

ESCOP Chairs Advisory Committee (CAC)
Conference Call, 6/21/12
NOTES

Participants:

Lee Sommers
Mike Harrington
Gerald Arkin
Arlen Leholm
Mike Hoffman
Carolyn Brooks
Dan Rossi
Steve Pepke
Abel Ponce de Leon
Steve Slack

J-COPs Meeting in July: Morning joint session on Wednesday. Kathy Wotecki cannot join us, but Sonny R. will be taking her place. He'll speak about "Framing the Partnership" followed by a panel of people who participated in that effort. After that, there will be a panel of people from industry/NGOs to talk about strengthening partnerships (Monsanto, EDF, US Golf Superintendents Association). At 11am, there will be a series of reports (BAA, BAC, CLP) and then additional comments from NIFA (Sonny R., again). There is an hour for the 4 reports.

After lunch there will be a joint meeting of ESCOP and ECOP talking about marketing programs.

Should be able to finish on Wednesday, based on existing ESCOP agenda—business will be completed by 5pm on Tuesday afternoon.

Request from CASS for support will be covered in the joint session with ECOP. There has been no further discussion regarding that request. Mike Harrington and Ian Maw have spoken about it, in the context of providing complete disclosure of the budget. Mike doesn't have any clear direction about who's decision this will be.

Mike Harrington will inquire if Sonny R can replace Meryl in the ESCOP agenda.

Mike Hoffman and Dan Rossi are attempting to get remarks/powerpoints from speakers to distribute to panel to help them respond.

Budget Update: Markup of the House Ag Appropriations Bill with the full appropriations committee. Their allocation was significantly less than the FY12, while they also had demands for increased funding for special supplemental nutrition program for women and children. House allocation was \$365 million LESS than last year. Senate allocation was \$1 billion ABOVE last year's. There was a small increase in AFRI. There was no discussion or amendments related to research. They plan to take this Bill to the House floor next week. It is not known if the Senate will be able to work on this in July.

Likely to see a lot of Farm Bill amendments during the debate. Not sure if House will be able to get members to defer those amendments.

Farm Bill Update: Earlier this afternoon, the Senate completed the Farm Bill, final passage 65-35. There were no meaningful amendments. Next Step is that the house plans to take up their version of the Farm Bill with a draft release projected for tomorrow. Right now, the mark-up will be held on July 11.

Hatch and Smith Lever were down about 2%—did those numbers stay the same? Yes. Hatch is at \$231 and McIntyre-Stennis was cut to \$23.275 Evens-Allen \$49.880. AFRI went up to \$276.5.

It is still hard to say if there will be a vote before the election. Final numbers changing may depend on an after-election change when there will be a bigger discussion about the federal budget. The House took money from every other subcommittee to avoid taking money from defense in the sequestration. If that can be changed, our numbers will go up and final spending will look more like the Senate Bill.

Crop Protection Update: On the 12th, the Core Team led a conference call with members of the working group, approximately 25 people participated. Process, timeline for feedback on straw-man, and charge to generate comments on that straw-man was reviewed. Daryl and Mike Hoffman had a conversation with NIFA, discussed partnership, and NIFA emphasized the need for greater coordination and efficiency. The Working Group has been divided into subgroups. Will be checking in with subgroup leaders next week to assess status of feedback. Hope to have a final draft to the BAC by mid-July.

The IR-4 newsletter has a fairly long article on the consolidation. ***Lee will send to Sarah for inclusion in these minutes.*** The article is very strong in opposition to these consolidation efforts. Dan Rossi suggested that the article was written several weeks ago.

If this remains in the integrated account, there will be an IDC issue. Some would argue that they need to charge this to cover real costs, others feel it is money out of the budget. This could be put under the research and education line and IDC would be protected. The legislation that created these programs also specifies about whether IDC is allowed or not. This is the thing that has IR-4 very upset as well.

Committee Updates (B&L, C&M, S&T):

B&L—Nothing new to report.

C&M—the partnering with ECOP is moving swiftly and quickly. The Co-Chairs will be Jerry and Scott Reed from Oregon State University Extension. Trying to finalize an operations protocol and primarily to provide a smooth and effective way to get information between kglobal and the system so that there is minimal time delay and kglobal knows how to make contact with the states. There are 2 working groups working on different pieces of this effort—describing and diagramming the communication pathways. In the past several months, we've had some significant impact and are making a difference.

S&T: NCERA208 - Response to Emerging Threat: Soybean Rust was the national award winner. There is an effort to create a synthesis paper based on the roadmap. The committee will meet prior to the ESCOP meeting to work through a draft of that paper.

Other: The Western Region Office is hosting the national impact writer. Sara Delheimer started this week and is working on impact statement templates that will be shared with the NRSP001 Management Committee and the regional offices sometime next week. There may be an opportunity to vote online for the three choices and/or there will be an NRSP001 committee meeting to discuss the options.

Next Call: July call canceled. Next call will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2012 at 4:00 PM EST/3:00 Central Time/2:00 PM MST/1:00 PST. The call in number is 970-491-2613.