

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

**Conference Call**

**January 16, 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 (Grant)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Appropriations Update (Cornerstone Government Affairs)
- IV. Farm Bill Update (Cornerstone Government Affairs)
- V. CARET/AHS Meeting Planning Update
- VI. 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*
- Craig A. Beyrouthy (*Advocacy Chair*), *University of Maryland, College Park*
- 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*  
Robert T. (Tom) Jones, (*CARET*), *Arizona*  
Bryan K. Slinker (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Washington State University*  
John P. Hayes (*Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*  
Gregory A. Bohach (*CLP*), *Mississippi State University*  
Gabrielle Serra (*CGA*), *Oregon 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*

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

**David S. Buchanan** (*APS*), *North Dakota State University*; **Albert E. Essel** (*1890 Extension*), *Lincoln University*; **Bobby R. Phills** (*1890 Extension*), *Southern University*; **Karen L. Jones** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*; **Elvin Román Paoli** (*Insular/Territories*). *University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez*; **Jim Handley** (*CARET*), *Florida*; **Erik J. Porfeli**, (*Board on Human Sciences*), *The Ohio State University*; **Gary A. Thompson** (*BAAPBD*), *The Pennsylvania State University*; **Mark A. Hussey** (*BAAPBD*), *Texas A&M University*; **Hanan Saab**, *APLU*; **Andrew Maccabe** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*; **Vernie Hubert**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*; **Maggie Earle**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*, and, **Alice Gómez**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*.

## **Minutes**

The minutes from the December 19, 2017 meeting, were amended and approved. The amendment consisted of changing the name of the chair adjourning the conference call to Dr. Orlando F. McMeans.

## **Appropriations Update**

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- we are operating in similar circumstances as we were on the last conference call
- the Congress is working against a deadline of January 19, 2018 when the Continuing Resolution expires, and Congress is expected to adopt another Continuing Resolution by Friday that will raise the spending caps and fund the government for the rest of the fiscal year or there will a federal government shutdown

- some of the side issues causing the funding delay are: immigration and conditions that the White House is placing on border security; and, the supplemental appropriations bill for hurricane relief and where and when it is included is still uncertain
- the Republican Caucus has contemplated a return to earmarks but was shut down; Speaker Ryan is committed to a full and open airing of the process; the House Committee on Rules will hold a hearing on the pros and cons and then the Caucus would discuss a potential return of earmarks; this certainly would complicate things for Fiscal Year 2018 but earmarks may be reinstated in Fiscal Year 2019; there is a possibility of earmarks being reinstated but with stringent guidelines

### **Farm Bill Update**

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported that:

- the earliest time that the Farm Bill reauthorization might surface is in late February; Chairman Conaway will not start the process unless he can get the measure to the House floor
- Senator Pat Roberts plans to start discussions with Senator Debbie Stabenow but those discussions have not begun
- the Republicans do not plan to take up a budget resolution in 2019 and this means that program funding would not be reduced, including SNAP and SNAP-Ed; this will make writing a Farm Bill much easier

### **Update on the 2018 Joint CARET/AHS Meeting**

Eddie Gouge provided an update on the planning of the upcoming 2018 Joint CARET/AHS Meeting, and here are some of the highlights –

- USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue has been invited to open the Joint CARET/AHS Meeting on Monday, March 5, 2018; Ray A. Starling, Special Assistant to the President for Agriculture, Agricultural Trade, and Food Assistance at the Joint Economic Council is our back up speaker
- NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy will present USDA's Fiscal Year 2019 priorities
- Dr. Michael R. Rosmann, Founder and Director of AgriWellness, Inc. and Farmer/Psychologist will be the luncheon speaker and his topic is ***Why Are Too Many Farmers Ending Their Lives by Suicide*** which will be followed by a reactor panel of Cooperative Extension individuals
- regional meetings
- interaction with some of the institutions' Congressional Government Affairs representatives
- Congressional visits on Capitol Hill

### **Other Business**

The BAC revisited the discussion about NIFA Director Ramaswamy indicating concern about the One Ask approach during the New Deans/Director orientation. It was reported that

his concern was more about how the BAC arrived at the numbers for the One Ask as opposed to the approach itself. It seems that he felt that the BAC and BAA did not provide proper focus on lines that needed increases. Ian Maw, Jim Richards, and Vernie Hubert will be meeting with Sonny next week and will discuss this issue further.

The BAC discussed whether or not to include NIFA on the committee looking at the consolidation of budget lines, and it was agreed that the federal partner should not be made a member of the committee but used as a resource with whom to consult.

Dr. Jack Payne, Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Florida, had communicated with BAC Chairman McMeans asking the BAC to consider advocating for an increase in funding for the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) Cooperative Research Units. Dr. Payne indicated that a \$7-million increase was being sought for the program to (1) fund expansion of the program to including units in Nevada, Kentucky, Michigan, and Indiana and (2) make up for the erosion of funding (program is funding in the U. S. Department of the Interior appropriations bill). Wendy Fink indicated that APLU's Board on Natural Resources routinely submits written testimony on behalf of the National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP) relating to the funding of these units. John Hayes said that he had been in contact with his colleagues in the Section on Fish and Wildlife Resources and they would welcome involvement of BAC advocacy, if appropriate, for the units. Chairman McMeans indicated that he wanted to review and consider the purview of the BAC and did not want to dilute the BAC's priorities. Some concern was expressed by BAC members about the potential of diminishing the BAC priorities.

In relation to advocacy for increased funding for the USGS Cooperative Research Units, the BAC asked Hunt Shipman to work with C. Randall Nuckolls who works with the NAUFWP to see how the BAC might move forward. Chairman McMeans was supportive of Cornerstone Government Affairs moving forward to explore how we might advocate for the USGS Cooperative Research Units. Wendy Finl was asked to provide the BAC with a listing of the Cooperative Research Units that are set within colleges of agriculture at our land-grant institutions. John Hayes and Cornerstone Government Affairs were asked to bring back to the BAC ways in which the BAC could be support increased funding for the USGS Cooperative Research Units without diminishing support for the BAA's core programs.

### **Adjourn**

Chairman McMeans adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m. (EST).