



## AGENDA

### BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE BOARD ON AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (EDT)  
May 19, 2020

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CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS|  
Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Call to Order (Beyrouty)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Beyrouty)
- IV. COVID-19 Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
- V. FY 2021 Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
- VI. Call to Action Reminder (Beyrouty/Cornerstone)
- VII. Infrastructure Proposal (Steele)
- VIII. BAA Webinar (Steele)
- IX. Other Business

## **Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

Craig A. Beyrouthy (*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*  
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*  
Erik J. Porfeli, (*Board on Human Sciences*), *The Ohio State University*  
Linda M. Nagel (*Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*  
Sarah Mathias (*CGA*), *University of Florida*  
Gary A. Thompson (*BAAPBD*), *The Pennsylvania State University*  
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*  
Maggie Earle, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

The following committee members/staff were unable to participate in the meeting: **Karen L. Jones** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*; **Carolyn J. Henry** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *University of Missouri-Columbia*; **Marshall Stewart**, (*BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy*), *University of Missouri*; **Orlando F. McMeans** (*BAAPBD*), *Southern University and A&M College*; **Vernie Hubert**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs* and, **Alice Gómez**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*.

The following guest participated in the call: **Robin A. Shepard**, *North Central Cooperative Extension Association*.

## **Agenda**

The agenda, as distributed, was approved.

## **Minutes**

The BAC minutes from April 21, 2020, as distributed, were approved.

## **Update from Cornerstone Government Affairs on COVID-19 Appropriations**

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported the following:

- the U. S. House of Representatives passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act) with a \$3 trillion price tag and was passed with one Republican vote and a few Democrats voting with the Republicans
- Senate Majority Leader McConnell indicated that he will wait several weeks before proceeding with any further COVID-19 legislation to see the impact of the previous relief measures
- recovery funding is being discussed and infrastructure is part of the discussion, but infrastructure funding is further down the road
- the \$380 million request from APLU was not included in the recent House package but Cornerstone Government Affairs hopes that it will be included in the Senate package

## **Update from Cornerstone Government Affairs on Fiscal Year 2021**

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported the following:

- legislation surrounding COVID-19 has slowed down the appropriations process and it will be mid-June before appropriations bills are considered in the House
- the United States Senate has stopped projecting when they will consider appropriations bills
- it is possible that there will be a continuing resolution (CR) for several bills or a large omnibus bill down the line
- at this point in time, the House majority has not shared the allocations with the minority yet, but it seems the numbers have been determined
- the Senate has notional allocation numbers
- the common themes in the House and Senate include:
  - justification of funding
  - lack of understanding of capacity funding
- Cornerstone Government Affairs has had many conversations with House and Senate members/staff and all support agricultural research, education, and Extension but there is a need to better communicate the value of what the land-grant system does so that it doesn't get caught up in the debate over other educational funding
- at some point, fiscal discipline in federal spending will return and this could work to our advantage

- Congress is experiencing spending fatigue – mandatory programs should make the next Farm Bill easier due to the current baselines as well as the desire of Congress for fiscal discipline and to cut federal spending

### **“Call to Action” Reminder**

Cornerstone Government Affairs made the following points:

- the next “call to action” will focus on the United States Senate – Senators Shelby (AL), Hoeven (ND), Merkley (OR), and Leahy (VT) – all of these Senators need to be hearing from the land-grant university community about the personal funding impacts so that a face can be placed on the funding requests
- Cornerstone Government Affairs is switching vendors they use for the “calls to action” in the hope of improving their opening and clicking rates – the last one was 25% opening rate and a 17% clicking rate

Chairman Beyrouthy indicated that he would make a strong case for advocacy in the BAA webinar being held tomorrow and address the importance of advocacy too.

Jim Richards requested the BAC to let him and/or Maggie Earle know if they had received the latest “Call to Action” that had been sent.

Chairman Beyrouthy requested that Eddie Gouge forward the next few “Calls to Action” to the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) to see if that might improve the response rate.

Advocacy Chairman Patterson asked if there would be more “calls to action” on Fiscal Year 2021 once the COVID-19 funding is complete. Hunt Shipman and Jim Richards responded that there probably would be another “call to action” but it was a couple of weeks away and that it had been a strange year.

### **BAA Webinar**

Doug Steele reported the following:

- 173 individuals have registered for the BAA webinar on May 20, 2020
- responding to “calls of action” will be one of the topics covered during the webinar
- the purpose of the webinar is to update the Board on Agriculture Assembly on the work of the BAC and Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP)
- the chat box will be shut down for the webinar, but individuals can use the question-and-answer option at the end to ask questions
- links to the webinar slides or questions that are not answered during the webinar will be sent out to the webinar’s participants after the event

### **Infrastructure Proposal**

Doug Steele made the following comments:

- the land-grant university system needs to be prepared to move on this when the “iron is hot”
- the proposal has been approved by the BAC and the BAA Policy Board of Directors
- Cornerstone Government Affairs is holding the proposal and awaiting the right moment to bring it forth
- the strategy will be to focus on the economic impact of getting people back to work
- Chairman Beyrouthy will introduce the concept tomorrow during the BAA webinar
- with the help of Eric Young, the work of Sightlines has been extended with a target date of completion being July 1, 2020
- we are getting good documentation for the study
- APLU’s Council on Governmental Affairs has looked at the study and found it helpful in framing the message of national relevance or perspective

### **Other Business**

There was no other business

The next BAC call will be held on at **4:00 p.m. (EDT) on June 16, 2020.**

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Beyrouthy adjourned the BAC meeting at 4:48 p.m. (EDT).