

**AGENDA**  
**BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**  
**BOARD ON AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY**

**Conference Call**  
**December 19, 2017**

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CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS

Number: [1-800-264-8432](tel:1-800-264-8432)

[Passcode: 734155#](tel:734155)

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AGENDA

- I. Call to Order (McMeans)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
- IV. Farm Bill Update (Cornerstone)
- V. Other Business

## Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Orlando F. McMeans called the meeting to order and asked Eddie Gouge to call the roll. The following participated in the conference call:

Orlando F. McMeans (*Chair*), *West Virginia State University*  
Craig A. Beyrouly (*Advocacy Chair*), *University of Maryland, College Park*  
William F. Brown (*ESS*), *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*  
J. Mark Erbaugh (*IAS*), *The Ohio State University*  
Robert T. (Tom) Jones, (*CARET*), *Arizona*  
Erik J. Porfeli, (*Board on Human Sciences*), *The Ohio State University*  
Cheryl Achterberg (*Board on Human Sciences*), *The Ohio State University*  
John P. Hayes (*Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*  
Gregory A. Bohach (*CLP*), *Mississippi State University*  
Gary A. Thompson (*BAAPBD*), *The Pennsylvania State University*  
Gabrielle Serra (*CGA*), *Oregon State University*  
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*  
Richard M. Klemme, *APLU*  
H. Michael Harrington, *Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*  
Kevin Cain (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*  
Hunt Shipman, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*  
Vernie Hubert, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*  
Maggie Earle, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*  
Alice Gomez, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

The following committee members/staff were unable to participate in the meeting:

**David S. Buchanan** (*APS*), *North Dakota State University*; **Douglas L. Steele** (*CES*), *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*; **Albert E. Essel** (*1890 Extension*), *Lincoln University*; **Bobby R. Phills** (*1890 Extension*), *Southern University*; **Karen L. Jones** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*; **Elvin Román Paoli** (*Insular/Territories*), *University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez*; **Jim Handley** (*CARET*), *Florida*; **Bryan K. Slinker** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Washington State University*; **Mark A. Hussey** (*BAAPBD*), *Texas A&M University*; **Ian L. Maw**, *APLU*; **Wendy Fink**, *APLU*; **Hanan Saab**, *APLU*; **Alton Thompson**, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*; **L. Washington Lyons**, *Association of Extension Administrators (1890)*; **Andrew Maccabe** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*; **Jim Richards**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*; and, **Alice Gómez**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*.

## Minutes

The minutes from the November 11, 2017 meeting, as distributed, were approved.

## **Appropriations Update**

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- the federal government was operating under a Continuing Resolution through December 8, 2017 and it was extended until December 22, 2017; the Congress is currently considering another Continuing Resolution through January 19, 2018
- the hope and expectation is that the Congress will achieve an agreement that will raise the spending caps in defense and non-defense spending; once such an agreement is reached, it will take three to four weeks for the committee staff to assemble an omnibus bill
- if no agreement on the spending caps is reached, there could be another Continuing Resolution after the first of the year
- the \$81-billion disaster relief bill proposed by the House is being considered for inclusion and used as a vehicle so the measure could be voted on later this week
- the House of Representatives passed the tax bill today and the measure is expected to pass the Senate later today
- it is possible that the Fiscal Year 2019 budget will be released on schedule in February 2018

## **Farm Bill Update**

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- the House of Representatives are in the process of finalizing the language for their reauthorization bill and have sent their proposal over to the Congressional Budget Office soon; the House staffers want to be right on the mark
- Cornerstone Government Affairs has met with committee staff who have indicated that they are receptive to input on the noncontroversial issues
- the Senate continues to work on their version of reauthorization but they are not close to where the House is in the process; the Senate focus has been on the nominations process and have not sent anything to the Congressional Budget Office
- a SNAP-Ed proposal was released by the Trump Administration in August that would take all of the money from this program and convert it into employment and training programs; the House does not seem interested in this proposal
- there will be reform in SNAP, SNAP-Ed, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) but it is unclear as to what form the reform will take

## **Other Business**

There was some discussion of the letter from the Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) that the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) was asked to sign. The SoAR letter covered a range of topics and there was not enough time for the BAA sections to review the document. The BAA declined to sign the SoAR letter but, under the leadership of Mark Hussey at Texas A&M University, sent their own letter.

Some concern was expressed about the comments made by NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy at the New Deans/Directors Orientation in regard to the BAA's One-Ask appropriations request. The following points were made:

- there may be a communication breakdown with our USDA partner
- were Sonny's comments directed at the one-pagers?
- maybe we need to look at our message
- some Hill staffers did not feel that they had room to work within the increase proposed by the One-Ask figure
- there might need to be better communication with the House and Senate clerks even though the clerks on both sides had been consulted about the One-Ask approach
- the BAC should realize that the One-Ask approach was not decided upon in a vacuum – there had been communication with Congress and the Executive Branch prior to its implementation
- if the President's budget requests had been successful in the past, the BAA and BAC would not have done the One-Ask proposal
- Chairman McMeans indicated that we need to spend more time in the BAC to make sure that all of us understand our approach and clearly define what the One-Ask approach entails
- the BAC needs to offer up strong justifications as to why we need more money and what we are going to do with additional funding
- Chairman McMeans stated that we would take some of the comments and recommendations in this discussion and employ them in the Fiscal Year 2019 documents

Cornerstone Government Affairs encouraged each of the sections and the BAC to take a "blue sky" approach and to secure the best arguments on why additional funding is needed and how the funding will be used.

Gary Thompson encouraged all of the BAC members to review SoAR's *Retaking the Field: Empowering the Agricultural Sciences for Health*. You can view a copy of the document at:

[http://supportagresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SoAR\\_Retaking\\_the\\_Field\\_Vol\\_3.pdf](http://supportagresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SoAR_Retaking_the_Field_Vol_3.pdf)

Chairman McMeans indicated that he would have a follow-up conversation with Mark Hussey on this and other legislative issues in the near future. He also wished all on the call a safe and happy holidays.

### **Adjourn**

Chairman McMeans adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m. (EST).