



ESCOP Meeting
February 27, 2012
Key Bridge Marriott, Washington D.C.
Georgetown Salons B & C



Agenda Item	Actions Requested
1.0	Approve meeting minutes from November 14, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting, San Francisco, CA. Approval of agenda
2.0	Vote on proposal to renew membership in NC-FAR.
3.0	Information only
4.0	Information only
5.0	Information only
6.0	Approval of a new Joint ESCOP/ECOP Communication and Marketing Committee Proposal.
7.0	Information only
8.0	Information only
9.0	Discussion and feedback on draft agenda.
10.0	EDs should have their directors discuss NRSP budgets and proposal at their regional spring meetings and share their comments with the NRSP-RC by the end of April 2012.
11.0	Discussion and vote on the proposal to use the ESCOP web site as the central location for the MTA.
12.0	Have ESCOP vote on the proposal to contribute \$3,550 for graduate student involvement in the Bioeconomy Conference

Time	Agenda Item	Topic and Presenter
9:30	1.0	Call to order —Lee Sommers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Approval of Minutes/Agenda
9:40	2.0	NC-FAR Activities and Membership —Tom Van Arsdale, Nancy Cox, & Lee Sommers
9:55	3.0	Cornerstone Update, 2013 Budget Proposal, Farm Bill, Next steps—Jim Richards/Hunt Shipman
10:10	4.0	NIFA Update – Meryl Broussard
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11:05	8.0	PBD—Steve Slack
11:10	9.0	Joint COPS meeting —Mike Hoffman & Dan Rossi
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11:35	11.0	NPGCC, Materials Agreement —Lee Sommers & Clarence Watson
11:45	12.0	Proposal to support outstanding student participation in Growing the Bioeconomy Conference Oct 2-5, 2012 —Arlen Leholm
11:55	13.0	Winning Teams Winning Grants Workshops update – Arlen Leholm & Mike Harrington
12:00		Adjourn

Future Meetings

Joint COPS - Savannah, GA, July 25-26, 2012

ESS Annual Meeting - Portsmouth, NH, September 24-26

APLU Annual Meeting—Denver, CO, November 13-15, 2012

Agenda Brief 1.0: ESCOP Past Meeting Minutes and Today's Agenda

Presenter: Lee Sommers

Background Information:

Past Meeting Minutes

<http://escop.ncsu.edu/docs/ESCOP%20Exec%20Committee%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf>

**ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
November 14, 2011
1:45-5:00 pm
Marriott Marquis Hotel
San Francisco, CA**

Approval of Agenda and Interim Actions – Lee Sommers

Interim actions included:

- Appointment of committee members
- CAC Calls
- Conference call with Doug Steele, Lyla Houglum, Meryl Broussard, Jim Richards and Mike Harrington to discuss principles for combining lines
- Conference call with Duane Houck, Robin Shepard, Doug Steele, Rick Klemme, Steve Slack and Mike Harrington to discuss budget line consolidation of Regional IPM Centers, Methyl Bromide Transition with S-L 3d Pest Management programs; Organic Transition with S-L 3d Sustainable Agriculture; and Water Quality moved to S-L 3d. This was the basis for a motion put forward to and passed by the BAC.

NIFA Update - Meryl Broussard

- Recognized that NIFA has incurred significant budget reductions due to loss of special grants and other funding cuts. This has resulted in travel budget cuts and reconsideration of how grants review panel meetings could be restructured as the panel meetings constitute approximately 65 % of the NIFA travel budget. There was also an Executive Order to cut travel by 20%.
- Budget cuts have forced the reduction of “departmental reviews”. (See Action Items below)
- There will be a retirement buyout with some 30 personnel in NIFA expected to take advantage of this option.
- Due to recent retirements, the Funds Management branch has had to replace and train new personnel. Concentrating on getting funds out to states and grant recipients.
- The AFRI synopsis for 2010 was recently published on the NIFA website.
- Approximately 33% of AFRI funds are going to foundational programs
- OMB 2013 budget directive includes instructions to plan for 5% and 10% cuts
- Farm Bill:
 - Provided technical amendments, no new initiatives
 - Mandatory programs will be lost if not reauthorized (e.g. Biomass R&D, Specialty Crops, Organic Ag, Beginning Farmer-Ranchers)

BAA-Policy Board of Directors Update – Steve Slack/Eric Young

- Elections: Steve Slack was elected as the ESCOP representative, Barbara Allen Diaz is the alternate.
- PBD will meet on Tuesday, November 14.
- The LEAD -21 program is seeking a new management entity. There are several applications for consideration. Four proposals received; University of Georgia, University of Florida, North Carolina State University and Ohio State University with review and decision in December.

Federal Budget Issues 2012 and beyond - Cornerstone Gov't Affairs, Jim Richards, Hunt Shipman

- FY'12 budget is expected later today, most lines are expected to be at/near the Senate recommendation
- FY '13 budget may include mandatory funds for research, possibly prescriptive such as to include some "special grants" activities
- There is congressional concern over some of the awards that NIFA has made e.g. recent "Peoples Gardens" awards. This has led to more oversight on RFAs in the future.

CLP-Farm Bill Status Report – Vernie Hubert/Mike Harrington

- All of the system's recommendations have been put into legislative language and forwarded to the Staff. About 2/3 of the recommendations have been accepted.
- Supercommittee offered up \$23 billion in cuts for the Farm Bill, approximately \$9 billion in programs will terminate the end of the current Farm Bill.
- Indirect cost rate (F&A). The current rate is 22% of full amount. APLU, Presidents and other are on record as wanting full negotiated IDC rates. However, ECOP (55%) voted against an increase.

Budget and Legislative Committee – Steve Slack /Mike Harrington

- Preliminary recommendations support maintaining current funding for the Hatch, McIntire Stennis, Evans Allen and AFRI.
- Final FY'13 priority decisions deferred to BAC February meeting
- Supercommittee actions could impact decisions regarding the FY'13 budget
- One-line budget proposal is off the table
- Joint motion from ECOP and ESCOP for budget line consolidation was distributed. The proposal, combining the lines listed below, was based on discussions in which the ESCOP and ECOP (as represented by their respective Chairs and BLC Chairs considered recommendations from the 406 Task Force as well as recent changes in the federal budget affecting the future of various lines. Lines to be consolidated:
 - Regional Pest Management and Methyl Bromide Transition be consolidated into Smith Lever 3(d) Pest Management.
 - Organic Transition be consolidated into Smith Lever 3(d) Sustainable Agriculture.
 - Water Quality/Resources be moved into single budget line within Smith Lever 3(d) (the location it was in the early 1990s).
 - Language providing for the intent of these programs are implemented needs to be included to assure that current philosophy and institutional eligibility (especially the 1994's) are maintained.
 - If Section 406 funding is threatened and/or proposed for elimination, immediate steps are to be taken by Cornerstone. 1994's concerned that moving lines to Smith-Lever 3d will make them not eligible for funds.
- Also need to develop a strategy to protect the Rural Development Center and Food & Ag Defense Initiative lines.

- BAC actions/recommendations to the Policy Board:
 - Approved ESCOP-ECOP motion to combine lines as above
 - Recommended Cornerstone contract renewal for another year and begin negotiating next 3-year contract

Science and Technology Committee: Roadmap Priorities – Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi

- A small task force comprised of Ravlin and the EDs developed recommendations of future needs/ use of the Roadmap.
- Recognized that there are really only about 4 priorities with several cross-cutting themes e.g. sustainability, water, etc.
- A 4-5 page general consumption summary will be created.
- 50 responses to the priorities survey have been received. The priorities are not expected to change appreciably from what was presented at the ESS Meeting in Estes Park. Data will be finalized to ascertain the top 2-3 priorities with each challenge.
- A letter to the USDA and NIFA detailing the top priorities will be sent for consideration as new grants programs are developed.

Communications and Marketing Update; Kglobal Update, Moving Forward – Impacts and Data Mining – Jerry Arkin, Arlen Leholm, Jeffrey Morris, Vice President, K-Global

- Extension has expressed a strong interest in joining the effort with Kglobal
- There is pressure from CARET to have a single voice with ESCOP and ECOP in the marketing effort.
- Arlen and Mike met with a small group from Extension to discuss how Extension might be incorporated into the plan.
- A meeting will be held in early January with Extension to discuss principles and approaches to implementation.
- Jeff Morris- we need to develop mechanisms by which “nuggets” can be mined from the system and fed to K-global.

Understanding the APHIS Biotechnology Quality Management System Program - Gretchen Flanley, Sherpa 360 The APHIS Biotechnology Quality Management System (BQMS) Program provides compliance assistance to the regulated community for the voluntary adoption of a BQMS. A BQMS serves as an important tool to help organizations involved in biotechnology research and development analyze the critical control points within their management system to better maintain compliance with APHIS regulations for the import, interstate movement, and environmental release of regulated genetically engineered (GE) organisms.

The Program provides:

- interactive training workshops with other BQMS Program participants and USDA officials,
- documented guidelines and templates to aid in the development of a BQMS
- a baseline assessment of current management practices in relationship to the BQMS standard
- one-on-one targeted assistance as needed
- internal audit training
- facilitated third-party audits of the organization’s BQMS
- acknowledgement of BQMS Program completion

The APHIS BQMS Program is available to interested parties in the regulated community who wish to validate their approach to APHIS regulatory compliance. Participation is limited based on available

resources. To contact a BQMS Program representative, e-mail or call BRS.BQMS@aphis.usda.gov or (301) 734-6356

Building Capacity in Issues Management in the Land Grant System (NCERA223) - Faith Pepper, Ruth Borger, Dave King

- Issues management is an anticipatory, strategic management process to detect and respond appropriately to emerging trends or changes in the socio-political environment. Once identified, organizations can respond to the issues either directly or sometimes preemptively when the issue is in the potential stage; indirectly through actions like negotiations with affected groups; or by choosing when in the lifecycle of the issue the organization should respond. Issue management is a means for an organization to work with issues offensively and to seek opportunities through that work.
- See NERA223 project on the NIMSS for additional details.
- Impact Statements
 - Need to reinitiate the Impact Database process which had some 3500 entries.
 - Need to structure and link databases
 - Impact statements need to be consumable
 - Need a 3 year training cycle to assure broad understanding of what is needed in impact statements.

ACTION ITEMS:

ESCOP Vote on IDC Rate

Maintain current level - 1

Intermediate rate - 12

Full ICD – 0

Recommendation will be forwarded to CLP at its meeting on Tuesday November 15.

Motion: Slack/Ravlin “Request that the Policy Board send a letter to be sent to Cathy Woteki, and Chavonda Jacobs-Young “Encouraging USDA-NIFA to keep NPLs engaged in departmental reviews” Passed unanimously. Slack to carry recommendation to PBD meeting on Tuesday.

Other Business

Dina Reitzel will be stepping down as the CARET liaison to ESCOP to join the CARET Executive Committee

Connie Pelton Keys from KS will be the new CARET liaison to ESCOP

Doug Lantange will be replacing Ed Smith as the ECOP liaison to ESCOP

Upcoming Meetings:

Feb. 26-29, 2012 Joint AHS-CARET Meeting: Key Bridge Marriott 1401 Lee Highway, Washington DC

Feb. 27 (tentative), 2012 ESCOP Meeting: Key Bridge Marriott 1401 Lee Highway, Washington DC

July 25-26, 2012 Joint COPS: Savannah Marriott Riverfront, 100 General McIntosh Boulevard

Sept 24-26, 2012 ESS Annual Meeting and Workshop, Portsmouth, NH

Attendance:

K. Plaut, NCRA, J Kokini NCRA, M Broussard NIFA, B Shulstad SAAESD, E Young SAAESD, E Smith ECOP Liaison, D Benfield NCRA, B Ravlin NCRA, B Frost WAAESD, C Brooks ARD, O. McMeans ARD, J Hayes SAAESD, H Shipman Cornerstone, V Hubert Cornerstone, B Hess WAAESD, D Scholl NCRA, R Moore, SAAESD, C Watson SAAESD, B Brown SAAESD, S Mostaghimi SAAESD, J Edelson SAAESD, J Jacobsen WAAESD, S Slack NCRA, D Reitzel CARET, M Hoffmann NERA, D Rossi NERA, Lee Sommers WAAESD, M Harrington WAAESD, Doug Lantange ECOP

Today's Agenda

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Action Requested:

- Approve meeting minutes from November 14, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Approve today's agenda.

Agenda Brief 2.0: NC-FAR Activities and Membership

Presenters: Tom Van Arsdale, Nancy Cox, & Lee Sommers

Background Information:

- In 2009 or 2010 ESCOP became member of NC-FAR. Nancy Cox became is the ESCOP representative to the NC-FAR executive committee.
- The 2012 Annual-Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 29.
- According to the by-laws, timely 2012 membership payment is due by March 31 (invoice attached).
- The National C-FAR's 2011 Annual Report: http://www.ncfar.org/2011_Ann_Report.pdf

Action Requested: Vote on proposal to renew membership in NC-FAR.



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

INVOICE

Organization: Board on Agriculture Assembly, APLU
86878

Member ID:

Name: Dr. Nancy Cox

Email:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
2012 Membership	\$1,000

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: _____

~ Please Consider ~

<p><i>Sponsorship Contribution</i> <i>[Supports Hill Seminar Series, Other Outreach Initiatives Not Included in NC-FAR Budget]</i> <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ SPONSORSHIP CONTRIBUTION: _____</p>
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Questions or Need More Information?

Contact: Debi Seymour at (217) 356-2426, x 151 or [DebiS@assochq.org] ~or~
Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at (703) 509-4746, or [tom@vanarsdall.com]

Please return this completed form with payment to:

National C-FAR, 1800 South Oak Street, Suite 100, Champaign, Illinois 61820
If Charging, Can Send via E-mail DebiS@assochq.org or Fax (217) 398-4119
(FEIN 36-4426548)

Circle: VISA	MasterCard	American Express	Discover
Credit Card Charge will appear as "FASS Online" on your statement			
CC# _____			
Exp. Date _____		TOTAL \$ _____	
*Signature _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed: Checks must be in US Dollars and drawn on a US bank			

Membership Guidelines

*The membership year is January 1 through December 31, with a deadline of **March 31, 2012** for timely payment of dues.*

*1. **A National Member** shall be a national not-for-profit or non-profit organization, corporation, association, co-operative, or other business entity whose business and purpose is similar or related to the purpose of this Organization. Annual dues for a National Member shall be \$2,500 for organizations with annual budgets over \$5 million and \$1,000 for all others.*

- 2. **An Affiliate Member** is any organization, individual or corporation, profit, not-for-profit, or nonprofit, supportive of the purpose of this Organization.*
- a. Corporate members. \$2,500*
 - b. A local, state and federal government agency, or a university unit. \$1,000*
 - c. A regional, state or local organizational member (not-for-profit stakeholder assn or organization). \$500*
 - d. Individuals. \$100*

Agenda Brief 5.0: ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee

Presenters: Steve Slack and Mike Harrington

Background Information:

The committee holds regular monthly conference calls that have generally been well attended. 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) Tim Phipps (NERA) Thomas Burr (NERA) Bret Hess (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>NIFA Liaison Paula Geiger (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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BAC Meeting Results

The BAC met in Washington on Feb. 15-16 to finalize the system’s FY 2013 appropriations requests for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The take home message is that the committee supported all programs at the appropriated level or the president’s budget request whichever is higher.

We agreed to the following seven priorities:

Core Priorities (\$Millions)	F Y 2012	President	A·P·L·U Goal
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	264.470	325.000	325.000
Smith-Lever 3(b)-3(c)	294.000	292.411	294.000
Hatch Act	236.334	234.834	236.334
Evans-Allen	50.898	50.898	50.898
1890 Institutions Extension	42.592	42.592	42.592
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	32.934	32.934	32.934
1994 Institutions Research and Extension	6.113	6.113	6.113

Each of these priorities will be documented in a one-pager (two-sided). The document repository is here: www.land-grant.org/documents.html

Another incredibly difficult budgetary year is expected and the BAC determined that everything must be done to protect the significant gains that have been secured in the recent past.

Other Critical Initiatives Supported by APLU Component Organizations	
1890 Institutions Capacity Building Grants	Higher Education Competitive Grants
1890 Institutions Facilities Grants	New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension)
1994 Institutions Equity Grants	Renewable Resources Extension Act
Insular Area Competitive Grants	Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program
Non-Land-Grant Univ. Capacity Building Grants	Animal Health and Disease Research

The BAC also supported in principle the new Crop Protection Program \$29 million and will seek to have all programs moved out of the Integrated Programs account to either Research and Education or Extension.

Final Results from the Science Roadmap Priorities Survey

The survey was closed with a total of responses 50 as follows: ARD - 8, NCRA – 7, NERA – 8 SAAESD – 14, WAAESD – 12. As discussed earlier these results should be used to provide input to NIFA and to ARFI. There will be an AFRI listening session on February 22 at Waterfront Center with a written comments deadline of March 22, 2012. We propose that the top two priorities in each Challenge be forwarded to NIFA.

Challenge 1: We must enhance the sustainability, competitiveness, and profitability of U.S. food and agricultural systems.

- Improving agricultural productivity by sustainable means, considering climate, energy, water, and land use challenges (90%)
- Developing new plant and animal production systems, products, and uses to increase economic return to producers (62%)
- Developing profitable agricultural systems that conserve and recycle water (26%)
- Developing institutional mechanisms that create incentives for sharing agricultural water and that increase public support for balancing the requirements for food production on the one hand and the life-quality issues of society on the other (12%)

Challenge 2: We must adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on food, feed, fiber, and fuel systems in the United States.

- 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 (84%)
- 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 (54%)

- Identifying appropriate policies to facilitate both mitigation and adaptation, and identifying how these policies interact with each other and with other policies (36%)
- Incorporating advances in decision sciences that could improve uncertainty communication and the design of mitigation and adaptation strategies (20%)
- Developing new technologies, including social networking tools, for more effective communication to selected target audiences (4%)

Challenge 3: We must support energy security and the development of the Bioeconomy from renewable natural resources in the United States.

- Developing technologies to improve production-processing efficiency of regionally-appropriate biomass into bioproducts (including biofuels) (70%)
- Assessing the environmental, sociological, and economic impacts of the production of biofuels and coproducts at local and regional levels to ensure sustainability (44%)
- Expanding biofuel research with respect to non-arable land, algae, pest issues that limit biofuel crop yields, and emissions of alternative fuels (36%)
- Developing agricultural systems that utilize inputs efficiently and create fewer waste products (30%)
- Restructuring economic and policy incentives for growth of the next generation domestic biofuels industry (20%)

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.

- Developing technologies and breeding programs to maximize the genomic potential of plants and animals for enhanced productivity and nutritional value (80%)
- 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 (55%)
- Developing food supply and transportation systems and technologies that improve the nutritional values, diversity, and health benefits of food and that enhance preservation practices, safety, and energy efficiency at all scales, including local and regional (43%)
- Decreasing dependence on chemicals that have harmful effects on people and the environment by optimizing effective crop, weed, insect, and pathogen management strategies (14%)
- Identifying plant compounds that prevent chronic human diseases (e.g., cancer), and developing and encouraging methods to enhance or introduce these plants and food system (8%)

Challenge 5: We must improve human health, nutrition, and wellness of the U.S. population.

- Investigating the potential of nutritional genomics in personalized prevention or delay of onset of disease and in maintenance and improvement of health (60%)
- Developing community-based participatory methods that identify priority areas within communities, including built 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 (58%)
- Understanding factors, including biological and psychological stresses, that contribute to chronic diseases and the aging processes (40%)

- Identifying and assessing new and more effective nutrient delivery systems for micronutrients and antioxidants (28%)
- Identifying, characterizing, and determining optimal serving size and frequency of intake for health benefits of the consumption of specific foods containing bioactive constituents (12%)

Challenge 6: We must heighten environmental stewardship through the development of sustainable management practices.

- Reducing the level of inputs and improving the resource use efficiency of agricultural production (56%)
- Developing ecologically-sound livestock and waste management production systems and technologies (44%)
- Developing systems-oriented and science-based policy and regulation for sustainable agricultural systems (36%)
- Assessing the capacity of agricultural systems to deliver ecosystem services, including trade-offs and synergies among ecosystem services (34%)
- Enhancing internal ecosystem services (e.g., nutrient cycling, pest control, and pollination) that support production outcomes so that chemical inputs can be reduced (30%)

Challenge 7: We must strengthen individual, family, and community development and resilience.

- 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 (78%)
- 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 (58%)
- Understanding the links among individual behavior, community institutions, and economic, social, and environmental conditions (36%)
- Assessing the role of broadband and the accelerated investment being made in broadband penetration in rural America as a community economic development strategy (16%)
- Modeling of poverty risks and outcomes to disentangle the influences of characteristics of poor individuals from the influences of their families, communities, and other organizational and institutional factors (12%)

Action Requested: For information only.

Agenda Brief 6.0: ESCOP Communication and Marketing Committee

Presenters: Gerald Arkin, Chair and Arlen Leholm

- The ESCOP Communication and Marketing Committee will meet during the CARET meetings in Washington DC, on February 26, 2012 (Sunday) from 4 to 6 PM.
- Members of the ESCOP Marketing Committee including Lee Sommers, ESCOP Chair, met with ECOP leadership, kglobal and Cornerstone on January 13, in Washington DC, to discuss the merits of ECOP joining ESCOP in the kglobal/Cornerstone Communication and Marketing efforts. Numerous discussions have taken place since that time.
- kglobal and Cornerstone were asked to submit a proposal that would include a joint effort for ESCOP and ECOP. See the joint proposal by kglobal and Cornerstone in the link below.
 - <http://ncra.info/docs/Marketing/kglobal02082012.pdf>

The key agenda item at the ESCOP Communication and Marketing Committee February 26th meeting will be discussion of the joint ECOP/ESCOP Marketing Proposal from kglobal/Cornerstone. ECOP leadership has approved the proposal and will take the proposal to the full ECOP meeting in March, 2012. A working group will be formed on February 26th to develop the operating procedures for a joint effort assuming approval by both ECOP and ESCOP.

At the last national ESS meeting in 2010, a second three-year assessment for the Marketing effort was approved starting in April of 2011. ESS is in the first year of the second three-year annual assessment for \$300,000. The joint ECOP/ESCOP proposal is for two years at \$400,000 per year with ECOP paying half. If the proposal passes ESCOP and ECOP in the next few weeks, the ESCOP assessment would be reduced to \$200,000 per year for the last two years of the three-year assessment.

Action requested: Approval of a new Joint ESCOP/ECOP Communication and Marketing Committee Proposal.

Agenda Brief 7.0: ESCOP Science and Technology Committee

Presenters: William Ravlin & Daniel Rossi

Background Information:

Committee Membership

- Chair
 - William Ravlin (NCRA)
- Delegates
 - John Liu (SAAESD)
 - John Russin (SAAESD)
 - Tim Phipps (NERA)
 - Cameron Faustman (NERA)
 - Steve Meredith (ARD) – Vice Chair
 - _____ (ARD)
 - Larry Curtis (WAAESD)
 - David Thompson (WAAESD)
 - Jozef Kokini (NCRA)
 - Abel Ponce de Leon (NCRA)
- Executive Vice-Chair
 - Dan Rossi (NERA, Executive Director)
- NIFA Representative
 - Muquarrab Qureshi
- Social Science Subcommittee Representative
 - Travis Park
- Pest Management Strategies Subcommittee Representative
 - Frank Zalom

Multistate Research Award

The announcement for the next round of awards was distributed on December 13, 2011. Nominations are due at offices of the Executive Directors on February 29, 2012. The regional associations will review the nominations and forward their recommendations to the Committee by April 30. The Committee will review the regional nominations and forward their recommendation for a national winner to the ESCOP Executive Committee by May 21. The Executive Committee will forward their selection to APLU by July 1 and the award will be presented at the APLU meeting.

Science Roadmap

A draft of a synthesis paper from the Science Roadmap is being prepared and will be reviewed by the Committee in the near future.

Meetings

The next face-to-face meeting of the committee will be in the spring.

Action Requested: For information only.

Agenda Brief 9.0: Joint COPS Meeting

Presenters: Mike Hoffman & Dan Rossi

Background Information:

Draft Joint COPS Program

Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel in Savannah, GA

8:00 – 11:45 am, July 25, 2012

Theme: Moving the Morrill Act into the Future

Goal: The goal of the session will be to examine the challenges and opportunities facing the land grant system in a rapidly changing world. The years ahead will be far different and more challenging than anything experienced since the passing of the Morrill Act in 1862. We now live in a highly interconnected and interdependent world that faces a rapidly growing human population, a rapidly warming climate, water scarcities and increasing competition for natural resources. Despite the escalating need for applied research and extension to respond to this rapidly changing world we now face dwindling support for applied research and extension at both the state and federal level – a perfect storm. How will, and how should, the land grant system achieve its mission in the coming years?

Session 1:

Title: Renewing and Reframing the Partnership with the USDA
Speaker: Catherine Woteki, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and Chief Scientist (TBC)
Response Panel: Representatives of the COPS
Q & A

Session 2:

Title: Strengthening Public/Private Collaborations
Speaker 1: TBD, Individual from private sector with a comparable mission to offer the perspective from a traditional ag/food group
Speaker 2: TBD, Individual from private sector with a comparable mission (ag or non-ag) to offer the perspective from a non-traditional group such as an environmental advocate
Response Panel: Representatives from the COP's
Q & A

Session 3:

Title: A New Model for Land Grants

Speaker:

TBD, Someone to describe a new model for the land grants

- A new model is needed – we now change when faculty retire, is there something wrong with this model?
- Need some game changers
- Open source publication for more rapid sharing of knowledge
- Enhancing public – private partnerships
- NGO's, industry
- More entrepreneurial
- New metrics for success –publications, but also effect on policy, leading change (social media), multidisciplinary efforts, translational applied research

Response Panel:

Representatives from the COP's

Q & A

Action Requested: For information only.

Agenda Brief 10.0: NRSP Review Committee

Presenter: Abel Ponce de Leon, NRSP Review Committee Chair and Arlen Leholm

Background Information:

1. All NRSP projects have submitted their requested budgets for FY2013. Please refer to the FY2103 Summary document for specific request. All projects are requesting the same amounts as FY2012.
2. NRSP_temp261 has resubmitted their revised proposal, taking into account their peer reviews from last year and this year. Please note: Although the peer reviews are available for viewing at the link below, the final version of the proposal was prepared to address these concerns. Peer reviews were generally favorable.
3. All available NRSP proposals and budgets can be found online here:
https://mywebspace.wisc.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-44812680_1-t_ZJclubaD
4. NRSP budgets and proposals should be reviewed by directors at their upcoming spring meetings. Any comments or concerns should be sent to the NRSP-RC before the summer call.
5. We will be working with the other members of the NRSP-RC to schedule a conference call sometime early in the summer to prepare final recommendations to ESCOP in advance of the fall ESS business meeting and vote.

Action requested: EDs should have their directors discuss NRSP budgets and proposal at their regional spring meetings and share their comments with the NRSP-RC by the end of April 2012.

Agenda Brief 11.0: National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee

Presenters: Eric Young, Lee Sommers, and Clarence Watson

Background Information:

A proposal will be discussed to facilitate sharing of material transfer agreements (MTA) between institutions. The wheat improvement programs at Colorado State University, Oklahoma State University, Kansas State University, and Texas A&M University have implemented a MTA that guides exchange and use of wheat germplasm as a means of enhancing public plant breeding programs. The MTA has also been adopted by several other programs in the western region. A central location for providing the MTA to any interested party is desired. A proposal will be discussed involving use of the ESCOP website as the central location where a copy of the MTA could be downloaded by an interested institution. The ESCOP website would also contain a list of institutions that have adopted the MTA. The MTA may be updated periodically by the four originating institutions and made available to others.

Action Requested: Discussion and vote on the proposal to use the ESCOP web site as the central location for the MTA.

Agenda Brief 12.0: Proposal on Graduate Student Participation in Bioeconomy Conference

Presenter: Arlen Leholm

Background:

Growing the Bioeconomy: Social, Economic and Environmental Implications

As the bioeconomy expands, **decision-makers need up-to-date knowledge** to develop strategies and manage this growth. Environmental scientists, policy experts and scientific leaders will work together in this meeting of the minds to understand the **implications** of the bioeconomy. [Three leading academic associations](#) working on the life sciences in Europe and North America invite you to attend and **contribute to a shared understanding** of the challenges and opportunities relating to the bioeconomy.

The three Associations designing this conference include: Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA); Canadian Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (CFAVM); and APLU.

During three half-day sessions, **Growing the Bioeconomy** will address the environmental, social and economic implications of the growth in this sector, following an initial overview of the latest technical developments. The final day of the conference will be devoted to examining what our next steps should be.

The town of [Banff](#) is located in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. It is the ideal setting for calm reflection and stimulating discussion.

Conference date: October 2-5, 2012

Conference location: [Rimrock Resort Hotel](#), Banff, Alberta, Canada

See the website for the Growing the Bioeconomy conference for more information:

<http://www.ales.ualberta.ca/Bioeconomy.aspx>

The three Associations designing this conference would like to have active participation from graduate students in the conference. The funding plan for the United States is to match our Canadian partners (CFAVM) by approaching ESS, CES, APS, and the PBD requesting an allocation of \$3550 each to support graduate student attendance and participation.

Competitive Plan for Involving Graduate Students

We would like to feature active graduate student participation in this conference through posters and selected lunchtime presentations. One way to attract high-quality submissions, and reward the students appropriately, is to make the process somewhat competitive. This provides students with an incentive to create excellent posters and deliver engaging presentations as well as provides them with an opportunity to build their academic CV.

We propose to invite all students to submit an abstract to one of the three categories (Economic/Policy, Social or Environmental). Students can indicate on their application form whether or not they would like to compete to deliver a five-minute poster summary presentation.

Presuming we receive more applications than we have space for, the program committee representatives for each of the categories will select the best abstracts and invite those students to share their posters at the conference. The registration costs for all student presenters accepted will be waived.

Of those poster-presenting students, 12 with the best-written abstracts (who have stated that they wish to participate) will be selected for the speaking competition. As a reward for selection, we are aiming to find opportunities to cover these students' accommodation costs.

The pre-competition will take place on Tuesday afternoon/evening. The students will deliver their presentations to a small pre-screening panel selected by the conference organizing committee. Six of these students will win the opportunity to deliver a five-minute presentation to all conference attendees during the Wednesday lunch hour to be adjudicated by a final judging panel (perhaps one session lead from each theme). This approach delivers two objectives including giving the students a chance for one more polishing practice under some pressure as well as ensures an exceptionally high quality feature program for the final lunch presentations on Wednesday. Winning this competition will be something they can mention on their CV, and if we can get a sponsor, we could name the speaking prize after the sponsor. It is intended to present awards for the best presentation, 1st runner up, and best poster in each of the categories.

CFAVM funds will be utilized to cover the registration and accommodation costs for any Canadian students who are selected, it is requested that the partner organizations from the U.S. and Europe work with the organizing committee to identify additional support for students from their organizations comparable to the Canadian Students. As travel costs are not covered for any of the students, this sets a fair and equitable standard in supporting students from any of the participating countries for each of the supporting organizations.

Action Requested: Have ESCOP vote on the proposal to contribute \$3,550 for graduate student involvement in the Bioeconomy Conference