



Notes from
2015 ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting
J,W. Marriott Indianapolis
November 16, 2015 (1:45 PM – 4:45 PM)

Attendees: Shirley Hyman-Parker, Connie Kays, Eric Young, Bob Godfrey, Parag Chitnis, Muquarrab Qureshi, Fred Cholick, Alton Thompson, Bret Hess, Mike Harrington, Jeanette Thurston, Clarence Watson, Steven Slack, Dave Benfield, Bob Shulstad, Daniel Rossi, Gary Thompson, Saied Mostaghimi, Greg Cuomo, Mike White, Hunt Shipman, George Hopper, Marikis Alvarez, Deb Hamernik, Jeff Jacobsen, Carolyn Brooks

Item	Action Items
1.0	<p>Approval of Agenda – Approved Approval of Minutes – Approved</p> <p>Dan Rossi will draft a letter to be sent from the ESCOP Chair to APLU (Ian Maw) with the changes that are needed to confer the deserved amount of honor for the ESS Excellence in Leadership awards presented at the annual APLU meetings. Additionally, the logistics for the award will now be handled by the S&T Committee for continuity rather than with the ESCOP chair, which changes annually.</p> <p>ESS will pay NC-FAR its \$1000 membership fee, but will not pay for a sponsorship beyond this. Carolyn will respond to the NC-Far request for payment.</p> <p>ECOP requested ESCOP to join with them in paying for the lunch for participants at the ‘Lunch and Learn’ program in the spring of 2016. The amount is \$400 and the motion passed to pay the \$400. Carolyn Brooks will notify Jane Schuchardt and subsequently send the ESCOP chair’s approval to make payment.</p> <p>The ESCOP position was confirmed that the 2016 ESS-NEDA meeting in Wyoming is a pilot and subsequently ESCOP will decide whether this should be continued and if so when /how often. Carolyn will inform the ECOP leadership that at the earliest, if continuation of such joint meetings is desired by both CES and ESS, the next one may not take place until 2019.</p>
2.0	<p>The request was made for ESCOP to assist FSLI to recruit, not only from academia, but also from government and industry. There is a new international component of the FSLI curriculum and FSLI graduates are eligible to return to participate in this new 7 – 10 day session.</p>
5.0	<p>The draft already developed and circulated which defines the LGUs still has internal use value and CLP Chair Greg Bohach has asked all sections, including ESCOP, to send their comments or recommended edits to him by November 30th. The ESCOP chair will send out a request to do so</p>

8.0	NACSAA invites Experiment Stations and Extension partners across the nation to participate with them. The scientists and the Extension professionals can be particularly helpful when working with farmers. To do so, contact is Ernie Shea – eshea@sfdialogue.net There is no cost to be a partner.
10.0	An Operating Guidelines document has been developed by the S&T Committee. The purpose is to codify processes going forward. This two page document will be added to the ESCOP rules by Jeff Jacobsen. It was noted that if the S&T operational guidelines are to be included in the ESCOP Rules/Guidlelines, other committees under ESCOP should have their guidelines posted there as well.
12.0	A vote was taken to determine if ESCOP wanted to financially support the next work session to develop more webstories by the LGU National Impact Database Content Subcommittee. The motion to pay the \$5000 passed with only one vote against the payment. Eric is to notify the requestors that ESCOP will support this subcommittee’s next work session for up to \$5,000 and Shirley and Carolyn will notify APLU accordingly to make the payment once invoiced.

Time	Agenda Item	Topic and Presenter(s)
1:45	1.0	<p>Call to Order – Shirley Hymon-Parker, Chair</p> <p>1.1 Approval of Agenda</p> <p>1.2 Approval of July 21, 2015 ESCOP Meeting Minutes, Providence, R.I. http://escop.ncsu.edu/meetattach/390_ESCOP%20Agenda72115.htm</p> <p>Apology was given that the script was not read to introduce/present the recipients of the ESS Excellence in Leadership Awards to Drs. Alton Thompson (ARD), Ron Pardini (WAAESD), Dr. Fred Cholick (NCRA), Mike Hoffman (NERA) and Eric Young (SAAESD) during the APLU Awards program. As this is a national award given to leaders from the five regions, it should be given as much distinction as is given for the other national awards. In the program booklet each recipient should have his/her photo along with a brief write-up included. Dan Rossi will draft a letter to be sent from the ESCOP Chair to APLU (Ian Maw) with the changes that are needed to confer the deserved amount of honor for the ESS Excellence in Leadership awards presented at the annual APLU meetings.</p> <p>Additionally the logistics for the award will now be handled by the S&T Committee for continuity rather than with the ESCOP chair, which changes annually.</p> <p>1.3 Approval of Interim Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment for Invoices: Payments have been made from the ESCOP account to the ARD for the cost for a continental breakfast for the S&T committee meeting held after the conclusion of the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting. A letter was sent to Ian Maw to ask APLU to pay the invoice of \$12,500 from TAMU for the ESCOP portion of the cost to establish the National Impact Database. By unanimous vote, approval was given for ESS to pay NC-FAR its \$1000 membership fee, but will not pay for a sponsorship beyond this. It was noted that regions pay membership of \$500 and that Ernie Minton is the ESS representative on NC-FAR. <p>ECOP requested ESCOP to join with them in paying for the lunch for participants at the ‘Lunch and Learn’ program in the spring of 2016. The amount is \$400 and the motion passed to pay the \$400. Carolyn Brooks will notify Jane Schuchardt and subsequently send the ESCOP chair’s approval to APLU make payment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from conference call on ECOP/ESCOP Alliance (changing of leadership) The new leadership agreed to the continuation of the Alliance initiatives. ECOP felt they were not clear on ESCOP’s willingness to continue with joint NEDA-ESS meetings and since that was unclear, they have assumed the joint meetings would be biennially. The ESCOP position was restated: the 2016 meeting in Wyoming is a pilot and subsequently ESCOP will decide whether this should be continued and if so when /how often. Carolyn will inform the ECOP leadership that at the earliest, if the joint meeting is desired by both CES and ESS, it may not take place the second time until 2019.

1:50	2.0	<p>FSLI – Marshall Stewart</p> <p>The FSLI program was described. This is the 10th year anniversary and the anniversary booklet was provided to the attendees. The request was made that ESCOP assist FSLI to recruit, not only from academia, but also from government and industry. There is a new international component of the FSLI curriculum and FSLI graduates are eligible to return to participate in this new 7 – 10 day session.</p>
2:00	3.0	<p>NIFA Report – Parag Chitnis, USDA/NIFA.</p> <p>While the RFAs for capacity funds are on track, AFRI RFAs are impacted by the new commodity board provision. With a year of implementing this new AFRI provision it will be smoother next year because of groundwork laid.</p>
2:15	4.0	<p>Cornerstone Report – Hunt Shipman.</p> <p>There will be ~\$80 billion available for defense and non-defense discretionary funding in FY 16-17. Small amount of this might be available to help the Ag. Committee appropriations.</p>
2:25	5.0	<p><u>Discussion – Number of Land-grant Universities</u></p> <p>The attempts by Rep. Abraham of Louisiana to have Grambling University included as an 1890 Land-grant University brought the System together in trying to stop the possibility of continuous attempts to expand the number of Land-grant universities. Rather than utilizing a long write-up that defines a Land-grant university, it has been determined that the entire system will support an unequivocal statement to say we oppose the expansion of the number of LGUs (as described under the Morrill Acts and subsequent legislation). The Council of 1890 Universities’ Presidents/Chancellors have already signed and submitted such a statement and specifically names Grambling University in its opposition statement. The draft already developed and circulated which defines the LGUs still has internal use value and CLP Chair Greg Bohach has asked all sections, including ESCOP, to send their comments or recommended edits to him by November 30th. The ESCOP chair will send out a request to do so.</p>
2:45	6.0	<p>Policy Board of Directors – Steve Slack and Eric Young</p> <p>Nothing new has occurred since the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting less than a month ago except that the PBD supported the renewal of the Cornerstone contract for three more years.</p>

2:50	7.0	<p><u>Budget & Legislative Committee</u> – Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington</p> <p>Since the last meeting, the roadmap for the ‘BAA Process for Advancing New Budget Initiatives’ has acquired all approvals up to the PBD, which is asked to give its final approval. The Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Initiative has developed into a concept paper now, but with no money requests. The next step is to work on funding and a new group will work on that aspect. Expect to see the approved concept paper soon and the desired timeline to attach the related funding needs is March 1st. (Note: BoHuSc also has a budget committee working on this). So as to give the Water Security Initiative time to get through as a major system initiative, the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People timeline for the <i>grand push</i> is 2018. As the system continues to generate ideas for new initiatives, it is hoped discussions on these will also take place at the 2016 ESS-CES (NEDA) meeting. To respond to the question of how does the CMC relate to this developing initiative, all were reminded that this initiative has oversight by the PBD and the CMC is not a PBD committee, but there should be liaisons to connect the CMC, the Healthy Foods Initiative, the PBD and both kglobal and Cornerstone as things develop also. NIFA requested to be in the loop as well. They requested to have a presence as observers at committee meetings.</p> <p>Crop Protection – solution determined most favorable is to leave pest management funds in 406 and legislatively exclude the Extension Pest Management program from indirect costs.</p> <p>The BAC will stay informed about the LGU expansion issues related to Gambling as this could have fiscal implications detrimental to the 1890s.</p> <p>The B&L is involved with the competitive grants transaction cost study. Gary’s office will assist with surveys so that the study includes not just anecdotal information, but also real costs figures like proposal development time and administrative burden. This information can be used in support of increasing the NIFA budget to its fully authorized amount of \$700 million.</p>
3:00		Break

3:15	8.0	<p>North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA) – Ernie Shea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and Litter Challenge Overview • New Approaches to Poultry Litter Management in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed <p>A presentation was provided to explain the NACSAA. There are about 50 organizational members. Their work platform relates to sustainable intensification of production, adaptation and resiliency management and greenhouse gas emission reduction. The latter requires political caution and so they do not debate who is causing it, just focus on the facts and seek to address the issue. There are three platforms: place-based planning (local, state and region), commodity specific conversations, and knowledge sharing through meetings and information centers. There are three task forces working on 1) enabling policies, 2) investment (financial tools, risk management tools) and 3) knowledge sharing about megatrends. They are expanding their global alliance beyond Canada and Mexico. His visit was to invite Experiment Stations and Extension partners across the nation to participate with them. The scientists and the Extension professionals can be particularly helpful when working with farmers. To do so, contact is Ernie Shea – eshea@sfdialogue.net There is no cost to be a partner even though they are seeking donors, primarily at state levels.</p>
3:30	9.0	<p>Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)– Rick Rhodes, Dan Rossi and Darren Katz</p> <p>Rick Rhodes replaces Scott Reed as chair on the committee and the representative from AHS has not yet been named. While there are accolades for the Executive summaries generated by kglobal, these reports are not to be broadly distributed. There have been three Twitter Town Halls thus far that have been engaging broader audiences. The success of these town halls suggest that there should be more of them and the BAA should get more campus participation. The goal is two per quarter. The next ones will be in January/February and will focus on questioning experts on the selected focus area. The participant demographics include issue-interested professionals, Ag reporters, and Congressional staffers for targeted committees, general researchers and ag-business sector stakeholders.</p> <p>The CMC, feeling that the message testing initiative was valuable has asked kglobal for a proposal to redo this as the first testing was foundational and needs updating now.</p> <p>The CMC has an approved 2016 POW. A new strategy is to reach out to presidential candidates to explain the value of LGUs.</p>

3:40	10.0	<p>Science and Technology Committee – Marikis Alvarez and Jeff Jacobsen</p> <p>An Operating Guidelines document has been developed. The purpose is to codify processes going forward. This two page document will be added to the ESCOP rules by Jeff Jacobsen. It was noted that if the S&T operational guidelines are to be included ESCOP Rules, other committees under ESCOP should have their guidelines posted there as well.</p> <p>The Riley Foundation Report and the Agree Report have been reviewed by the S&T Committee and it supports the unified messaging and partnering with appropriate entities and organization. In reviewing the AGree report, the S&T disagrees with the proposal to increase Congressional oversight through more hearings and reaffirmed its support of capacity funds, unlike the AGree position. S&T suggests using a slow approach on the ‘open access to publications issue’ to ensure that limited resources are used effectively and efficiently. The National Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee recently met and is also developing its operational guidelines.</p>
3:50	11.0	<p><u>NIMSS Update</u> – Jeff Jacobsen</p> <p>More testing and redesigning of the system has continued, since the NIMSS update in October. It is hoped the final product will be released before the end of the year, relieving Rutgers soon of its obligations</p>
3:55	12.0	<p><u>National Impact Database Committee</u> – Bill Brown and Eric Young</p> <p>ESCOP had previously been asked to assist in the funding for travel for a work session of a team of eight called the LGU National Impact Database Content Subcommittee. The request of \$5000 each was made of ECOP and ESCOP. ESCOP did not approve the request for payment at that time, but ECOP paid and the team met for three days using impacts from the database to serve as webstories, heightening awareness and use of the website. A vote was taken to determine if ESCOP wanted to financially support the next work session to develop more of these webstories. The motion to pay the \$5000 passed with only one vote against the payment. Eric is to notify the requestors that ESCOP will support this subcommittee’s next work session for up to \$5,000 and Shirley and Carolyn will notify APLU accordingly to make the payment once invoiced.</p>
4:05	13.0	<p>Discussion - Input from ESCOP for National IPM Dialog meeting on December 9th</p> <p>Not much assistance could be provided to give the ESCOP chair a stance as it relates to supporting USDA funding for pesticide application training. It was decided that ESCOP Chair Hymon-Parker will be in listening mode during the December meeting for which she represents ESCOP and will offer to bring back anything requested of ESCOP after stating that decisions from ESCOP must follow a prescribed process.</p>

4:20	14.0	<p><u>ESCOP Diversity in Leadership Task Force</u> – Jeff Jacobsen</p> <p>The task force will convene virtually next month and expects to be working on its charge for the next 6 – 8 months before presenting the results of its work.</p>
4:30	15.0	<p>CARET Report – Connie Kays CARET Liaison to ESCOP</p> <p>Connie was given applause for her much appreciated work in CARET and as her term expires as liaison to ESCOP. CARET hopes to get more information about the AHS strategic plan to see how that document can provide more guidance for CARET. A new thrust is to advocate for LGUs at not only at the federal level, but also at the state level. At the AHS/CARET 2016 spring meeting, there will be dedicated time in the program for a focus on social media and staffers will be presenters to enlighten the attendees about how they use social media.</p>
4:40	16.0	<p>Updates and input on 2016 ESS – NEDA joint meeting</p> <p>Bret Hess and Mike Harrington – an update was provided. The joint meeting will be in Jackson Hole, Wyoming from September 19 – 22, 2016. The theme is “Partnerships, Power and Possibilities.” Topics will include best practices for administrative functions, revisiting the REEport after the recommendations from the panel, partnerships (across regions, ECOP/ESCOP, etc) and climate variability. The unified message issue will be revisited as well as talks on the ‘capacity versus competitive’ debates. There will also be brainstorming to address the recommendations for the next Farm Bill.</p>
4:45	17.0	<p>ECOP Report – Bev Durgan</p>
4:50		<p>Other Items/Adjourn</p>