



**AGENDA
BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
APRIL 13, 2020**

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CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS

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- I. Call to Order (Beyrouthy)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Beyrouthy)
- IV. COVID-19 Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
- V. NIFA Proposals
 - i. ECOP
 - ii. ESCOP
 - iii. to Advocate for a Proposal/Initiative
- VI. Advocacy Request – NIFA 15% Increase (Steele)
- VII. REE RFI Stakeholder Input to USDA Ag Innovation Strategy (Steele)
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Adjourn

Call to Order and Roll Call

BAC Chairman Craig A. Beyrouy called the meeting to order and asked Eddie Gouge to call the roll. The following participated in the conference call:

Craig A. Beyrouy (*Chair*), *University of Maryland, College Park*
Paul M. Patterson (*Advocacy Chair*), *Auburn University*
David S. Buchanan (*APS*), *North Dakota State University*
Jon C. Boren (*CES*), *New Mexico State University*
J. Ernest Minton (*ESS*), *Kansas State University*
Deanna Behring (*IAS*), *The Pennsylvania State University*
M. Ray McKinnie (*1890 Extension*), *Virginia State University*
Dyremple B. Marsh (*1890 Research*), *Delaware State University*
John L. Phillips (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
Karen L. Jones (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*
Robert W. Godfrey (*Insular/Territories*), *University of the Virgin Islands*
Jim Handley (*CARET – Fiscal Years 2020-2021*), *Florida*
Brian Hardin (*CARET – Fiscal Years 2022-2023*), *Alabama*
Jo Britt-Rankin, (*Board on Human Sciences*), *University of Missouri-Columbia*
Carolyn J. Henry (*Veterinary Medicine*), *University of Missouri-Columbia*
Linda M. Nagel (*Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*
Sarah Mathias (*CGA*), *University of Florida*
Orlando F. McMeans (*BAA-PBD*), *Southern University and A&M College*
Douglas L. Steele, *APLU*
Richard M. Klemme, *APLU*
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*
Wendy Fink, *APLU*
Caron Gala, *APLU*
Florencia Drumwright (*APLU*)
Alton Thompson, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*
Albert E. Essel, *Association of Extension Administrators (1890)*
Jeffrey S. Jacobsen, *North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*
Kevin Cain (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*
Hunt Shipman, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Jim Richards *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Vernie Hubert, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Maggie Earle, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

The following committee members/staff were unable to participate in the meeting: **Marshall Stewart**, (*BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy*), *University of Missouri*; **Gary A. Thompson** (*BAAPBD*), *The Pennsylvania State University*; and, **Alice Gómez**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*.

The following guest participated in the call: **Steve George Buchholz**, *The Pennsylvania State University*.

Agenda

The agenda, as distributed, was approved.

Minutes

Approval of the BAC minutes from February 12, 2020 and March 1, 2020 was deferred pending the retrieval of documents from APLU (which has been closed since March 12, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff are working from home).

Update from Cornerstone Government Affairs on COVID-19 Appropriations

In relation to the COVID-19 appropriations, Cornerstone Government Affairs made the following points:

- the Congress will not return to DC until May 5, 2020 to work on Fiscal Year 2021
- the agricultural appropriations bills is one of the first bills scheduled to be marked up next week, but all markups on appropriations bills will slip two to four weeks now
- no markups have been scheduled or announced in the Senate
- Congressional focus has been on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2.0 funding and it will be a substantial package that may include economic recovery and infrastructure funding

NIFA Proposal – Cooperative Extension

The Cooperative Extension Section (CES) has developed an \$80 million [proposal](#) to meet the needs of the public resulting from COVID-19, and Jon Boren explained the proposal to the BAC.

Jon Boren explained the proposal and indicated that:

- the \$80 million will be used to deal with the COVID-19 situation and recovery
- the supplemental funding will be allocated through Smith-Lever and 1890 Extension capacity lines and new technology for ag extension (NTAE) with a pass through to 1994 Tribal Colleges.
- funds will be used to augment capacity funds to Extension to deal with the needs across the country and to supplement the investment in local and state resources
- funds will be distributed by the 1862s, 1890s, and 1994s through the submission of a plan of work detailing activities in response to COVID-19.

Jim Richards indicated that the Congress is receptive to this proposal in the next supplemental appropriations bill.

Jim Handley made a **motion to approve the proposal and move it forward to the BAA Policy Board of Directors for action**, and the motion was seconded by Paul Patterson. **The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.**

NIFA Proposal – Experiment Station Section

The Experiment Station Section (ESS) has developed a [proposal](#) related to infrastructure rehabilitation as outlined in the [Sightlines Report](#).

Ernie Minton explained the proposal and indicated that:

- the proposal represents the conversation had by ESCOP at the Joint CARET/AHS Meeting in March
- NIFA has acknowledged the impact of the pandemic on current research projects
- it will be developed as an infrastructure bill for future funding opportunities
- ESCOP has worked with their Executive Directors team, key leadership, and Cornerstone Government Affairs for the final verbiage
- this proposal will affect all three functions – research, Extension, and teaching – as well as the non-land-grants
- there was a 90% participation rate in the study, and it is data rich and data driven
- the study documents the backlog of deferred maintenance, and COVID-19 underscores the need for human health and food security
- the Sightlines study was done five years ago and will undergo a “refresh” with the addition of five (5) universities that did not participate in the original study.
- the intent of the ESS is to move this proposal as part of the long-term recovery or infrastructure investments rather than a response to COVID-19 funding

Ernie Minton moved that **the ESS proposal on infrastructure rehabilitation be approved and forwarded to the BAA Policy Board of Directors for action**, and the motion was seconded by Dyremples Marsh. **The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.**

Chairman Beyrouthy thank the Cooperative Extension Section and Experiment Station Section for bringing two strong proposals to the BAC.

Comments from Doug Steele

Doug Steele made the following comments:

- thanked the members of the BAC for adjusting their schedules to participate in the BAC Zoom conference call
- he has been working closely with Cornerstone Government Affairs to see where and when the BAA will be most effective and successful on the different phases of COVID-19 relief; the political landscape seems to be quite fluid and we need to take advantage of what we have to offer
- a proposal is being developed for funding and review by the BAC and PBD have move quickly, but with a thoughtful, deliberate approach with key leaders involved
- response time is critical and if we can't respond, we will lose the opportunity
- thanked the APLU Council on Governmental Relations for their assistance

Guidelines to Advocacy Proposals

Doug Steele indicated that FANR staff are developing operational [guidelines](#) in draft form on how the BAA, through the BAC and PBD, can operate as a system so that we can turn around things quicker. The BAC was asked to review the guidelines and provide their reactions to Dr. Steele. No further action on the document was required at this time.

Advocacy Letter

Doug Steele and Caron Gala presented a draft [letter](#) to the BAC that, if approved, they plan to circulate to various stakeholders in support of adding \$380 million (\$80 million of which would be the Cooperative Extension Section's proposal) to the budget of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in response to the CARES Act and COVID-19. It was made clear that this effort was not intended to distract from the BAA's "unified ask." They have been working with groups like Association of American Universities (AAU), Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR), National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (N-CFAR), and others. Doug indicated that other national organizations like the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) are being asked to sign onto the letter, and Brian Hardin agreed to follow up with the AFBF.

The proposed letter asks for a workforce savings effort as well as funding for equipment. They indicated that they had been working with groups that traditionally only played in the competitive arena but had agreed to sign on the letter that had capacity for research, Extension, and teaching within NIFA lines are also critical to recovery. We are acting as a coalition builder in this case.

Cornerstone Government Affairs commented that it was a well-drafted letter and good to elevate the volume regarding the CARES requests.

Ernie Minton made the motion to approve the draft letter and move it forward to the BAA Policy Board of Directors for action, and the motion was seconded by Jim Handley. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jim Richards indicated that the BAC will need to provide Capitol Hill with the accounts to which the money is going and be able to back up the numbers with activities. He thought the \$300 million request would require more work in justifying the need. He also indicated that the proposal needed to be constructed and out the door by the end of this week or first part of next week to be useful. The Extension proposal is a relief and mitigation effort, while the Experiment Station proposal is infrastructure.

There was discussion among the BAC as to who should develop the budget lines to receive the funding – should it be the BAC or the Policy Board of Directors. The suggested process: ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC) and ESCOP Science and Technology Committee work with the research EDA team and key leadership to develop the proposal; allocate the funding on a proportional basis or other identified mechanism to the research lines in current budgets; communicate with NIFA to determine the impact of COVID-19 on current competitive ag research projects (estimates are \$100-\$200m depending on the time extension); and develop a funding proposal and one-pager for BAC review and approval.

Doug Steele indicated ESCOP currently has working groups formed and bring back to the BAC a recommendation through either a called meeting or electronic vote.

REE Stakeholder Input on Agriculture Innovation Agenda

Doug Steele thought the stakeholder input sessions being proposed by USDA was critical to the Land-Grant University system. He also thought that our effort in support of the sessions should be decentralized. Further discussion of this topic was put on hold.

Next BAC Meeting

Chairman Beyrouy asked Eddie Gouge to schedule the next Zoom meeting of the BAC for **4:00 p.m. (EDT) on Tuesday, April 21, 2020**.

Adjourn

BAC Chairman Beyrouy adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m. (EDT).