

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

**Conference Call**

**April 18, 2017**

+++++

CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS

Number: 1-800-264-8432

Passcode: 734155#

+++++

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order (McMeans)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. FY 2017 and 2018 Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
- IV. Other Business
  - I. Sonny Perdue scheduled for Senate confirmation vote on April 24
  - II. Infrastructure discussion

## Call to Order and Roll Call

Advocacy Chair 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 (*Advocacy Chair*), *West Virginia State University*  
Douglas L. Steele (*CES*), *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*  
William F. Brown (*ESS*), *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*  
J. Mark Erbaugh (*IAS*), *The Ohio State University*  
Albert E. Essel (*1890 Extension*), *Lincoln University*  
Michael E. Compton (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *University of Wisconsin-Platteville*  
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 (*Section on Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*  
Gary A. Thompson (*BAAPBD*), *The Pennsylvania State University*  
Jay T. Akridge (*BAAPBD*), *Purdue University*  
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*  
Richard M. Klemme, *Cooperative Extension*  
Wendy Fink, *APLU*  
H. Michael Harrington, *Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*  
Alton Thompson, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*  
Kevin Cain (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*  
Hunt Shipman, *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:

**Alan L. Grant** (*Chair*), *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University*; **John C. Stier** (*APS*), *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*; **Bobby R. Phills** (*1890 Research*), *Southern University and A&M College*; **Karen L. Jones** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*; **Cheryl Achterberg** (*BoHS*), *The Ohio State University*; **Gregory A. Bohach** (*CLP*), *Mississippi State University*; **Gabrielle Serra** (*Council on Governmental Affairs*), *Oregon State University*; **Ian L. Maw**, *APLU*; **Hanan Saab** (*APLU*); **L. Washington Lyons**, *Association of Extension Administrators (1890)*; **Andrew Maccabe** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*; and, **Jim Richards**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

## **Minutes**

The minutes, as distributed, from the BAC conference call on March 21, 2017 were approved.

## **Appropriations Update**

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- the current continuing resolution expires on April 28, 2017 and Congress is working on an omnibus bill to fund the federal government through the end of this fiscal year
- there are still some outstanding issues to be resolved but the negotiations on Fiscal Year 2017 seem to be going well and a government shutdown seems unlikely
- the final outcome should be available sometime next week and Cornerstone Government Affairs will report the results to the BAC and the BAA when the numbers are available
- the development of the Fiscal Year 2018 details continue, and the Office of Management and Budget has given the agencies additional time so the release of the budget details could be as late as May 15, 2017 or May 22, 2017
- talk of cuts to discretionary programs continue but there are no details available on what this might mean for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

## **Infrastructure**

There was considerable discussion about infrastructure and the deferred maintenance issue.

Cornerstone Government Affairs indicated that:

- it may be difficult for Congress to take up an infrastructure bill in the current climate
- there is no substantive action now by any of the authorizing committees
- a great deal of interest has been expressed by Congressional staff in the deferred maintenance study and everyone certainly recognizes the need for it
- there seems to be sentiment in the U. S. House of Representatives to include deferred maintenance in any infrastructure bill (and this certainly would reduce the budgetary pressures on a pending Farm Bill)
- it is difficult for the Congress to move forward on this with no Secretary of Agriculture in place

Jay Akridge and Eddie Gouge reported that a memorandum had been distributed yesterday to the Administrative Heads Section (AHS) which outlined the following action steps:

- Administrators should review their current facility projects and identify those that may be classified as “shovel ready.” If possible, explore a plan for identifying matching funds for any such facilities. It may be important to generate such a list

for the system on a very short time line should the Trump Administration move an infrastructure bill forward.

- The BAA will work with Cornerstone Government Affairs to explore any infrastructure funding opportunities that emerge through infrastructure bills put forward by the Trump Administration.
- The BAA will work with Cornerstone Government Affairs to explore opportunities to pursue an infrastructure funding program in the 2018 Farm Bill discussions.
- The BAA will prepare a one-page informational piece which summarizes the Sight-lines infrastructure study, and that can be used to present the system's infrastructure needs when advocating for infrastructure funding.

Mike Harrington volunteered to work with Sarah Lupis, Cornerstone Government Affairs, and APLU in drafting the one-page informational piece mentioned above. Eddie Gouge was asked to inform Ian Maw of this action.

### **National Evaluation of Capacity Programs**

The question arose about what was being done with the TEconomy study on the Quantitative and Qualitative Review of NIFA Capacity Funding. It was reported that APLU had shared the study with the Boards on Agriculture Assembly (BAA), Human Sciences (BoHS), and Veterinary Medicine (BVM) as well as with the Section on Forestry Resources, the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET), and other outside groups. The study had been distributed via e-mail and social media (i.e. Twitter).

The Cooperative Extension Section (CES) reported that they had summarized the key points in the study for the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conference earlier this year and will have further discussions about the study during their meeting in Alaska. A copy of the document CES used at the PILD conference is posted on the BAC website.

The Experiment Station Section (ESS) indicated that they would place it as an agenda item for their Budget and Legislative (B&L) Committee to consider.

Jay Akridge felt that the land-grant university system should tout this study and the capacity side of our funding while it is still fresh. He will work with Ian Maw and Eddie Gouge on this matter.

### **Adjourn**

Advocacy Chairman McMeans adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. (EDT).