

**Item 5.0**

**ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief**

**Presenters: Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington**

**For information only**

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

<p><b>Chair:</b> Gary Thompson (NERA)</p> <p><b>Delegates:</b> Moses Kairo (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Ernie Minton NCRA Tim Phipps (NERA) Jon Wraith (NERA) Bill Brown (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Jim Moyer (WAAESD) Glenda Humiston (WAAESD)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p> <p><b>Executive Vice-Chair</b> Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p><b>Liaisons</b></p> <p>Rick Klemme (ECOP Liaison) Bob Holland (NIFA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Vacant (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Becky Walth (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS) Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone) Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone) Jeremy Witte (Cornerstone)</p>
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The B&L Committee will be holding a breakfast meeting on March 7 with the ECOP BLC in conjunction with the AHS-CARET meetings. Discussions will focus on advocacy for both competitive and capacity funding, identifying and coordinating the roles of the respective B&L committees.; identifying and needed “work products” that haven’t already been generated (pre-review documents); and Creating broad-based support of major initiatives in the context of the water security initiative.

Are we following up on our initiation strategy document for new initiatives?

**ESCOP B&L Priorities Statement on the proposed NIFA FY 2017**

We support the BAC long-standing policy of “do no harm” to existing efforts. Beyond that overarching goal, here are comments about the proposed budget and requests that relate to research programs. These positions do not detract from any priorities advanced by our Extension colleagues.

**Crop Protection-Pest Management** -- We support the \$3M increase for Crop Protection and also support language that precludes charging indirect costs against Extension Implementation Program Area grant awards.

**Efforts of 1890 and 1994 Institutions** -- We support all proposed increased funding of 1890s and 1994 institutions.

**SARE** - We support proposed increases for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

**Capacity Funds** - Our goal always is to seek an increase in Hatch; however, we support level funding as proposed. Level funding translates into a 3 - 5% annual reduction in available program funds due to increasing costs for salaries, supplies and operations. The Hatch program has been level funded for the past 3 years resulting in a minimum loss of 10% in capacity

**AFRI** -- We support growth in the AFRI discretionary funding from \$350M (FY 2016) to \$375M (FY 2017). We also support full funding of AFRI at its authorized level of \$700 million through However, we understand that increased mandatory funding requires a reduction in spending elsewhere in the budget. Growth in AFRI must not be at the expense of existing programs or capacity funding.

**BAC Priorities:** The BAC met by conference call on Feb 16 to finalize the system's response to the President's FY 2017 Budget Proposal The BAC approved appropriations requests for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). These include support for AFRI at the full authorized level of \$700 million, support for capacity funding increases for 1962, 1890 institutions and McIntire Stennis programs. With the withdrawal of the 1994s from APLU, the 1994 Research and Extension lines were removed as priorities. The BAC position is to endorse the President's Budget or our 2017 numbers whichever are higher.

All documents related the federal budget are located at the [land-grant.org](http://land-grant.org).