,000	Approve 5-year budget
NRSP_TEMP301 (NRSP7)							325,000	Approve 1-year budget ²
NRSP_TEMP321							398,631	Approve 5-year budget ³

†Assuming an acceptable midterm review, all NRSP budgets were approved during 2012 Fall ESS Meeting for the duration of their current, five-year cycles.

¹NRSP-1 plans to terminate on September 30, 2014. NRSP_TEMP001 is requesting approval of a new 3-year proposal and budget to facilitate an overhaul of the NIMSS and maintenance of the new system through a 3-year contract with Clemson University; the impact communications component of the project is ongoing. The 3-year budget is:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
MRF Funding	300,000	183,500	183,500

²NRSP7 must demonstrate that they have secured new (not in-kind) funds that are equal to or more than 2x the off-the-top funding requested prior to submitting a renewal proposal.

³Unlike other NRSPs, the NRSP_temp321 MRF budget varies. The 5-year budget is as follows (please reference NIMSS for complete budget details):

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
MRF Funding	398,631	370,165	381,834	433,969	406,591
Other Funding	597,354	732,278	359,245	239,837	238,238
Total Project Budget	995,985	1,102,443	741,079	673,806	644,829

Summary of NRSPs

Project Number	Project Name	Project Period	Midterm Review Year
NRSP-1	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2011-2014	2014
NRSP-1 (NRSP_TEMP001)	National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS)	2014-2017	2016
NRSP-3 (NRSP_TEMP003)	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	2014-2019	2017
NRSP-4	Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses	2010-2015	2013
NRSP-6	The US Potato Genebank: Acquisition, Classification, Preservation, Evaluation and Distribution of Potato (Solanum) Germplasm	2010-2015	2013
NRSP-7 (NRSP_TEMP301)	A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs	2014-2015	-
NRSP-8	National Animal Genome Research Program	2013-2018	2016
NRSP-9	National Animal Nutrition Program	2010-2015	2013
NRSP_temp321	Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research	2014-2019	2017

Project Number: NRSP-1

Project Title: Multistate Research Information Management and Impact Communications Program

Requested Duration: October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017

Administrative Advisors: William Brown, Jeff Jacobsen, Steve Loring, Adel Shirmohammadi

NIFA Representative: Bart Hewitt

STATEMENT OF ISSUES AND JUSTIFICATION

NRSP-1 serves two critical functions for the State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) System. First, it supports the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS). NIMSS was designed to facilitate the management of multistate research and Extension activities supported by the Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF), from conception of the proposal to project termination. NIMSS is a web-based application allowing: (1) online submission of proposals, peer reviews and progress reports, and (2) ready access to this information. An automated e-mail notification function prompts users to take action and sends out notifications for meetings and report deadlines. Researchers, Extension educators, stakeholders and other cooperators can search NIMSS for relevant and timely information related to multistate research projects. In addition, the public has access to research project outlines and impacts. NIMSS is now serving all of the 1862 and 1890 Land-grant institutions, allowing them to manage, in a totally paperless system, their multistate research portfolios. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) also uses NIMSS to download and integrate data into its management dashboard and pre-populate federal forms.

The second important function that NRSP-1 serves is the communication of impacts of multistate research and Extension activities. The impact communications component of NRSP-1 enhances the visibility of Land-grant institutions and the success of the multistate research projects. Impact statements are prepared by a communications specialist at the termination of every project (approximately 60 per year) and are sent to: Administrative Advisors, Regional Executive Directors and their assistants, NIFA representatives and the ESCOP marketing agency kglobal. Administrative Advisors share the statements with project participants, partner trade associations, regulatory organizations, and other stakeholders. The impact statements are posted on the Regional Association websites and are also entered into the National Land-grants Impact Database (<http://www.landgrantimpacts.org>). They are used by NIFA staff in the preparation of reports and responses to Congressional and other inquiries. kglobal features the impact statements on the Ag Is America website (<http://agisamerica.org/>), and on the Ag Is America Twitter feed (reaching over 26,000 users) and Facebook page with about 4,000 followers. This relatively new component of NRSP-1 has been extremely effective and very well received within the Land-grant University system, its public and private partners, its stakeholders and the public in general. Collectively, the NIMSS database system and the impact communications program provide for open and transparent systems that enhance compliance and accountability for SAES.

The Experiment Station Section is entering into a three-year contract with Clemson University to redesign, host and maintain NIMSS. The first year will be focused on the redesign of NIMSS, while the

following two years will provide ongoing maintenance and the opportunity to further enhance NIMSS. The NIMSS redesign will provide substantial direct benefits to administrators and staff of SAES, participating scientists, federal agencies, and many others utilizing this system. There will also be indirect benefits to the public through increased access to current activities and outcomes from the Multistate Research portfolio.

The contract with Clemson will be for the period October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017. The NRSP-1 Management Committee requests that the current NRSP-1 be terminated effective September 30, 2014 and that this new project be approved for a three year period, October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017, to correspond to the contract with Clemson. Approval of this request will allow the project to continue to provide critical research support services to the SAES system during the three year contract with Clemson. During the final year of this project, a new five year NRSP-1 project proposal will be developed to support the enhanced NIMSS and the impact communications programs.

IMPLEMENTATION

Objectives and Projected Outcomes

Objective 1: Maintain and enhance the effectiveness and functionality of NIMSS and access and utilization of the NIMSS database.

Objective 2: More effectively document and communicate impacts of the multistate research activities

Outcomes:

At any given time, there are about 300 active multistate research projects and activities recorded in NIMSS. At its peak period, NIMSS gets 28,000 hits per day, and an average of 15,000 hits per day during normal operations. Data transferred varied from 2GB to 4GB per day, during slow to heavy periods. New users register daily and the number of registered active, frequent users are recorded at over 11,000. NIMSS will continue to serve this clientele and the public during the project period, allowing for timely submission of proposals and reports, conduct of peer reviews, meeting notifications, participation and access to information in real time.

In addition, new functionalities will be introduced in NIMSS to enhance access to and quality of information available to users. It is anticipated that participation will continue to be expanded to include those outside the Land-grant system, and will include additional federal and state partners, producers, commodity groups, foundations and foreign scientists. NIMSS will serve as an effective communication tool to share research data and hence, ease the application of new discoveries and technology transfer.

Since its inception in 2002, NIMSS has been used to collect and store information on hundreds of scientists working in multistate projects in specific Knowledge Areas (KAs), Subject of Investigation (SOI) and Field of Science (FOS). NIMSS serves as a national repository of experts and their specializations. This capability will be explored further to build programs to analyze where expertise can be tapped to address national and regional priorities and to solve emerging problems.

NIMSS will be transformed into an even more effective tool in reporting the accomplishments and impacts of agricultural research carried out by Land-grant institutions. This impact information will be used to prepare more effective impact statements from multistate research activities. The Impacts Communication Specialist will continue to refine and enhance the impact statements. More effective ways to communicate impacts will be developed to reach a broader audience. Timely and relevant impact stories will continue to be identified and targeted to popular press outlets such as newspapers (local and national), university publications, industry magazines, agriculture magazines and online news sites. These efforts will greatly enhance the visibility of the Land-grant universities and specifically demonstrate the return in public investment in the multistate research system.

Management Budget and Business Plan

General oversight, policy development, proposal preparation and budget recommendation will be provided by a Management Committee composed of: four Administrative Advisors, representing each of the four SAES regions; an ARD Director; a Cooperative Extension Director; the NIMSS Manager; the four Regional System Administrators; two director's administrative assistants who use NIMSS routinely; and two communicators/writers to advise the impact reporting program. The Administrative Advisors will elect one of their representatives to be the Lead Advisor and Chair of the Committee. NIFA will assign one or more non-voting representatives to the Committee.

NIMSS is managed by each of the Regional Associations serving the SAES. The Regional System Administrators handle the day-to-day tasks related to maintaining the system and answer queries from their users.

The WAAESD Office (WDO) provides coordination, editorial oversight, and physical space to the impact communications component of NRSP-1. The WDO also provides coordination between this effort and the ongoing efforts of ESCOP and ECOP (i.e., with kglobal, Cornerstone, the ESCOP/ECOP Communications and Marketing Committee, and the National Land-grant Impacts Database Project).

Funding for NRSP-1 will be provided through an off-the-top allocation from the Hatch Multistate Research Fund. NRSP-1 will provide important administrative support services to research administrators and staff, project participants and other users of NIMSS and the impact communication efforts. Funding for NRSP-1 is seen as an administrative expense and alternative sources of funding are not anticipated.

Integration and Documentation of Budget Support

NRSP-1 was developed to facilitate the management and communication of the impacts of integrated research and Extension activities supported by the Hatch Multistate Research Fund. It supports all 1862 and 1890 Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension participants. The program can also accommodate integrated education activities as the need arises.

Outreach, Communications and Assessment

Input from SAES administrators and scientists on issues of policy, planning, and management of NRSP-1 is essential element in sustaining it as an effective support system. The approval of this NRSP provides

the mechanism to support the representation of user interests and provide a forum to assess the effectiveness of the outreach of the NRSP-1 programs.

The Regional System Administrators will serve as the primary contacts and source of information and training for university administrators, program managers, investigators, business officers, and station staff using NIMSS. The WDO will serve as the primary contact and source of information on the impact communications component. The NRSP-1 Management Committee will serve as stakeholder representatives in addressing assessment issues and to help evaluate the effectiveness of outreach efforts. The representatives will be responsible for collecting information from the institutions in their respective regions or associations to reflect the effectiveness of the NIMSS and the impact communications programs in meeting their needs and objectives. The Committee will provide an annual report outlining the accomplishments of the previous year in support of the objectives at the ESS fall meeting. A copy of the report will accompany the annual budget request.

PROJECT PARTICIPATION: All 1862 and 1890 Land-grant Institutions

LITERATURE CITED: N/A

BUDGET:	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
NIMSS:	\$245,000 ¹	\$128,500 ²	\$128,500 ²
Impact Communications Project:	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
TOTAL	\$300,000	\$183,500	\$183,500

¹ The 2014-15 NIMSS budget request of \$245,000 corresponds to the first redesign cost of \$265,000 proposed by Clemson minus \$20,000 in carry-over NRSP-1 funds residing at Rutgers.

² The 2015-16 and 2016-17 NIMSS budget requests of \$128,500 reflect the on-going operations and maintenance cost proposed by Clemson.

NIMSS Update (9/2014)

Presenters: Jeff Jacobsen, Dan Rossi

Current NIMSS - NIMSS had undergone two transfers in 2014. The first involved moving the system from the Univ. of Maryland to an external server, and the second to a Rutgers' Amazon Web Service account. The transfer to the Rutgers' server account was completed on August 27. Coding adjustments are underway to correct glitches due to a software upgrade (to ColdFusion ver.11) related to the second migration. Data entry is working and upload to the NIFA REEport has been restored. Approval letters and meeting authorizations are not automatically sent yet, but can be copied and pasted to committees as needed. At this time, the current system will be maintained and used until the newly re-designed NIMSS is ready for rollout. Maintenance of the current system is planned for the remainder of CY2014 and CY2015.

Future "NIMSS"- A subcommittee of NRSP1 [Jeff Jacobsen (chair), Bill Brown, Steve Loring, Adel Shirmohammadi, Shirley Hyman-Parker, Chris Hamilton] reviewed the responses to a national solicitation for a redesign of NIMSS. Available members of this group and two IT professionals (Robert Ridenour UTIA; John Chamberlain NMSU) participated in a conference call with Clemson's Youth Learning Institute Information Technology Team (ITT) to respond to provided questions and offer additional insights. Several follow-on calls were made to clarify residual questions. In addition, two other IT professionals reviewed this proposal with favorable recommendations. These details were provided to NRSP1 electronically and discussed in conference calls.

NRSP1 recommends developing a contract with Clemson's ITT for the redesign, operations and maintenance of the new system. The one-time cost of the redesign is \$265,000 and the on-going cost of operations/maintenance is \$128,500. This would require: 1) termination of NRSP1 on September 30, 2014, and renewal with a 3-year proposal and budget and 2) a contract for service with ITT.

Our discussion has been to develop a 3-year contract. One year of redesign and two years of operations/maintenance with the new system. This would result in a redesign that is responsive, operational and optimally tested by the national system over the following two years.

Recommended ESS Actions for NIMSS:

NRSP1 recommends that the new, 3-year NRSP1 budget for NIMSS be:

- \$245,000 one-time NIMSS redesign (\$265,000 - \$20,000 in carry-over funds) for FY2015
- \$128,500 on-going NIMSS operations/maintenance for FY2016
- \$128,500 on-going NIMSS operations/maintenance for FY2017
- The new 3-year budget would also include an increase the budget for the Impact Communications Specialist to \$55,000 (from \$53,410) for FY2015, FY2016, and FY2017 to accommodate variable fringe benefit rates.
- The total request for NRSP1 is \$300,000 [FY2015], \$183,500 [FY2016] and \$183,500 [FY2017] as presented in three-year NRSP1 proposal [FY2014-17].

A proposed NIMSS redesign team composed of: four regional NIMSS System Administrators (Chris Hamilton, Sarah Lupis, Rubie Mize, Donna Pearce), one Executive Director (Jeff Jacobsen), Director (Steve Loring), four State staff regional representatives (Shelley Whitworth [NC], Tammy Heil [S], Angie Dangerfield [W], Rachel Unger [NE]), NIFA representative (Katelyn Sellers). In addition, ITT recommends that 1-2 people become the day-to-day contacts for their programmers. Chris and Sarah have volunteered to be these contacts.

[Back to Top](#)

NRSP Review Committee: 2014 New Proposal/Budget Recommendations: Guidelines

Section III. A. General:

Change bullet four under delegated authority to “delegate authority to the NRSP-RC to invest up to 1% of total Hatch Funding in NRSPs.”

NRSP Review Committee: 2014 New Proposal/Budget Recommendations: Guidelines

Section IV. B. Management & Business Plan:


Add the following “For the multistate program, including NRSPs; leveraging shall mean funding brought to bear on the project objectives regardless of source, not including in-kind support from host institution(s).”

NRSP Review Committee: Budget Recommendations

- NRSP_TEMP001, National Information Management and Support System (NRSP1) [2014-2017]
 - Approve 3-year budget request
- NRSP_TEMP003, The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) [2014-2019]
 - Approve 5-year budget request

NRSP Review Committee: Budget Recommendations

- NRSP_TEMP301, A National Agricultural Program for Minor Use Animal Drugs
 - Approve 1-year budget request
- NRSP_TEMP321, Database Resources for Crop Genomics, Genetics and Breeding Research
 - Approve 5-year budget request



NRSP Review Committee: Budget Recommendations

- Excellence in Multistate Research Award
 - Approve FY15 budget of \$15,000 for Excellence in Multistate Research Award to: W2128, "Microirrigation for sustainable water use"

ESS Agenda Brief

October 1, 2014

Agenda Item 10: Impact Database Update

Presenters: Bill Brown and Eric Young

The ESCOP Impact Database Working Group (Bill Brown, Chair (UTIA), Cathy Gant-Hill (NC A & T), Sarah Lupis (WAAESD), Dave Benfield (OSU), and Eric Young (SAAESD)) were charged last July to consider mechanisms for collecting and making readily available to NIFA, other federal agencies, AES and CES directors, and others information on impacts of AES research. ESCOP approved the Working Group's recommendation to ESCOP was that ESS joins CES in utilizing the impact database that had been developed at TAMU.

The estimated cost to ESS for development of the research impact portion of the database at TAMU will be \$12,500 for the first year. This will include development, testing, and implementation of the system; ESS's share of developing a 'Land-Grant' public front-end web site; and other modifications of the current sites to reflect the whole land-grant system. This expenditure was approved by the Section in a vote conducted in mid-January. Continuing maintenance cost for ESS is expected to be approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500 total per year after the development phase is complete.

The Extension/Research impact database development is being led by Scott Cummings (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service) and his IT group at TAMU. Database development is being guided by an integrated steering committee chaired by Tim Cross (UTIA). Other members include: Bill Brown (UTIA), Eric Young (SAAESD), Michael Quart (UMO), Jenny Nuber (kglobal), Faith Peppers (UGA), and Scott Cummings (TAMU). This group advises Scott on such aspects as web page and input screen components, URL name, categorization and tags, search capabilities, output format, etc.

The database is now active at landgrantimpacts.org. The web site's homepage search capability allows public users to search on any input field (ex. research or extension, institution, state, funding source, challenge area, etc) as well as a free text search. Also the home page has six broad integrated categories and tags under those categories that will allow a user to narrow their search by subject matter. These categories and tags were derived from an integration of the goals and objectives from ESCOP's Science Roadmap and ECOP's Strategic Opportunities.

The quality control point for the impact statements being entered is at the CES and AES directors' level. Each director has designated one or more inputters and they are the only ones with access to the input site. The directors are responsible for assuring their designated inputters are trained in writing impact statements. As of mid-August there have been 146 research impact statements added to the database, including the completed multistate impact statements. Directors are encouraged to have their designated personnel input impact statements from the recent past as well as new ones as they're written.

Discussions are underway with the Academic Programs Section concerning the possibility of their joining this database. The homepage is already set up for APS to be included on the web site.

[Back to Top](#)

Agenda Item 11: NIFA Update

Presenter: Dr. Muquarrab Qureshi

1. Farm Bill Update

The 2014 Farm Bill allowed NIFA to resume several mandatory funding programs that this group is already familiar with and NIFA is successfully implementing all of them. The three of greatest likely interest to experiment station directors are:

- Organic Agricultural Research and Extension Initiative (\$20M in 2014)
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Initiative (\$20M in 2014)
- Specialty Crops Research Initiative (\$80 in 2014, \$25 million of which is the Citrus Disease Research & Extension Program)

NIFA announced two days ago (September 29th) that it awarded \$19 million in grants to 19 projects in 16 states through OREI.

NIFA expects to make an announcement regarding over \$51 million in SCRI grants later this week.

The Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program and the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program will be announced by the end of the calendar year.

This afternoon and tomorrow, the NAREEE Board Specialty Crop Committee is meeting in Washington, DC to hear a report on this year's program and to formulate recommendations for implementation of the FY 2015 SCRI that falls outside the Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program.

Additionally, the Farm Bill allowed resumption of several other programs that are smaller and/or might be of

- Biomass Research and Development Initiative (\$3M in 2014)
- Biodiesel Education Program (\$5M in 2014)
- Agriculture Risk Management Education Program (\$5M)
- Community Foods Competitive Grants Program (\$5M in 2014, but that program will go to \$9M in 2015)

New Provisions:

Additionally, NIFA was assigned a new program, the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive. On September 29th, NIFA released the FINI RFA for more than \$31 million in funding with the goal of improving the health and nutrition of participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), by providing incentives to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables. This RFA represents FY2014 and 2015 funding for the program.

The Farm Bill also contained several new provisions for NIFA to implement in its existing programs. Two that may be of particular interest to this group: Section 7214 (Centers of Excellence) and Section 7404 (Commodity Boards).

The former requires NIFA to recognize and give priority to applications from “Centers of Excellence” in all of its research and extension competitive grant programs. In preparation, NIFA held web-based listening sessions to solicit stakeholder input on July 17th and 24th. These were coupled with written comment solicitations.

The input we received, including some from the folks sitting in this room, will help develop a process to set the priorities and scope for the Centers of Excellence. The feedback will also help ensure a process to consistently provide priority consideration for the Centers in competitive research and extension funding.

NIFA will hold similar electronic listening sessions and written comment solicitations as it prepares to implement the Farm Bill’s Commodity Boards provision. Section 7404 of the Farm Bill requires that the NIFA establish procedures, for Commodity Boards with mandatory check-off programs can submit ideas for RFAs to NIFA. If NIFA accepts these ideas and incorporates them into the AFRI RFA process, the commodity board would be required to provide matching funds for any grant funded as a part of the program. Presumably, some of your scientists would be applying for these RFA’s whose awards would be jointly funded by NIFA and a commodity boards.

Yesterday, the federal register published the dates, times, and connection information for these electronic listening sessions. This information will be available to you in the NIFA Update, the Federal Register, and on the NIFA website, along with how to submit written comments.

2. NRC AFRI Review Report

In 2012, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) requested the National Research Council (NRC) examine its flagship competitive grants program, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). The purpose of NIFA’s request for the study was to determine the quality and value of the research funded by the program, and to examine its overall effectiveness in advancing science. On Sept. 9, 2014, the NRC released its report.

NIFA appreciates and acknowledges the Council’s recommendations that identified a number of opportunities for improvement, implementation, and long-term success of AFRI, which are in line with NIFA’s own analysis and actions during the last two years. NIFA will thoroughly evaluate the report’s findings, conclusions, and recommendations, develop a strategy for improvement, and communicate the agency’s progress to the public and its stakeholders on a recurring basis.

NIFA has already adopted some of the enhancements that the report suggests in the time between the commissioning of the study and the September 9th publication of the findings. In addition to the many steps already taken, future planned improvement steps include a planned, comprehensive review of all AFRI programs to ensure that investments strategically address

Congressional priorities, science needs and gaps, and stakeholder input and concerns. AFRI grants will undergo a well-designed, externally-driven evaluation every four years. These actions and further refinements will ensure that AFRI is administered in a transparent, strategic, consistent, predictable, and manageable manner.

3. REEport Update

The new process for reporting on the REEport Financial Report (formerly known as the CRIS AD-419) is being completed now and is scheduled for release in REEport on October 3rd for Land-Grant Universities to use to submit their Capacity Grant project financial reports which are due before or by February 1, 2015 for all Capacity Projects active in FY 2014.

Also, the new REEport Financial Report will also be completed by all new non-Capacity grant projects awarded beginning October 1, 2014. These will come due on after the anniversary date of the project. Thus, the first ones will be due on FY 2015 grants, during FY 2016. This has been written into all terms and conditions for new awards made beginning October 1, 2014.

Adam Preuter of the PARS staff will be presenting on this new process at the regularly scheduled Thursday October 9th NIFA Reporting Web Conference at 2:00 pm. Link to the conference: <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/rwc10092014/>

4. NIFA Leadership

On October 5, 2014, Dr. Robert Holland will begin his new duties as the NIFA Associate Director for Operations. This position has line responsibilities for providing leadership for effective and efficient management of the NIFA operations including all federal assistance programs and NIFA's information technology systems. Specifically, the incumbent provides leadership and management oversight for the Office of Grants and Financial Management, Office of Information Technology, Communications Staff, and Budget Staff. Dr. Holland has been serving as the Deputy Director, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition (IFSN), at NIFA since August 1, 2011.

Dr. Meryl Broussard will continue in his duties as Associate Director for Programs. This position provides leadership for the four NIFA programmatic institutes, the Center for International Programs, and the Planning, Accountability and reporting staff.

On August 10, 2014, Dr. Parag Chitnis began his tenure as the NIFA Deputy Director leading the agency's Institute of Food Production and Sustainability. Parag succeeds Dr. Deborah Sheely, who recently transitioned to the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Chitnis joins NIFA from the National Science Foundation (NSF) – Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, where he has served as Division Director, Deputy Division Director,

and Program Director. As the Division Director, Dr. Chitnis was responsible for an annual budget of approximately \$125 million in research grants. In addition to leading the Division, Dr. Chitnis has managed many inter-directorate programs at NSF, developed collaborations with agencies in other countries, and represented NSF in several interagency activities, such as National Science Advisory Board on Biosecurity (NSABB) and the Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

5. Capacity Grants RFA Early Release and FY 2015 Budget

Recently, NIFA released RFAs for most of the FY 2015 Capacity funding programs. These releases represent the vast majority of formula-based capacity funding managed by our agency. I'll say a few words about this action, which will lead into news about the FY 2015 continuing resolution.

Based in part on feedback from some of you, NIFA staff has been examining the processes to look for better ways to serve our stakeholders. By releasing next year's RFAs during the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year, we are better prepared to move funds as soon as possible once funds are made available to the agency. Applications for these recently released RFAs are due in Mid-October, 2014.

The recently enacted Continuing Resolution (CR) provides temporary FY 2015 funding at a slightly reduced FY 2014 level. Funds are available through December 11, 2014. The CR affects the availability and/or level of funding for some or all of these programs. Capacity funds will be distributed based on the previous year, but at the reduced level as provided under the CR. Once appropriations for the year are finalized, adjustments will be made to the FY 2015 allocations articulated in the recently released RFAs based on the full year amount of funds available for each program.

While under the CR, NIFA plans to continue release of RFAs for most competitive programs. The RFAs will announce estimated funding levels based on last year's funding levels. However, final program amounts will depend upon the final appropriations amounts, and grants are not expected to be made until the full year appropriations are available.

The FY 2016 President's budget proposal is still under development.

6. Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research was created by the 2014 Farm Bill and is an independent nonprofit corporation that will foster research, innovation, and partnerships important to America's agricultural economy through seeking and accepting private donations in order to fund research activities.

The Foundation will address problems of national and international importance in plant and animal health, production and products; food safety, nutrition and health; renewable energy, natural resources and the environment; agricultural and food security; agriculture systems and technology; and agricultural economics and rural communities. It will foster collaboration amongst agricultural researchers to meet unmet and emerging research needs through grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and memoranda of understanding.

By law, the Foundation will be independent of the United States Government. It is not a part of the USDA or any other government agency.

The Board of Directors (Board) will have broad responsibilities to establish policies, governance structures, and set priorities for the new Foundation. The statute forming the Foundation requires consultation between the Foundation and the Secretary of Agriculture regarding research and to avoid duplicating research.

There are five *ex-officio*, non-voting, members of the Foundation Board. These are the Secretary of Agriculture; the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics (REE); the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS); the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); and the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

On behalf of the five *ex-officio* members, Secretary Vilsack announced the establishment of the board and the inaugural Board members on 7/23/14.

The 15 voting members are:

- Dr. Kathryn Boor - the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University
- Dr. Douglas Buhler - Director of AgBioResearch and Senior Associate Dean for Research for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University
- Dr. Nancy Creamer - Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Agriculture and Community Based Food Systems, North Carolina State University
- Dr. Deborah Delmer - Professor Emeritus of Biology, University of California-Davis
- The Honorable Dan Glickman - former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, current Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's Congressional Program
- Dr. Robert Horsch - Deputy Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Pamela Johnson - Chairwoman, National Corn Growers Association
- Dr. Mark E. Keenum - President, Mississippi State University
- Dr. Michael Ladisch - Director of the Laboratory of Renewable Resources Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Purdue University
- Dr. Christopher Mallett - Vice President of Research & Development, Cargill, Inc.
- Dr. Pamela Matson - Chester Naramore Dean of the School of Earth Sciences, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Professor of Environmental Studies and Senior Fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University
- Dr. Terry McElwain - Associate Director and Professor, Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health, and Executive Director, Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Washington State University
- Dr. Stanley Prusiner - Director of the Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Professor of

- Neurology, University of California-San Francisco and 1997 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine
- Dr. Yehia "Mo" Saif - Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University
 - Dr. Barbara Schaal - Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences and Mary-Dell Chilton Distinguished Professor at Washington University in St. Louis.

These board members were nominated and selected according to a process outlined by the Farm Bill. More than 300 nominations of over 220 individuals were received.

The Board will organize itself and then develop its own guidelines for research applications and projects. USDA is not operating the Board and cannot speak for the Board's timelines on operations. USDA is offering assistance to the Board when requested as permitted for in the statute.

7: LGU letter regarding "National Water Security Initiative"

NIFA appreciate receiving well thought out recommendations from this group on "water priorities". These priority areas dovetail well with some of our ongoing water programs under existing legislative authorizes of Foundational and Challenge area and other programs including some capacity and SBIR programs. NIFA will carefully review these recommendations and will continue to work with ESCOP in finding workable approaches to address this critical issue.

7. Dual Use Research of Concern

On September 24th, The United States Government (USG) published a *USG Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern*. The scope of the policy involves 15 different agents of concern. Experiments involving those agents and toxins will be assessed at the institutional level for whether they aim to produce, or could be reasonably anticipated to produce, seven categories of experimental effects. Those projects must then be evaluated for whether they constitute dual use research of concern, and if so, a risk mitigation plan must be proposed to the Federal funding agency.

After an internal search by National Program Leaders, NIFA has determined that none of its funded projects fall into the scope of this policy.

8. AFRI

1. NIFA is continuing to develop policies and guidance for implementation of Farm Bill provisions relevant to AFRI (i.e., matching requirement, centers of excellence, and commodity board provision).

2. Under the 2-year bipartisan budget agreement, the appropriation to AFRI is expected to be \$325 million in FY15 (versus \$316 million in FY 14).

3. In FY14, NIFA initiated the AFRI Water for Agriculture Challenge Area Program. In the AFRI Foundational Program, the CARE (Critical Agriculture Research and Extension) and Exploratory program areas were new in FY14. President's FY 2015 budget also includes Education and Literacy Initiatives that will offer Fellowship and experiential learning opportunities to undergraduates, pre-and-post docs.

Other: The AFRI Management Team is currently completing the drafting of FY15 RFAs, several of which are in the final phases of review and should be released soon (i.e., October and November). The AFRI Management Team is working aggressively toward much more consistent release of AFRI RFAs during the calendar year in order to facilitate applicants' planning for proposal submission.

9. Water Program Portfolio

- Hatch (and Multi-State), Evans-Allen, and McIntire-Stennis (\$35 M)
- AFRI Competitive Grants Program (\$20 M)
 - *Foundational:* Agricultural Water Sciences (\$8 M, 2011) focused on drought and the bioaccumulation of recycled water contaminants in crops eaten fresh; RENRE (\$18 M, 2013) focused on Nitrogen and phosphorus fluxes in air, water and soil; BENRE (\$9 M, 2014) focused on Nitrogen and phosphorus Cycling to evaluate the physical and biogeochemical (including microbial) processes affecting the flow, fate and transport, transformation, movement, and storage of nitrogen and phosphorus. Improving Food Safety (\$9 M, 2014) provides additional dollars to investigate bioaccumulation of potential contaminants (can be from recycled water irrigation) in production and processing of crops eaten fresh. Nanotechnology for Food and Agriculture Systems (\$3 M, 2014) focused on Precision ag technologies including applications of nanoparticles in ag chemicals and water.
 - *Water for Agriculture* Challenge Area (\$6 M, 2014) focused on Sustaining water quality, quantity and availability for agricultural use while maintaining environmental quality through 2050.
 - Climate Variability Challenge Area (\$20 M) focused on both grazing and dairy production as affected by climate change, a portion of the awards went to water footprinting for beef cattle on pasture and rangeland and conventional dairy production.
- SBIR Program (\$2 M): Air, water and soil.
- National Integrated Water Quality Program (\$4 M, 2014)

–Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Reform Act (1998) focused on Elucidating the science behind drought triggers; and Quantifying the value of water across different uses.

- Specialty Crop (\$80 M, 2014) has a partial focus on Developing new science, tools and technologies on the use and impacts of alternative sources of water (e.g., recycled, brackish groundwater).

[Back to Top](#)

ESS Agenda Brief

October 1, 2014

Agenda Item 12: Policy Board of Directors Report

Presenter: Steve Slack

The Policy Board of Directors met in San Juan, PR on March 11 – 12. Below are notes from that meeting.

1. Assessments
 - Invoices were sent out and payments are coming in, reminders will be sent in May
 - There are still a lot of questions on how assessments are calculated and used, Ian will write one-pager explanation that will be sent with future invoices
2. Cornerstone
 - New three-year contract was approved and in force now
 - Contract ends next year, BAC will have to decide if we continue with cornerstone or put out a bid request for an open search
 - ICOP is concerned that funding for international ag is not being advocated for as strongly as needed, but this is done primarily thru APLU rather than BAA
3. Budget and Advocacy Committee
 - Budget priorities for 2015 have been approved
 - Need a strategy to advocate for increased Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension to cover Central State University's eligibility for funds starting in 2016
 - Need a position statement on how Congress should respond to any future requests from an institution to become a Land-grant
4. Futuring Task Force
 - Mike Hoffman is chair, Daryl Buchholz- ECOP, Joe Broder- ACOP, John Ferrick- ICOP, Craig Berouty – AHS, Dan Rossi – ED support
 - Currently collecting existing documents and looking for a facilitator
 - Group needs to decide focus of futuring effort to make sure it doesn't get too broad
 - Facilitation of this process could be done by internal expert, an external expert may increase credibility however the cost would be significantly higher
5. Committee on Legislation and Policy
 - Farm Bill completed, no other activity currently
 - Greg Bohach has agreed to take over as CLP chair now that Farm Bill has passed
6. FSLI & LEAD21
 - LEAD21 on track to pay off loan two years early
 - LEAD21 Board will decide whether to rebid management contract or stay with University of Georgia
 - FSLI had a full cohort in the past class and is doing well financially
7. Facilities Survey Task Force
 - Sonny has requested a facilities repair and renovation survey to assess the need across the system
 - A private firm, Sightlines, has done this for some Land-grant Universities

- Task Force recommends contracting with Sightlines, but how to pay for it is a problem, outlined six reasons it would be difficult for institutions to pay individually
8. Non-payment of Assessments
- ECOP has set policy for non-payment of Cooperative Extension System assessments
 - Consequences of not paying the BAA imposed assessments has not changed
9. NIFA Report – Sonny Ramaswamy
- \$8.5 Million increase in AFRI
 - Innovation Institutes \$25 Million per year for five years for three institutes, first three will be in the following areas
 - Pollination and pollinator health
 - Anti-microbial resistance
 - Manufacturing innovation in bio products and bioprocessing
 - NIFA will have to start paying rent and security for Waterfront Center
 - Non-land grant capacity funds were zeroed out in President’s budget, but they have never been in President budget, Congress has always put them in
 - Opportunity Growth Initiative
 - Presidential initiative that’s in his budget as a separate line for lots of agencies
 - ~ \$56 Billion total in President budget
 - NIFA would receive \$60 Million to incorporate into AFRI
 - \$15 Million for Hatch and \$5 Million for Evans-Allen, which will be competitive
 - New Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
 - Eight members to be named by NAS and seven members by industry
 - Facilities survey
 - Scope of survey that Sonny proposed was focused on research, but if System wants to broaden it to all functions, that’s fine
 - ARS survey has been done periodically to help guide reallocation
 - ARS requested \$150 Million to build new poultry facility
 - If System doesn’t want to fund it, then it cannot be done
 - Sonny is getting details on facilities authorization language to see how funds can be used if they’re appropriated
 - Bruce and Ian will talk to Sonny about funding options
 - Question tabled until July PBD meeting
10. Communication Marketing Committee
- Kglobal has proposed three additional areas for expansion
 - Total additional cost would be \$300,000 per year, but \$100 K only needed in one year
 - Cooperative Extension Section will have to increase their assessment after this year, if AHS join they’d have to add a new assessment also
 - Ask Communication Marketing Committee to rank the options from Kglobal
 - Decision on expansion will have to wait until CES and AHS make decisions on whether or not to join the effort
11. Canadian & Mexican Members
- Seven Canadian and four Mexicans have joined APLU and paid dues

- Five Canadian and three Mexican institutions have outstanding invitations
 - Sections are encouraged to invite each new member institution to send representatives to the next Section meeting, Ian will send institutional contacts to PBD members
12. Rules of Operation Change
- Amendment to require 2/3 of those voting to change bylaws (rather than 2/3 of all voters) provided more than 50% of eligible voters actually vote.

The PBD also had votes on two recommendations from the BAC since they met in March.

1. Indirect charges on Extension IPM Programs for 2014
 - Approved BAC's recommendation to send a memorandum to the Deans and Directors/Administrators to provide guidance in their individual communications with their respective Vice Presidents for Research regarding waiving the indirect charges for FY 2014/15 only.
2. Water funding initiative
 - Approved BAC's recommendation for a \$100 million funding initiative (\$100 million each year for five years) of new money around the issue of water security, as presented in their draft concept paper. This will be used in upcoming discussions with NIFA Director Ramaswamy about FY 2016 budget priorities.

The PBD also distributed the following Notification of Proposed Change to the BAA *Rules of Operation* on Aug 9 for a vote in September as part of the PBD elections ballot.

Pursuant to the *Rules of Operation* of the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA), A·P·L·U will conduct the prescribed election for the 2015 Policy Board of Directors (PBD) and proposed amendment to change the BAA's *Rules of Operation* in September. The proposed change would be to **Article VI, Section 1** of the BAA *Rules of Operation* as follows:

CURRENT

Section 1. These *Rules of Operation* may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting representatives to the Assembly, provided the proposed changes have been presented to the Assembly at least thirty (30) days prior to the voting.

PROPOSED

Section 1. These *Rules of Operation* may be amended by a two-thirds majority of affirmative votes cast, provided that more than fifty (50) percent of all eligible votes are cast and the proposed changes have been presented to the Assembly at least thirty (30) days prior to the voting.

[Back to Top](#)

Item 13: Pest Management Working Group Update**Presenters: Mike Harrington/Mike Hoffmann****For information**

Currently there exists a National IPM Committee (NIPMC) consisting of IPM Center Directors, Regional IPM Committees, State IPM Coordinators, and Community IPM practitioners, the IPM Voice as well as others. This group has been meeting annually for a number of years and makes recommendations on programs; however, this group has limited official ties to ESCOP and none with ECOP. This group was asked to respond to the recommendations contained in the Pest Management Working Group White paper that was developed last year. Many participants in the Working Group are also members of the NIPMC.

With the approval of ECOP and ESCOP steps have been taken to form a Joint ESCOP-ECOP Pest Management Coordinating Committee that will function as a subcommittee under the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee. A draft set of Rules of Operation have been drafted and circulated widely among the current NIPMC and others for comment. The draft rules include committee charge, structure, size, roles, responsibilities and reporting lines, etc. (see attached). Any minor changes to the rules will be finalized at the larger group will be meeting in Washington DC, September 23-24, then submitted for approval by ECOP and ESCOP. An oral report on this meeting will be provided.

The year will be viewed as a transition from the old group to a more formalized structure.

National IPM Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC) Rules of Operation

The National IPM Coordinating Committee is a committee of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) and the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP), and shall function as a subcommittee of the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee.

Organization of the NIPMCC

General

The genesis of the National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC) began in 1985 when the Pest Management Strategies Subcommittee of the Experiment Station Committee on Policy (ESCOP) Science and Technology Committee was charged with providing coordination among the Regional IPM Competitive Grants Programs and USDA, the sponsoring agency. The Subcommittee was expanded to include Extension representation in 1986 to better integrate regional research with activities occurring through Smith Lever 3d IPM funds. At that time, the group began to refer to itself as the National IPM Coordinating Committee, later shortened to simply the National IPM Committee. Over the years, the NIPMCC has functioned to provide advice and communications regarding Integrated Pest Management programs supported by USDA-NIFA (and its predecessors) and land-grant universities from across the US and its protectorates and territories. Core membership was originally comprised of officers of the four ESCOP regional technical committees for IPM (now NCERA 222, NEERA 1004, SERA 3, and WERA 1017), administrative advisors to those committees, and managers of the four regional IPM competitive grants programs (NC-RIPM, NE-RIPM, S-RIPM and W-RIPM), with USDA-NIFA IPM-related National Program Leaders serving as *ex officio* members. Representatives from USDA-ARS-OPMP (1996) and Regional IPM Centers (2000) were added to the committee after these groups were established. Key partner organizations, including US EPA and USDA-IR-4/NRSP-4, have also participated. Committee leadership is composed of liaisons to the Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP) (currently Ed Rajotte, PSU) and ESCOP (currently Frank Zalom, UC-Davis), with facilitation by the National IPM Center Directors.

The 2013 President's Budget proposed to combine budget lines for several research and extension programs related to pest management into a new Integrated Crop Protection Program; however, the proposal was met with some resistance because highly successful programs were terminated and imposition of indirect charges were applied to all of the component programs. A formal IPM Working Group comprised of more than 40 IPM scientists representing universities, the private sector and government was appointed by the Budget and Advocacy (BAA) Committee. The Committee charge: "The Working Group is asked to develop a

report that provides operational guidelines for fulfilling the goals of the Integrated Crop Protection Program.” The working group held a number of conference calls and developed a report that was accepted by the BAC and Policy Board (July 2013). The report was sent to the NIPMCC for review and comment. While no formal recommendations were received from the NIPMCC, there was informal endorsement of the Work Group recommendations.

Charge: Make recommendations to ESCOP and ECOP on programs, policies and reports that affect pest management implementation, and make recommendations on budget matters relating to pest management. Assist in development of reports and strategic plans on pest management issues. Pursue activities that facilitate coordination and collaboration nationally among and between IPM research and extension at the Land Grant universities, and between the Land Grants and Federal agencies involved in IPM.

Composition: Membership will be selected to ensure that IPM input from all US regions and relevant groups is well represented on the committee, and should include:

- Three members as selected from each of the regional technical committees for IPM (NCERA 222, NEERA 1004, SERA 3, and WERA 1017) serving staggered 3 yr. terms. N=12
- Directors of the four Regional IPM Centers, N=4
- Chair of the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee and one Extension Director, N=2
- One ESCOP and one ECOP regional executive director, N=2 (Non-voting)*
- One representative each from 1890 and 1994 institutions, N=2
- Non-voting *Ex officio* members, liaisons, N=variable
 - IR-4
 - Other land-grant programs related to pest management
 - Agencies and programs within USDA including NIFA, APHIS, ARS, and SARE.
 - Other Departments of the Federal government including EPA, HUD, GSA and DOD.
 - Private-sector organizations including IPM Voice, IPM Institute of North America, and the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC).
 - At least one representative from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), preferably a National Program Leader, recommended by the NIFA Director and appointed by the ESCOP/ECOP Chairs.
 - Representation from other agencies and organizations as deemed important to be involved in discussions on national IPM programs and policy.

*One of the Executive Directors from the same region as the chair of the committee and will serve as the Executive Vice Chair, by providing administrative support to the committee. These two appointed Executive Directors will be non-voting members of the committee.

Officers

Officers will include a Past Chair, Chair and Chair-elect chosen by the committee from the four regional technical committee and 1890 institution members. The officer positions will rotate

among the five groups in the following order: North Central, Western, Southern, Northeast, 1890. Terms shall be for one year, with orderly movement from the Chair-elect position to Past Chair.

Terms of appointment to the committee will be three years. Where appropriate, terms will be staggered so as to provide continuity to deliberations.

An Executive Committee composed of the Past Chair, Chair, Chair-elect, ESCOP and ECOP reps, and a rotating regional center director will be formed to facilitate communication with the committee, prepare the meeting agenda, and take charge of any other committee organizational needs.

Committee Operations

The committee may meet face-to-face at least once per year typically, in the fall. Other business of the committee will be conducted electronically through conference calls and e-mails. All expenses will be borne by member's respective institutions.

The committee shall annually provide a "State of IPM" report to ESCOP and ECOP.

The committee shall provide updates and reports on its activities and programmatic recommendations to ECOP and ESCOP as requested and deemed appropriate.

Any budget recommendations shall be made via the Chairs of ECOP and ESCOP for consideration by the respective Budget and Legislative Committees.

[Back to Top](#)

Item 15.0: Resolutions Committee Report
Presenter: Marc Linit

**A Resolution to Recognize the 2014 Experiment Station Section Awardees
for Excellence in Leadership**

WHEREAS, the following individuals have served their own institutions, their Regional Associations, the Experiment Station Section and the Land-grant System in various leadership positions with exemplary distinction:

Dr. Carolyn Brooks, Executive Director, Association of 1890 Research Directors

Dr. Colin Kaltenbach, Dean and Director Emeritus, University of Arizona

Dr. Arlen Leholm, Executive Director (retired), North Central Regional Association

**Dr. Bruce McPheron, Dean and Director (former), Pennsylvania State University;
Vice President and Dean (current), The Ohio State University**

Dr. Craig Nessler, Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

WHEREAS, these leaders have personified the highest level of excellence by enhancing the cause and performance of the Regional Associations and Experiment Station Section in achieving their mission and the Land-Grant ideal; and

WHEREAS, these leaders have, through their many service activities exhibited by offices held, committee participation and unique assignments, made very significant regional and national contributions that build programs and capacity; and

WHEREAS, these leaders have provided significant, dynamic and high quality performance with regional, national and/or international impacts and have a record of significant accomplishments in the agricultural sciences; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the members of the Experiment Station Section assembled at their annual meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia, on October 1, 2014 congratulate Drs. Brooks, Kaltenbach, Leholm, McPheron and Nessler for their recognition as the 2014 Experiment Station Section Awardees for Excellence in Leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we express sincere appreciation and gratitude to these leaders for their dedicated service and many valuable contributions to the Regional Associations, Experiment Station Section and the Land-grant System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that original copies of this resolution be provided to Drs. Brooks, Kaltenbach, Leholm, McPheron and Nessler that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

**Resolution of Appreciation to Agricultural Experiment Station
Administrators who left their positions and responsibilities in the
2013 to 2014 year.**

WHEREAS, the following have served as Administrators of their respective State Agricultural Experiment Station, and

WHEREAS, they have actively participated and served in various capacities at the state, regional and national level on behalf of the Agricultural Experiment Station System, Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the State Experiment Station Directors at their annual meeting on October 1, 2014, recognize the contributions and service toward strengthening the State Agricultural Experiment Station System, and with them success and happiness in all their future endeavors.

NERA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tom Burr, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva
NCRA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Baker, Michigan State University• F. William Ravlin, The Ohio State University
WAAESD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ross Maglona, Northern Mariana Islands• Ron Allen, University of Arizona• Greg Weicko, University of Guam
SAAESD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. John Liu, Auburn University• Dr. Steve Workman, University of Kentucky• Dr. John Hayes, University of Florida• Dr. Jonathan Edelson, Oklahoma State University

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Dr. Steve Slack, Chairman of the Experiment Station Section [ESS] of the Board of Agricultural Assembly has provided selfless and committed leadership and keen oversight to enhance the system, and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Slack's leadership and support, the priorities of the Experiment Station Section of the Board of Agricultural Assembly have been greatly enhanced and have achieved significant accomplishments, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Slack has provided outstanding leadership in the area of planning and building relationships with other research, extension and academic units, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Slack has been visionary and timely in conducting ESS business,
LET IT BE KNOWN, that the Experiment Station Section of the Board on Agricultural Assembly recognizes Dr. Slack's invaluable contribution and service to the national agricultural research system, and

THEREFORE, on this day of October 1, 2014, the Experiment Station Section resolves to extend their sincere gratitude for his commitment, service, and leadership in making the system more effective in addressing current and future needs, challenges and opportunities in agricultural research, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an original of this resolution be provided to Dr. Steve Slack and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the Experiment Station Section of the Board on Agriculture Assembly met at the Jekyll Island Club, on Jekyll Island, GA on September 30 to October 3, 2014, and

WHEREAS, those attending were educated and stimulated by the meetings, workshops, and banquet,

WHEREAS the location for the meeting was outstanding and the accommodations were both compatible and conducive to effective interaction resulting in a successful meeting;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Experiment Station Section of the Board on Agricultural Assembly expresses its appreciation to Dr. Robert Shulstad, Dr. Eric Young, Ms. Donna Pearce, and the staff of the University of Georgia's Agriculture Conference Services for arranging the facilities and coordinating the meetings, breakout sessions and social events, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an original of this resolution be provided to Dr. Robert Shulstad, Dr. Eric Young, Ms. Donna Pearce, and the staff of the University of Georgia's Agriculture Conference Services, and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Action Requested: Approval of Resolutions

[Back to Top](#)



Agenda Brief

Agenda Item 18.0: LEAD 21 Update

Presenter: Dan Rossi

The 2014-15 LEAD21 program (Class X) began in June, 2014.

- Class X is comprised of 83 participants from across the United States.
- Class X had a waitlist this year.
- Institutions and agencies include:

Alabama A&M University
American Samoa Community College
Auburn University
Clemson University
Fort Valley State University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Louisiana State University
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
Montana State University
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
North Carolina State University
North Dakota State University
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Prairie View A&M University

Purdue University
South Dakota State University
Southern University and A&M College
Tennessee State University
University of Arkansas
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Maryland
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Nevada
University of Rhode Island
University of Tennessee
University of Wyoming
Virginia Tech
Washington State University

- Oregon State University has 6 participants, Oklahoma State University and University of Tennessee have five participants each, Auburn University has 4 participants, and 8 institutions had 3 participants.
- Class X consists of 42 males and 41 females, 9 participants from the 1890s, 1 participant from the Territories (American Samoa), 3 from USDA/NIFA, and 70 from the 1862s.

The overall program:

- There were 729 participants in LEAD21 Classes I through IX.

- Precursors to LEAD21 include ESCOP/ACOP (278 participants) and NELD (80 participants).
- The total number of alumni in leadership development programs in the Land-grant University System and with our strategic partners is 1,087.
- Across all institutions and agencies, these leadership development programs include 915 from 1862s, 59 from 1890s, 11 from 1994s, 14 from insular areas, 70 from USDA NIFA, 1 from APLU, and 18 represented strategic partners.

The LEAD21 Board of Directors has a full complement of members for the first time in a number of years. Members include Laurie Kramer (Chair, ACOP), Dan Rossi (Program Chair, ESCOP), David Benfield (ESCOPE), Craig Beyrouthy (AHS), Jon Boren (ECOP), Michel Desbois (USDA/NIFA), Mark Erbaugh (ICOP), Brian Kowalkowski (1994), Tanner Machado (At-Large - HSI), Dyremple Marsh (At-Large – 1890), Paul Patterson (ACOP), Barbara Petty (At-Large-Past Participant), Nick Place (ECOP), and Todd Winters (At-Large - Non-land-grant).

The primary purpose of LEAD21 is to prepare participants to lead more effectively in an increasingly complex environment, either in their current positions or as they aspire to other positions. LEAD21 accomplishes this through the actions of the Board of Directors representing all sections (AHS, ACOP, ECOP, ESCOP, and ICOP), NIFA, related institutions and LGUs (1862, 1890, and 1994). The LEAD21 Program is delivered through the highly skilled group of facilitators who have 98 years of combined experience with LGU leadership development programs.

The self-directed learning and peer coaching provided through Sessions I, II, and III focus on a number of competencies that are distinctly identified, studied, reinforced, and actively applied throughout the 9 month LEAD21 Program. The core content areas include:

- **Communicating effectively**
- **Managing conflict**
- **Fostering collaboration**
- **Leading change**

Secondary competencies include: 1) leading with integrity and values, 2) developing self and others, 3) valuing diversity, 4) developing a deeper knowledge and 5) appreciation of higher education.

Applications for Class XI are due November 15, 2014. Dates for Class X are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- Session I, Minneapolis, MN: June 21nd – 26th, 2015
- Session II, Kansas City, MO: October 5th – 8th 2015
- Session III, Washington, DC: February 22nd – 25th, 2016

Tuition for Class XI is \$9,500 which includes all participant materials, lodging, and meals.

The current LEAD21 contract is with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and Rochelle Sapp serves as Program Director. The Board is extremely pleased with the management of LEAD21 by the current staff and very appreciative of UGA's support in the administration of the program. It is extremely commendable that because of excellent program management and significantly increased enrollments, the APLU/BAA loan to erase the account deficit prior to CAES management was paid off in 2014, which is two years ahead of the pay-off expectation.

[Back to Top](#)



125 Years of Providing Access
and Enhancing Opportunities

Agenda Brief

Item 19.0: Updates on the Commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of the Signing of the Second Morrill Act

Presenter: Shirley Hyman-Parker, ARD Chair

The goals of the celebratory activities for the 125th Anniversary are to 1) Commemorate the Signing of the Second Morrill Act with commentary on how our history characterizes us; 2) Showcase accomplishments and impacts; 3) highlight our roadmap in tandem with our sister land-grant institutions as the land-grant family addresses contemporary issues and solves global problems

1. To reach broad and diverse audiences and educate them about the Morrill Acts, the land-grant university system, and about the unique roles the 1890s play in enhancing the lives of those they educate and serve, the 125th Anniversary steering committee has produced a video. Additionally, a variety of marketing and branding strategies are being developed to be used in social and print media, the Web, radio and television. The unified messaging, documents, images, news stories etc are being placed in a toolkit that will be housed on the website, www.1890universities.org, that will go live in October. The first showing of this video will be at the 2014 APLU Annual meeting. The APLU Annual Meeting is also the designated kick-off for all of the 125th Anniversary celebratory events. Our intent of this massive educational endeavor is of course to convince politicians, decision-makers, the public, government agencies, and the private and philanthropic sectors to not only invest in 1890s, but to invest in the entire land-grant system.
2. A portable self-standing exhibit is being developed by the 1890 University librarians that will focus on the collective history of the 1890 universities. The display will be placed in several federal buildings throughout 2015 and can also be duplicated for the 1890s so they can use it on their campuses and at locations throughout their states. The display will also be replicated for post cards/bookmarks etc.
3. The national events will take place in buildings of the Library of Congress (LOC) in Washington, DC.
 - a. On July 15, 2015, utilizing the Madison Building of the LOC, the 1890s will host "1890 Exhibits on the Hill" (manned by stakeholders and students) to include a reception for members of Congress. Additionally, in the afternoon of July 15th, with the help of Cornerstone, the CBC, APLU, and members of the Congressional Ag Committees, representatives from the 1890s, USDA and NIFA will testify before the House Ag Committee.

- b. The Convocation will be held in the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress on July 16, 2015. Invitations to register for the convocation will be sent to the land-grant system.
 - c. Other events in Washington, DC will be planned in collaboration with USDA agencies.
4. State and campus events throughout the year will be individualized; however the date selected tentatively as “1890 Day” is April 23, 2015. On this Thursday in April all nineteen (19) campuses will connect a variety of events to a wellness walk. Each campus will have as its goal 1,890 participants. Registration will be \$18.90 per participant with the proceeds supporting the campuses’ inaugural Justin Morrill endowment scholarship fund. The walk is to last 1,890 seconds (31.5 minutes) and a countdown clock on the 1890 land-grant webpage would count down the walk time beginning at 1,890 hours (78.75 days) prior. Other activities before or after the walk may include convocations, community/local foods, snacks, tastings, child development activities, wellness fairs, recruitment fair, contests, etc.

This summary is just a snapshot of the many initiatives being planned by the 1890s collaboratively. However, we are extremely grateful to many from our sister institutions, our partners, sections of APLU and colleagues who want to participate with us, and/or include us as presenters on their programs/conferences. The 1890s greatly appreciate this show of support and sense of family and look forward to a celebratory year inclusive of the entire land-grant family.

A calendar of events will be posted on the inaugural 1890 website.

[Back to Top](#)

Item 21.0: ECOP Liaison Report to ESCOP

Report to the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy Daryl Buchholz, ECOP Liaison (8.18.14)

Build Partnerships and Acquire Resources

- The ECOP National Task Force on Health has completed its work www.aplu.org/document.doc?id=5134, which was endorsed by the BAA Policy Board of Directors (PBD) at its July 23, 2014 meeting in San Diego and is the basis for the new PBD *Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee*.
- The 2014 Extension Centennial Celebration www.extension100years.net continues throughout the year with an emphasis on social media, a series of articles in the *Journal of Extension*, helping USDA-NIFA celebrate in Washington, DC on September 10, 2014, and arranging for visibility at the APLU Annual Meeting November 2-4, 2014 in Orlando, FL.

Increase Strategic Marketing and Communications

- ECOP has approved continuation for 2015 to fund the AES-CES Communications and Marketing Project, co-chaired by Scott Reed, Oregon State University.
- The BAA Academic Programs Section is considering joining efforts with the database www.landgrantimpacts.org (formerly www.excellenceinextension.org), which now allows for public access to impact statements from Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Experiment Stations.

Enhance Leadership and Professional Development

- Plans are underway for the 2015 National Extension Directors and Administrators meeting to take place in October 12-15, 2015, likely in St. Louis, MO, with a proposed theme of *Motiving Innovation*. The shift from March to October is to position Cooperative Extension to meet jointly with the Experiment Station Section (ESS) during this time frame in 2016.

Strengthen Organizational Functioning

- At its October 15-16, 2014 meeting in Lexington, KY, ECOP will consider a proposal from the eXtension Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Keith Smith, The Ohio State University, to transition to a new *Innovation Foundation* (working title). See <http://bit.ly/InnovStratFrame>. If approved, the new effort will augment electronic capabilities of participating institutions. The business model calls for a membership structure in place of the current assessment process.
- The ECOP 4-H National Leadership Team, initially led by Charlotte Eberlein, University of Idaho, meets August 21-22, 2014 near Minneapolis. A Memorandum of Understanding www.aplu.org/document.doc?id=5187 outlines the responsibilities of Cooperative Extension at the state level and USDA-NIFA, in collaboration with the National 4-H Council, and is the basis for the new team.
- ECOP Chair Jimmy Henning continues focus from 2013 on the ESCOP-ECOP strategic alliance working closely with Steve Slack, ESCOP chair, on the partnership with USDA and a program focus on water security. Plans for transitioning to incoming chairs are in process.
- Delbert Foster, South Carolina State University will assume the position of ECOP Chair at the APLU Annual Meeting Extension Dinner November 3, 2014 in Orlando. The northeast region has named Michelle Rodgers, University of Delaware, as ECOP chair-elect.

For more information, Jane Schuchardt, Executive Director, jane.schuchardt@extension.org, or visit <http://ecopmondayminute.blogspot.com/>.

[Back to Top](#)