

AGENDA
BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
BOARD ON AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY

Conference Call

4:00 p.m.

February 20, 2018

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CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS

Number: [1-800-264-8432](tel:1-800-264-8432)

[Passcode: 734155#](tel:734155#)

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- I. Call to Order (McMeans)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Farm Bill Update (Cornerstone)
- IV. Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
- V. FY2019 Budget Request (Cornerstone)
- VI. Discussion & ratification of FY 19 priorities
- VII. Other Business

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman 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 (*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*
- Karen L. Jones (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*
- Robert T. (Tom) Jones, (*CARET*), *Arizona*
- Jim Handley (*CARET*), *Florida*
- Erik J. Porfeli, (*Board on Human Sciences*), *The Ohio State University*

John P. Hayes (*Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*
Gary A. Thompson (*BAAPBD*), *The Pennsylvania State University*
Ian L. Maw, *APLU*
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*
Richard M. Klemme, *APLU*
Wendy Fink, *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*
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*
Maggie Earle, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Alice Gómez, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

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

Craig A. Beyrouthy (*Advocacy Chair*), *University of Maryland, College Park*; **David S. Buchanan** (*APS*), *North Dakota State University*; **Douglas L. Steele** (*CES*), *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*; **William F. Brown** (*ESS*), *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*; **Bobby R. Phills** (*1890 Extension*), *Southern University*; **Elvin Román Paoli** (*Insular/ Territories*), *University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez*; **Bryan K. Slinker** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Washington State University*; **Gregory A. Bohach** (*CLP*), *Mississippi State University*; **Gabrielle Serra** (*CGA*), *Oregon State University*; **Mark A. Hussey** (*BAAPBD*), *Texas A&M University*; **Hanan Saab**, *APLU*; and, **Andrew Maccabe** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*.

The following guests participated in the conference call: C. Randall Nuckolls (*Forestry*), *Washington Counsel, The University of Georgia*, and Marty Fuller, *Senior Consultant, Cornerstone Government Affairs*.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 16, 2018 meeting, were amended and approved.

Farm Bill Update

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- not much has evolved since the last conference call of the BAC
- Chairman Conaway wants the House bill to move first and hopes to have it move as early as the last week in February to early March; however, this timetable is subject to change

- Senate is working on their version of the bill and probably will not move until the House of Representatives moves their bill
- the dialogue with Congressional staff continues and the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) is monitoring the situation

It was reported that there was a bipartisan group (chaired by former USDA Secretary Vilsack) recommending that SNAP-Ed funding be reduced or eliminated and move the funding to workforce training. Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that based on the House Agriculture Republicans' retreat, it is unlikely that SNAP-Ed funding will be eliminated but could be reduced. Talks are ongoing but a restructuring of the program is very likely.

Appropriations Update

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- the release of the President's Fiscal Year 2019 budget contained reductions across a number of BAA priority lines
- the President's Fiscal Year 2019 budget is similar to the Fiscal Year 2018 proposal
- level funding is being proposed for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
- a number of the small budget lines for programs of interest to the BAA have been eliminated
- a last-minute effort was made by USDA to save capacity programs
- we are currently operating under a continuing resolution until March 23, 2018 and now that a two-year budget deal has been struck, the appropriations for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 can be written
- the two-year budget resolution is not an appropriations bill but it will expedite the work on Fiscal Year 2019 and it does provide relief to the Budget Control Act; committees will get their 302(b) allocations later today

Some concern was expressed about the proposed reduction in funding the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) to \$55 million. The BAC was informed that EFNEP would be part of the ongoing debate over SNAP-Ed.

There also was concern expressed about proposal to reduce the indirect costs rate. The BAC was informed that such proposals were not viable at this time and that the system could raise its voice if such proposal arise.

Fiscal Year 2019 Priorities

The BAC adopted a motion to reaffirm the six (6) priorities in Fiscal Year 2018 for the priorities of the Board on Agriculture Assembly for Fiscal Year 2019.

The BAC also adopted a motion to instruct Cornerstone Government Affairs to work with Congress to "hold harmless" our other relevant budget lines from further reductions

There was considerable discussion about the distribution formula of the \$200-million increase in funding if the amount is achieved. The BAC had agreed to revisit the Fiscal Year 2018 distribution formula in Fiscal Year 2019. BAC Chairman McMeans indicated that he was in the process of putting together a group of individuals to address this issue in the next week or so. However, this group's work would not be completed in time to affect the Fiscal Year 2019 process.

It was pointed out that the AFRI Coalition would be requesting \$450 million for AFR in Fiscal Year 2019.

The BAC adopted the motion of the BAC Chair that the BAC ask the BAA Policy Board of Directors to support the same budget priorities and funding levels in Fiscal Year 2019 that were advanced in Fiscal Year 2018.

Other Business

There was some discussion about the need of the BAC to start working on their budget recommendations earlier in the year.

Adjourn

Chairman McMeans adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m. (EST).