

ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)
Monthly Conference Call
February 16, 2012
NOTES

Attending:

Jerry Arkin
Lee Sommers
Sarah Lupis
Abel Ponce de Leon
Jim Richards
Arlen Leholm
Dan Rossi
Hunt Shipman
Eric Young

1. President's Budget Proposal - Jim Richards

The President's FY2013 Budget includes a net increase of \$21 million for the NIFA line. Special Research Grants were zeroed out as were Capacity Building Grants and the Policy Research Program.

The budget includes a new Crop Protection line which rolls all the IPM programs from research, extension, and integrated activities into a new much larger Crop Protection line. NIFA is looking to work with ESCOP and stakeholders to make updates and changes to the IPM program to take a more holistic approach.

Future discussions could include moving the Food and Ag Defense Initiative and Organic Transition into appropriate respective extension accounts. Water Quality program was zeroed out so our goal will be to get them restored and located in a different account outside of integrated activities.

There was a call this afternoon with the IR4 group; Mike talked to them this morning because there is some concern with the proposal. Jim shared some of the budgetary realities with the BAC group this morning and emphasized the danger of not working together on priorities. He also described how program administration might change with having one consolidated line. Programs on individual lines are not protected from cuts or changes in managed—nothing in the funding mechanism protects them; however there seems to be a perception that they were protected when they stand alone. Mike, Steve, Tim, Robin Shepard and Rick Clooney are working together to have internal discussions with the regional pest management centers about how to move forward on the proposal.

The National UVB Monitoring was funded last year as part of the Special Research Grant line and this year it is zeroed out. Elimination of this and two other earmarks contributed to the AFRI increase.

Mike and Steve are working on information requirements for marketing documents/talking points. The entire BAA advocacy package will go out by COB tomorrow. The House Appropriations Committee deadline for all the subcommittee members to submit their priorities is March 20th. Even before CARET/AHS meets, we will start asking members to support our programmatic priorities.

2. Upcoming ESCOP Meeting – EDs

The group indicated that the draft agenda seems very inclusive and well defined for Monday, February 27th.

Mike Hoffman wants to initiate discussion about the ESS meeting and the Joint COPS meeting agendas.

Arlen explained the agenda item related to the Growing the Bioeconomy Conference: Ian Maw is leading a group that is putting on a Bioenergy Conference that deals with a wide range of issues. This year, that conference is being held at Banff in Alberta, Canada. Each country is putting up some money for student scholarships. ESCOP will be approached about making a relatively small contribution to that effort so that more graduate students can attend. Arlen indicated that this is a very good conference and encouraged all of the ESCOP leadership to attend.

Cornerstone is down for a 10:10 am update. At 10:20 am Cornerstone is on the CARET/AHS meeting agenda. Hunt requested to present earlier—perhaps to switch spots with Meryl. *Lee will follow up with Meryl to see if that fits his schedule. Meryl agreed to present his update at 10:10am.*

Eric will update a handout for CARET that explains ESS and ESCOP and will send it out for review.

3. Communication and Marketing Committee Update—Jerry Arkin

Jerry gave an update of the ESCOP Communications and Marketing Committee. Kglobal has submitted a new proposal for joint ESCOP-ECOP work. The new proposal generally expands the existing effort and includes a new web site. The Committee is meeting on Sunday, February 26th to discuss the new proposal and make plans for how a joint-effort might be implemented. There will hopefully be a formal vote to proceed with this partnership at the ESCOP meeting.