



AGENDA

CONFERENCE CALL

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

4:00 P.M. (EDT)

September 17, 2019

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CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS

Number: 1-800-264-8432

Passcode: 734155#

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- I. Call to Order (Patterson)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Patterson)
- IV. FY 2020 Appropriations Update (Cornerstone Government Affairs)
- V. FY 2020 Senate Ask – Future Procedure (Cornerstone Government Affairs/Steele/Patterson)
- VI. Matching Update/Discussion (Cornerstone Government Affairs)
- VII. S. 2458 – America Grows Act – Sen. Durbin (Steele)
- VIII. AFRI Advocacy and Strategy Process for Future Sign-ons (Steele)
- IX. APLU – a Director of Congressional & Governmental Affairs, Agriculture & International Development Position Update (Steele)
- X. Other Business
- XI. Adjourn

Call to Order and Roll Call

BAC Advocacy Chairman Paul M. Patterson called the meeting to order and asked Eddie Gouge to call the roll. The following participated in the conference call:

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
Poppy Thornton (*IAS*), The Ohio State University
M. Ray McKinnie (*1890 Extension*), Virginia 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*), Florida
Gary A. Thompson (*BAAPBD*), The Pennsylvania State University
Sarah Mathias (*CGA*), University of Florida
Douglas L. Steele, *APLU*
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*
Wendy Fink, *APLU*
Alton Thompson, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*
Albert E. Essel, *Association of Extension Administrators (1890)*
Hunt Shipman *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Jim Richards, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Vernie Hubert, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Will Todd, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Maggie Earle, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

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

Craig A. Beyroudy (*Chair*), University of Maryland, College Park; **J. Mark Erbaugh** (*IAS*), The Ohio State University; **Dyremple B. Marsh** (*1890 Re-search*), Delaware State University; **Patrese Atine** (*1994 Institutions*), American Indian Higher Education Consortium; **Karen L. Jones** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; **Erik J. Porfeli**, (*Board on Human Sciences*), The Ohio State University; **Bryan K. Slinker** (*Veterinary Medicine*), Washington State University; **John P. Hayes** (*Forestry Resources*), Colorado State University; **Marshall Stewart**, (*BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy*), University of Missouri; **Orlando F. McMeans** (*BAAPBD*), Southern University and A&M College; **Richard M. Klemme**, *APLU*; **Jeffrey S. Jacobsen**, North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors; **Andrew T. Maccabe** (*Veterinary Medicine*), Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges; **Kevin Cain** (*Veterinary Medicine*), Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges; and **Alice Gómez**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

Agenda

The agenda, as distributed, was approved.

Introduction of new staffer at Cornerstone Government Affairs

Advocacy Chairman Patterson asked Will Todd, the new Senior Vice President at Cornerstone Government Affairs to introduce himself. He joined Cornerstone Government Affairs in July after working as a professional staff member for the Subcommittee on Defense of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and a staff member for former Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS).

Minutes

The minutes, as distributed, for July 16, 2019 were approved.

Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Update

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported the following:

- the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee approved the FY 2020 agriculture appropriations bill 35 minutes ago and all of the numbers are not available
- it appears that the Subcommittee approved \$100 million above the enacted FY 2019 level for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- the Subcommittee provided an increase of \$6 million for ARS and it is assumed that the capacity programs were level-funded because the Subcommittee indicated that capacity program funding would be maintained
- the Subcommittee provided \$80 million for the Food and Drug Administration
- the Senate increase is below the increase seen in the U. S. House of Representatives but their numbers are a good foundational support to go into conference with the House; the Senate provided funding for the NIFA/ERS move while the House prohibited funding for the move
- the Senate Committee on Appropriations will take up action on the agriculture appropriations bill soon
- the Congress is working on a Continuing Resolution, and it is expected that the Congressional leadership will move it prior to the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2019; no language is available yet but it seems that all want to work together to avoid another government shutdown

Fiscal Year 2020 Senate Ask – Future Procedure

Doug Steele reviewed the history of the BAA funding request for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and Jim Richards indicated that this year had been weird with an 8-week gap from the House reporting the appropriations bill to the Senate action. It was recommended that the BAC agree to move the AFRI number to \$460 million.

The BAC agreed to a motion to advocate for the highest level of funding offered by the House or Senate on AFRI.

Maggie Earle will update the BAA's budget documents that are online and Cornerstone Government Affairs will do an updated "Call to Action" to the system at the appropriate time. It was indicated

that the next “Call to Action” would not be until the measure goes to the conference committee unless some amendments surface in the full Committee as it goes to the floor.

Matching Requirements Update

Cornerstone Government Affairs indicated that:

- the Senate gave a blanket waiver in the Continuing Resolution for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) despite the opposition from Chairman Pat Roberts
- they are working on language that would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to count indirect costs, equipment, tuition, and other items to count against the match
- the primary goal is to get the item fixed permanently
- it should be noted that this “fix” would only be for the SCRI

Gary Thompson indicated that the preference would be for the waiver.

There was consensus that today’s discussion provided the BAC with a foundation with which to address future sign-on requests, and the following should be considered:

- advocacy efforts would focus on the six top lines/priorities of the BAA
- the BAC needs to think about its position on AFRI and how to grow this line without harming other lines
- other groups are interested in leadership from the BAA/APLU
- APLU’s Council on Governmental Affairs (CGA) wants the community to stay strong and united; the CGA will support the BAA as appropriate
- the BAC may want to think about more support for Extension in capacity funds
- our AFRI supporters do not understand the importance of capacity funds and we need to do a better job of educating in this area

Other Items

Doug Steele provided an update to the BAC on S. 2458 indicated that the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) had signed on as a supporter when the bill was introduced. He also indicated that we would work within our structure to assist in the identification of Senate co-sponsors. It was indicated that Senator Durbin will distribute a “Dear Colleague” letter to the Senate asking the offices to co-sponsor and each Senate office probably will contact their respective institutions about co-sponsorship

Senator Durbin has assured us that the funding increase would apply to all parts of the system – research, Extension, and teaching.

APLU

Doug Steele made the following comments:

- he hoped that people were finding *FOCUS* to be useful

- a partnership between the CGA, Commission on International Initiatives, and the BAA has developed and the three groups are looking to hire someone that would focus on initiatives outside the contract with Cornerstone Government Affairs (e.g. antimicrobial resistance, climate change, international programs, etc.); this will help the BAA become closer to the CGA
 - the pool of candidates has been narrowed down and the interviews should start next week
 - it will be a collaborative position with Cornerstone Government Affairs
 - APLU hopes to have a successful candidate on board by November 1, 2019

BAC Meeting at APLU

The Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) will meet in conjunction with the APLU Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. The BAC meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 9, 2019. Lunch will be served to the group during this meeting.

Adjourn

Advocacy Chairman Patterson adjourned the BAC meeting at 5:00 p.m. (EDT).