

AGENDA
BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
BOARD ON AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY

Rooms 201-202
JW Marriott Austin
Austin, Texas

November 12, 2016

- I. Introductions Around the Table
- II. Approval of Minutes from October Conference Call
- III. Brief Report from NIFA
- IV. Update from Cornerstone
 - A. Election Outcome and Political Forecast
 - B. F.Y. 2017 Appropriations
 - C. Farm Bill Implementation
- V. Consolidation Committee
- VI. F.Y. 2018 Priorities, Lines Targeted for Enhancement, etc.
 - A. Water?
 - B. Other
 - C. What is the Definition of Insanity? Or, Can We Afford to Repeat the Past?
- VII. Other Business
 - A. Upcoming BAC Calls and Meetings
 - B. Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Initiative Update
 - C. Items from the Floor
- VIII. Executive Session – Cornerstone Scope of Work for 2017
 - A. Report/Recommendation from Ian on Contract Negotiations with Cornerstone

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Alan L. Grant called the meeting to order and asked everyone around the table to make self introductions. The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Alan L. Grant (*Chair*), *Virginia Tech*
Orlando F. McMeans (*Advocacy Chair*), *West Virginia State University*
John C. Stier (*APS*), *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
Richard M. Klemme (*CES*), *University of Wisconsin-Madison-Extension*
Albert E. Essel (*1890 Extension*), *Lincoln University*
Moses T. K. Kairo (*1890 Research*), *University of Maryland Eastern Shore*
Richard Cavaletto (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo*
Raúl E. Macchiavelli (*Insular/ Territories*), *University of Puerto Rico*
Robert T. (Tom) Jones (*CARET*)
James P. Thompson (*Veterinary Medicine*), *University of Tennessee*
John P. Hayes (*Forestry*) *Colorado State University*
Gregory A. Bohach (*CLP*), *Mississippi State University*
Jay T. Akridge (*BAAPBD*), *Purdue University*
Ian L. Maw, *APLU*
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*
Jane Schuchardt, *APLU*
Alton Thompson, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*
L. Washington Lyons, *Association of Extension Administrators (1890)*
H. Michael Harrington, *Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*
Andrew Maccabe (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*
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*
Jeremy Witte, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Alice J. Gómez, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

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

Douglas L. Steele (*CES*), *Texas A&M University*; **William F. Brown** (*ESS*), *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*; **J. Mark Erbaugh** (*IAS*), *The Ohio State University*; **Karen I. Jones** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*; **Cheryl Achterberg** (*BoHS*), *The Ohio State University*; **Clarence E. Watson** (*BAAPBD*), *University of Arkansas*; **Wendy Fink**, *APLU*; **Carol E. Kellett**, (*BoHS*), *Board on Human Sciences*; **Jeremy Witte**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*; and, **Alice J. Gómez**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*.

The following individuals attended the meeting as guests:

Sonny Ramaswamy (*National Institute of Food and Agriculture*) U. S. Department of Agriculture; **Dina Chacón-Reitzel** (*CARET*), New Mexico; **Louise Beaman** (*CARET*), Indiana; **Jeff S. Jacobsen** (*North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*); **Robin Shepard** (*North Central Cooperative Extension Association*); **Montague “Tag” Demment**, (*APLU*); **Samantha Alvis** (*APLU*), and, **Hanan Saab** (*APLU*).

Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda, as amended, was approved.

Minutes

The minutes, as distributed, from the BAC conference call on October 18, 2016 were approved.

Update from Cornerstone Government Affairs

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- there was a huge voter turnout in rural America
- Donald Trump scored 2 points higher than Mitt Romney did in rural America
- everything is in transition
- the conventional wisdom indicated that the Republicans would lost 4 to 6 seats in the Senate and 12 to 18 seats in the House of Representatives (there was a net loss of 6 seats)
- the first agenda item of the Trump Administration will be to rollback many of the regulatory provisions of the Obama Administration
- Vice President-elect Pence will be leading the transition team
- the new Secretary of Agriculture probably will come from the pool of 70 people who served as Trump’s advisors on agriculture – Michael Torrey is the leading transition team for agriculture and is from Kansas
- the current Congressional schedule looks like –
 - **November 15-18** – House and Senate return to Washington for leadership elections
 - **November 21-25** – Thanksgiving recess
 - **November 28 – December 2** – House and Senate return to Washington
 - **December 9** – Continuing resolution expires and may get an extension through December 16
 - **December 16** – House and Senate adjourn *sine dine*
- the continuing resolution is set to expire on December 9, 2016 and the staffs are working on an extension – some of the possible scenarios are: a short-term continuing resolution through March 31, 2017; an omnibus bill; a minibus bill; or a cromnibus bill

- some issues of importance to agriculture that probably will be dealt with in the next Congress include –
 - Waters of the United States is an important issue to agriculture
 - the tax extenders have 30 provisions that expire on December 31, 2016
 - House and Senate staffs are beginning to prepare for a “lameduck” session of Congress on November 14, 2016
 - the current continuing resolution expires on December 9, 2016
 - biodiesel and biofuels credits
 - hydropower, biomass, and geothermal
- the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is dead in the water, and the U. S. Trade Representative is asking agricultural groups to engage Congress
- we probably will see shifting priorities in the Farm Bill reauthorization debate
- some of the Congressional changes include –
 - Congressman Aderholt (R-AL) will stay on as chair of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Sanford Bishop (D-GA) may be the new Ranking Member on the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Mike Conaway (R-TX) will continue as chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and Collin Peterson (D-MN) probably will continue as Ranking Member
 - Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) will be the chair and ranking member respectively of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
 - Pat Robert (R-KS) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) will be the chair and ranking member respectively of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Democrats will have to defend 25 out of 33 Senate seats in 2018

The election presentation made by Hunt Shipman will be on the BAC website.

Update from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy participated in the BAC meeting and made the following points:

- *The Washington Post* indicates that President-elect Trump is interested in nutrition
- the Trump team probably will want people to engage on the Farm Bill
- Fiscal Year 2017 NIFA took a .049% reduction
- USDA will not be submitting a Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the Obama Administration but they are keeping their budget narratives with the hope of getting increases for:
 - capacity funding
 - 1890 institutions
 - competitive funds (AFRI)
 - infrastructure
- having everyone on the same page has been helpful

- Noah Engelberg, the Office of Management and Budget examiner for NIFA, is retiring and will be replaced by Nora Stein; NIFA has made her aware of the rationale for capacity funds
- efforts are underway to re-examine the formulas for EFNEP and SNAP-Ed programs
- 4-H is a powerful program and all of us need to look at how we scale up the program to serve 80 million children in America
- some in the land-grant university family does not want NIFA to involve itself with the infrastructure issue
- NIFA had a good meeting with the 1994 institutions in Jackson Hole, WY and agreed to work together in six (6) areas
- “big” data is like pornography – you know it when you see it
- NIFA “sucks” at investing in the social sciences and there are big challenges there
- the Trump transition team for agriculture will be coming to USDA next week
- Congress directed NIFA to do an analysis of the situation relating to matching funds for the 1890 institutions; even though a few states have challenges, the overall situation is not as bad as it has been portrayed and NIFA will be meeting with the 1890 presidents on Tuesday
- there are some matching funds issues with some of the 1862 institutions as well
- the capacity funds study should be completed by the end of the month and it will be published by USDA
- NIFA is in the process of digesting the APLU Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Initiative and portions of it will be incorporated in the budget narrative
- there is great concern at USDA about the opioid abuse issue, and Brent Elrod has been assigned to work on this issue
- the grants modernization at NIFA starts on Monday

Consolidation Committee

Dr. Gregory A. Bohach, Chair of the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) provided the historical context for the creation of the group and asked the BAC and Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) to start looking at items that could be consolidated. He indicated that the group planned to have a face-to-face meeting within the next two months.

It was pointed out that NIFA has 48 budget lines – 30 of these lines share the same authority. Cornerstone Government Affairs indicated that the consolidation effort might be delayed until Fiscal Year 2019 discussion so that the consolidations could be part of the next Farm Bill.

Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations Update

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- the assumption is that the BAA’s priorities will remain the same

- NIFA Director Ramaswamy encouraged the BAA to add the 1994 institutions as a priority

The BAC adopted a motion to move forward with considering to advocate for one budget number to cover the six (6) priorities of the BAA (this is **not** to consider consolidating the lines). Each section and entity was asked to survey their respective groups and bring back to the BAC on its next conference call the notional “ask” that their group would like to recommend for their priority. The notional “ask” and a brief paragraph on the rational for such an “ask” is to be shared with the BAC by Noon on December 12, 2016.

Next BAC Conference Call

The next conference call of the BAC will take place at 4:00 p.m. (EST) on Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

Items from the Floor

Ian Maw provided an update on the Challenge of Change Commission, and he indicated that the final report of the group would be issued in March 2017. He also indicated that the BAC would be asked to integrate the budget requests of the Commission into the BAA’s recommendations.

The BAC approved the 2017 CARET Budget and forwarded it to the BAA Policy Board of Directors for approval. The proposed 2017 CARET budget is posted on the BAC portion of the BAC website.

The BAC expressed its thanks to Rick Klemme for his service on the BAC.

Adjourn

Chairman Grant adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m. (CST).

Executive Session of the BAC

The BAC unanimously adopted a motion to recommend to the BAA Policy Board of Directors that the relationship with Cornerstone Government Affairs should be continued and the 2% per annum increase in the compensatory portion of the contract subject to an adequate performance review should be retained. The total cost of the contractual arrangement for 2017 will be \$796,000, and the scope of work will mirror the 2016 scope of work with the exception of added emphasis on preparing for the next Farm Bill. Ian Maw was charged with working with Cornerstone Government Affairs in preparing the final contract and scope of work.

Chairman Grant adjourned the Executive Session of the BAC at 5:30 p.m. (CST).