Purpose/Role:

- Within the ECOP core themes and annual goals, establish a federal legislative, budget, and advocacy agenda for the Cooperative Extension Section (CES).
- Represent Extension priorities to the Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) and Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP).
- Encourage APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) support and implementation of CES priorities.
- Provide information to Council for Agricultural Research, Extension & Teaching (CARET) and other customer groups for use in effectively advocating on behalf of the System’s priorities at the federal level.
- Work with the advocacy firm engaged by the BAA Policy Board of Directors to identify strategies for moving the BAC and other Extension federal authorization and appropriations agendas forward.
- Through the BLC chair, actively engage with the BAA BAC to advance Cooperative Extension legislative and budget priorities.
- Scan the federal landscape including USDA and other federal departments to identify legislative and budget opportunities in alignment with the ECOP priorities.
- Recommend the formation, coordination, monitoring, and discharging of task forces related to national funding priorities.
- Working with ECOP Executive Committee, manage decision-making regarding signing onto advocacy letters.

Note: Any vote of the BLC requires a quorum of the 15 voting members (8 members). Actions are forwarded to ECOP or ECOP Executive Committee for information and approval.
Agenda

Attachments: Minutes of the last meeting, February 2018, 2018 BLC presentation at JCEP-PILD (URL)

I. OPENING BUSINESS – Attendance completing a quorum is found at the end of these minutes.

Jon Boren: Larry Katz made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Nick Place seconded and the motion carried. There were no additions to the agenda. Acknowledged Doug Steele has left Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to work with the Bourlag Institute. 1890s Region Executive Administrator announced, Albert Essel, former Administrator at Lincoln University to Vonda Martin, Florida A&M University; Northeast Region from John Rebar, University of Maine transition to Chuck Ross, University of Vermont. Welcome Sabine O’Hara, University of District of Columbia from the Northeast and Ali Mitchell, Executive Director of the Northeast Region to the EDA Team.

a. UPDATE: 2018 Schedule Reminder

Meet four times per year, Tuesdays, 4-5:00 p.m. ET via Zoom before the 3rd Tuesday BAC meets.
Next Zoom Meetings: September 11, and November 6, 2018
Face-to-Face meeting at NEDA: Lunch on Tuesday, October 2, Noon-1:15 p.m. PT, Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Downtown, Portland, OR

II. BLC Chair Recommendation from BLC Committee – Jon Boren/Rick Klemme ECOP Operating Guidelines:

- One BLC member is appointed as chair by the ECOP Executive Committee. The chair serves a three-year term which can be renewed. The chair represents the Cooperative Extension Section on the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) and reports to ECOP as a non-voting, ex officio member.
- One BLC member is appointed as vice-chair who assumes responsibilities of the chair when the chair is absent. The vice-chair serves a three-year, renewable term and can assume the chair position at the approval of the ECOP Executive Committee.

Rick Klemme: Make a recommendation for a vice-chair for BLC, not urgent.
Larry Katz: Motion to recommend to ECOP Executive Committee for Jon Boren to become Chair. Nick seconded, and motion carried. Come back to Vice-chair recommendation at a later date.

III. UPDATE: Farm Bill 2018 – Vernie Hubert

Land-grant Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed/EFNEP)

Vernie Hubert: Met with PDT to go over questions about implementation. Summarized the current House version. Ag Committee seems comfortable with proposal; more interest on SNAP than SNAP-Ed. Senate Committee pushing for 10% cap on administrative costs. May be amenable if it needs to be addressed. There is more focus on SNAP rather than SNAP-Ed. Land-grants as report language indicates that it be specifically refers to Cooperative Extension.

Jo Britt-Rankin: Land-grants taking the federal negotiated rate in addition to the 10% cap in the bill. 10% does not cover subcontractor’s rate. Jon’s question about the LGU language (as opposed to CE). The report language specifies Cooperative Extension. Committee expects 1862s and 1890s to develop a plan to deliver the program.
Michelle Rodgers: Question about the Senate’s version, which will not include as many changes to SNAP and Nutrition Education as the House.

Vernie Hubert: A call to action is coming later this week to contact House members. Senate may have language that includes collaboration between EFNEP and SNAP-Ed as well as 1862/1890 EFNEP collaboration.

Larry Katz: Question about cooperation with state SNAP agency. Vernie states that the driving force is a coordinated state plan that already happens in many, but not all, states. Committee looking for a consulting relationship between Cooperative Extension and the state agency.

Fred Schlutt: Noted that Land-grants/Cooperative Extension would become in charge and work in coordination with the state agency.

Nick Place: Question about Cooperative Extensions’s role in providing education for workforce training/development. Vernie thinks this is too toxic of a topic to engage that conversation for now; maybe at conference.

Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) Update —
Fred Schlutt: Has not met. Issues intent language for nutrition education. Youth coordinator discussion has been taken up in Title 11; committee initiated conversation.

IV. UPDATE: Cornerstone Government Affairs –
FY 2019 appropriations
Jim Richards/Hunt Shipman: FY18 appropriations is complete with omnibus bill at end of March. BAC priorities met -> level funding for capacity funds and $25m increase for AFRI. SARE budget increased as did 1994s, NIFA administration and organic program. FY19 appropriations is underway. House markup at subcommittee level happens tomorrow. Net increase in NIFA for research and extension lines. Specific breakdown will be sent to us by Cornerstone when the numbers are known. There may be $ for opioid extension response. Committee has interest in line reduction (in report language).

V. kglobal Update –
Rick Klemme: Growing interest in the return on investment, 1/6 of annual budget from assessments. Meeting of all of the 3 Sections of the BAA with all – expectation of an advocacy campaign.

VI. NIFA Strategic Alignment (Line Consolidation) Update –
Hunt Shipman: Reports the interest (as above) from the Appropriations Sub-committee in this effort.

VII. JCEP-PILD Conference – 2018 BLC presentation –
Review of 2018 Presentation –
Jon Boren: Welcomes suggestions for 2019

VIII. UPDATE: USDA-NIFA – Paula Geiger/Josh Stull
Farm bill update
FY 2018 and 2019 federal budgets

No report.

IX. UPDATES AS NEEDED BY LIAISONS
No report.

ADJOURN
BLC Voting Members – Attendance is signified by X

1890 Region
Rosalind Dale, North Carolina A&T State University
X Vonda Richardson, Florida A&M University
X M. Ray McKinnie, Virginia State University

North Central Region
X Jason Henderson, Purdue University
X Roger Rennekamp, Ohio State University
Karla Trautman, South Dakota State University

Northeast Region
X Larry Katz, Rutgers University
Sabine U. O’Hara, University of District of Columbia
X Chuck Ross, University of Vermont, who is succeeded John Rebar, University of Maine

Southern Region
X Robert Burns, University of Tennessee
X Nick Place, University of Florida
To be determined

Western Region
X Jon Boren, New Mexico State University, Vice-chair
X Wendy Powers, University of California
Scott Reed, Oregon State University

Other Participants

USDA-NIFA
X Paula Geiger, USDA-NIFA
X Josh Stull, USDA-NIFA

Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA)
X Michelle Rodgers, University of Delaware Assumed role beginning 4/19/18
X Fred Schlutt, University of Alaska, BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP, ECOP)
X Mark Latimore, Fort Valley State University (CLP, 1890)

Liaisons
Judith Barth, Colorado State University, Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP)
X Jo Britt-Rankin, Board on Human Sciences, Inc. (BoHS), University of Missouri
Bill Brown, Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) Budget and Legislative Committee, Texas Tech University
Jake Tibbitts, Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET), Eureka County, NV

Executive Director and Administrator Team
X Ron Brown, Southern Region
Albert Essel, 1890 Region
X Lyla Houglum, Western Region
X Rick Klemme, ECOP Nation Office
X Ali Mitchell, Northeast Region
X Sandy Ruble, ECOP National Office
X Robin Shepard, North Central Region

Guests
X Jim Richards, Vernie Hubert,
Hunt Shipman, and Maggie Earle Cornerstone Government Affairs