

Item 5.0 Science and Technology Committee**Presenter: Dan Rossi for Steve Pueppke****Background Information:**

The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee met via a conference call on June 7, 2007. The Social Science Subcommittee remains very active and is focusing collaboration around the following key issues: the human aspects and impacts of the bioeconomy; immigration and rural communities; the intersections of food and health; and specification of the rural development NRI RFP. Pat Dick was elected chair and Cornelia Flora will serve as the representative to the Science and Technology Committee.

The NRI priority input process was completed and forwarded to the NRI leadership. We are waiting to determine what impact the input will have on the RFP's. We may need to re-evaluate the process in future meetings and decide whether to re-engage the system.

The Science Roadmap update was well received. It may be necessary to revisit and update the Roadmap every 4 to 5 years. There is discussion of the development of an operational strategic plan for ESCOP. The Committee is prepared to participate in this process.

The Committee discussed the issue of a maximum percentage for NRI integrated awards. There was a feeling that the awards should be driven by program needs and the quality of the proposals received, and that all outstanding integrated proposals should qualify. As the maximum percentage is currently legislated, it was suggested that ESCOP should request a revision of the legislation removing the maximum. The committee looked at some background information on how other funding agencies define and handle integration. It was felt that it would be helpful to invite representative from NSF and NIH and Anna Palmisano to our next meeting.

The committee started to review its charge to determine whether it is still relevant. As the participation in the conference call was somewhat limited at that time, it was decided the committee will reconvene to revise and update the charge.

Dr. Pueppke has served as chair of the committee for three years and suggested that it may be time to appoint another chair. Nominations are being requested.

The Committee may meet at the ESS Meeting on September 17. If not, a conference call will be scheduled after the meeting.

Action Requested: For Information