

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief

Presenters: Steve Slack and Mike Harrington

For information only

The current B&L Committee membership is shown below.

<p>Chair: Steve Slack (NCRA)</p> <p>Delegates: William (Bill) Brown (SAAESD) Jeff Jacobsen* (WAAESD) Ernie Minton (NCRA) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Orlando McMeans (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD) Bob Shulstad (SAAESD) Tom Brady (NERA) Thomas Burr (NERA) Bret Hess (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>NIFA Liaison Christina Buch (NIFA)</p> <p>Representatives Caird Rexroad (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Dina Chacon-Reitzel (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - B of Hum Sci)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p>
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FY2012 Budget: The BAC held an emergency conference call on May 26 during which a proposal to move funds from the four mandatory grants programs (Specialty Crops RI, Beginning Farmer Rancher, Bioenergy R&D and Organic R&E) to support areas that were proposed for cuts in the House. The proposal also would have extended by legislation the mandatory program by an additional 2 years. Unfortunately there was a very short timeframe and the BAC was asked to vote after briefly hearing about the proposal. The proposal did pass the BAC with ESCOP abstaining. Of course there were some potential unintended consequences, in particular negative feedback from those groups who were instrumental in securing these funds. The amendment was not put forward.

2012 House Mark: The House mark would impose a number of sizable (read draconian) cuts not only to NIFA but to other agencies in USDA as well. As compared to the 2011 levels, the proposed cuts would reduce Hatch by nearly \$30 M, Evans-Allen by \$3.37 M, McIntire Stennis by \$3.16 M and AFRI by \$41.1. M. The total cuts to Research and Education would be \$106.9 M. The impact of the AFRI cuts is unknown. There are a significant number of grants that were forward funded; meaning that amount available for new grants would be reduced by this amount. Decisions for 2011 have not yet been made so there may be additional impacts on funds available for 2012. Every Extension Activities line was reduced, including Smith Lever 3b and c (\$36.7), EFNEP (\$10.3), 1890 Extension (\$6.8M). Water Quality and Food Safety Program were zeroed out. The total proposed cut for NIFA is \$212.754M. ARS is targeted for a 12% reduction. Senate action is not expected until September.