

## Agenda Brief: Policy Board of Directors

**Presenter: Bob Godfrey**

### Background:

The Policy Board of Directors (PBD) met on April 4 in Indianapolis, IN. Below are highlights from the meeting discussions and reports.

1. Budget and Advocacy Committee
  - Recent discussions have been around one ask advocacy strategy
    - Council on Government Affairs is not in favor of this, they are worried about how it gets put into the budget
    - Some CGA representatives do understand this and are in favor
    - Some in APS also are concerned about academic lines being cut
    - Territories are supportive
    - Sonny did not particularly like this approach, they prefer to push AFRI and have more control over individual lines
2. Public Value Statement
  - Communication and Marketing Committee has the current draft statements to renew and consolidate into a single statement
    - They're supposed to reduce the 9 statements to one that will be discussed at Joint COPs
3. Challenge of Change
  - Report is out to committee for final review
  - Should be rolled out on May 16 at event in DC
  - There will be an implementation committee established after the release
  - Need to work on pulling main points out of all the various reports that have been done, look for common elements, and how they fit together
    - Communication and Marketing Committee may be able to do this
4. Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People
  - Implementation plan has been released, but now needs someone or group to lead the action that's needed with various agencies
  - Need a person employed temporarily in some way to work on this for approximately a year, this is needed for each new initiative
  - Motion to approve implementation plan. Mark Hussey/Gary Thompson
    - Unanimous approval
  - Jay will request implementation committee to make a recommendation on how to have someone lead the implementation
  - Motion to do this. Mark Hussey/Elaine Turner
    - Approved
5. Committee on Legislation and Policy
  - First Farm Bill hearing was held on March 16 by House Ag Committee
  - Should be at least one more hearing
  - Currently waiting on guidance from Vernie on what is needed to push our changes
  - Next hearing will probably include our specific asks
  - Issues other than usual NIFA lines are infrastructure, water, healthy foods, F-NEP and SNAP ED

- Consolidation of small lines is on hold waiting for a Cornerstone recommendation
  - Riley Foundation is collaborating with SOAR, but not sure the LGU's are behind all of SOAR's proposals, i.e. combining REE Undersecretary with NIFA Director and increasing research budget with conditions attached
  - APLU has been having discussions with key people about new REE Undersecretary appointment, but nothing will happen until USDA Secretary is confirmed
6. Healthy Forest Initiative
- BNR has developed a charge for a steering committee
    - Articulate importance of forest health
    - Identify priorities
    - Propose organizational and funding strategies
  - Next step is to identify steering committee members
  - Motion to approve charge. Mark Hussey/Elaine Turner
    - Unanimous approval
7. Diversity Initiatives
- ESCOP had two sessions at AHS/CARET meeting in DC
  - APS is working on next steps
  - Having discussions on how to coordinate and bring together the different sections' efforts
8. Communication and Marketing Committee
- Primary responsibility is to work with kglobal on BAA priorities
  - Committee will consider becoming standing committee of Policy Board of Directors
  - Communication and Marketing Committee needs to work on final draft of value statement by June 15 for discussion at Joint COPs
  - Communication and Marketing Committee as a Policy Board of Directors standing committee will be presented to section chairs at leadership dinner for discussion at their meetings
9. Joint COPs
- Monday, July 17 – Wednesday, July 19, Kananaskis, Calgary, Canada
  - Monday
    - Reception
    - Leadership session – Policy Board of Directors members and COP chairs
  - Tuesday Morning
    - Joint session
      - Secretaries of Canada and Mexico will speak
      - REE/NIFA report, Ann Bartuska or new Undersecretary
  - Tuesday Afternoon
    - Separate section sessions
  - Tuesday evening
    - Dinner at Boundary Ranch
  - Wednesday morning
    - Joint session
      - Reports and updates
      - Discussion on how to move diversity initiatives forward as a system
  - Considering having Joint COPs in Mexico in 2018 in Guadalajara
10. Canadian and Mexican Institutions
- APLU would like the 3 countries to work together on water, energy and food and hold symposia on sustainable ag and food safety

#### 11. Anti-Microbial Taskforce

- Outline for AMR institute is almost done
- Going to invite institutions that meet basic criteria to come together to discuss how this virtual institute might be established
- Held a Congressional briefing and had ~ 40 staffers attend

#### 12. Infrastructure

- Tom Coon is talking with DOD to learn about their public-private partnership model for construction
- Watching for possible infrastructure bill from White house
- Also talking with investment companies
- Talked with NIFA and Rural Development, some universities might qualify for rural development funds
- Need to indicate to White House about interest in Infrastructure bill now so we're in the mix
- Send request to institutions for information on "shovel-ready" projects