

AGENDA
BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
BOARD ON AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY

Conference Call

April 21, 2015

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CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS

Number: 1-800-264-8432

Passcode: 734155#

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AGENDA

- I. Call to Order (Akridge)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Approval of the Minutes (February 10, 2015)
- IV. CARET/AHS debrief (Cornerstone)
- V. Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
- VI. Q1 Report (Cornerstone)
- VII. Other Business

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Jay Akridge called the meeting to order and asked Eddie Gouge to call the roll. The following participated in the conference call:

Jay T. Akridge (*Chair*), *Purdue University*
Alan L. Grant (*Advocacy Chair*), *Virginia Tech*
John C. Stier (*APS*), *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
Bret W. Hess (*ESS*), *University of Wyoming*
J. Mark Erbaugh (*IAS*), *The Ohio State University*
Albert E. Essel (*1890 Extension*), *Delaware State University*
Meg Goetz (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
John L. Phillips (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
James J. Bittner (*CARET*), *New York*
James P. Thompson (*Veterinary Medicine*), *University of Tennessee*
Timothy L. White (*Forestry*) *University of Florida*
Gregory A. Bohach (*CLP*), *Mississippi State University*
Gina Banks Daly (*CGA*), *University of California, Berkeley*
Ian L. Maw, *APLU*
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*
Jane Schuchardt, *APLU*
Wendy Fink, *APLU*
Carolyn B. Brooks, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*
L. Washington Lyons, *Association of Extension Administrators (1890)*
H. Michael Harrington, *Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*
Hunt Shipman, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Jim Richards, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Vernie Hubert, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Laura McKee, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

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

Orlando F. McMeans (*Advocacy Chair*), *West Virginia State University*; **Richard M. Klemme** (*CES*), *University of Wisconsin-Madison-Extension*; **Gary A. Thompson** (*ESS*), *The Pennsylvania State University*; **Moses T. K. Kairo** (*1890 Research*), *University of Maryland Eastern Shore*; **Anson Elliott** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Missouri State University*; **Lee S. Yudin** (*Insular/ Territories*), *University of Guam*; **Christine M. Ladisch** (*BoHS*), *Purdue University*; **Steven A. Slack** (*BAAPBD*), *The Ohio State University*; **Barbara Allen-Diaz** (*BAAPBD*), *University of California Systemwide*; **Craig Lindwarm**, *APLU*; **Andrew Maccabe** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*; and, **Kevin Cain** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*.

Minutes

The minutes, as distributed, from the conference call on February 10, 2015 were approved.

CARET/AHS Meeting Debriefing

Jim Richards of Cornerstone Government Affairs indicated that Louise Beaman, Chairwoman of the 2016 Joint CARET/AHS Meeting Planning Committee, was doing an assessment of the 2015 Joint CARET/AHS Meeting. Any thoughts or ideas on how to improve the meeting should be shared with the Planning Committee.

Appropriations Update

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- multiple budget requests were submitted by CARET and AHS
- the U. S. House of Representatives is on a rapid pace and should adopt their 302(b) allocation tomorrow – there is no real change for agriculture
- the House and Senate have passed a budget resolution for the first time since 2007, and the measure is in conference now – a budget resolution is expected for Fiscal Year 2016
- some pressure may be taken off of the discretionary funds if they can use some defense funding
- the House Committee on Appropriations is expected to finish up the agricultural appropriations bill in the latter part of May, and the measure may be on the House floor in June
- the Senate Committee on Appropriations is behind the House but may consider its proposal in June; they are not fully staffed but the 302(b) allocation is about the same
- measures in both chambers are expected to go to the floor for consideration, so the land-grant university community needs to continue to differentiate ourselves from other (competing) interests (FNS, WIC, FSIS, RDA, FDA, NRCS, etc.)
- the agricultural appropriations bill is the only vehicle for SNAP funding, but oversight hearings being conducted by the House and Senate may give appropriators some breathing room on this issue
- there has been little to no reaction to our proposed increased funding requests, and we are arguing that we appreciate the past investments and hope Congress will continue to invest in agriculture without changes to the current form and delivery vehicle
- the House and Senate would like to provide funding increases to AFRI but the funding allocations may prevent it

Cornerstone Reports

Cornerstone Government Affairs submitted their Quarterly Report (First Quarter, 2015) and Progress Report (First Quarter, 2015), and the reports are attached.

Other Business

A recap of the BAA Policy Board of Directors' Meeting in March was given:

- there was general sense that there was a price (the inclusion of the competitive proposal) for OMB to include an increase for the capacity lines in Fiscal Year 2016
- the land-grant university community needs to do all it can to restore funding for the IPM/Crop Protection consolidated line
- there needs to be more structure around moving the Water Initiative on Capitol Hill and getting a timeline to bring “big” issues to the table – possibly need a small group to bring back a timeline to the BAC

Ian Maw indicated that NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy had said that he had never been given the Water Initiative officially even though he had received it through electronic communications to the Board on Agriculture Assembly. He further indicated that NIFA was working on a formal response to our Water and Crop Protection Initiatives.

Mike Harrington stated that NIFA had asked what they would get in return on our initiatives (outcomes). He indicated that the BAC needed to think about what outcomes were anticipated with all initiatives and the BAC needs to be specific about outcomes from the start.

There was some discussion of the need for the BAC to develop a process document for lines that fall outside the seven priorities of the BAA so that our sections know that can be done without stepping outside the system. ESS and CES were to discuss this within their sections.

Funding for the regional rural development centers remain an issue.

Adjourn

Advocacy Chairman Akridge adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. (EDT).