



Science Policy Committee (SPC) American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee meeting, May 27, 2021 at 3:00 PM ET
Meeting Minutes

Invited Participants:

SPC Chair: Tessa Burch-Smith

ASPB Staff: Crispin Taylor

SPC Members: Becky Bart, Judy Callis, Jeff Chen, Erin Doody, Scott Jackson (not in attendance), Carolyn Lawrence-Dill, Gustavo MacIntosh, Shandrea Stallworth (not in attendance)

ASPB President: Maureen McCann

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC: Bridget Krieger, Eve Granatosky, Christina Laridaen, Victoria Haber

1. Welcome from Tessa
2. **CHECK-IN:** NSF Convergence Workshop
 - a. Update from Carolyn Lawrence-Dill
 - i. Sent supplementary information via email.
 - ii. Attended one workshop on food deserts and food insecurity and one on Precision Agriculture.
 - Promotion and Tenure – Innovation and Entrepreneurship, PTIE (NSF funded), working to value teamwork in the tenure process, would be beneficial for ASPB to reach out and align with this group making substantial change.
 - a. Crispin: Is there a DEI aspect of this?
 - b. Carolyn: Yes, intrinsically by teams and in service of innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - c. Judy: Idea, ASPB giving an award for teams to show we honor teamwork.
3. Full President's Budget Request expected May 28
 - a. Biden's budget rollout, showing details of the budget tomorrow (may be delayed)
 - i. LBA analysis will be sent out next week.
 - ii. Expecting to see emphasis on climate and MSIs, will be interesting to see how much newly funded programs versus funding for existing programs is. We will be watching for AGARDA, ARPA-C, NSF Technology Directorate
 - b. OSTP Meeting June 15
 - i. Crispin and Tessa will be meeting with Kei Koizumi.
4. Congressional Update
 - a. FY 2022 Appropriations
 - i. House has started holding budget hearings and have loose markups scheduled for June and July, somewhat on schedule compared to other years.
 - ii. Will be looking to see where funding increases occur and where it will remain flat.
 - iii. Senate likely looking at their bills in later in the summer/September.
 - iv. CR expected.
 - v. Testimony
 - USDA and NIH testimony are being finalized and submitted. Thank you for all your help!

- vi. USDA REE Ag Approps Hearing
 - First to hold budget hearing, Shavonda Jacobs Young, Undersecretary for REE appeared before the committee.
 - Many expressed dissatisfaction with the relocation of NIFA to Kansas City, but will not be moving back more of a move forward mentality.
 - Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD) very supportive of AGARDA, stated \$5 million (will be in PBR) not enough for AGARDA.
 - b. Infrastructure Packages
 - i. A lot of back and forth, Biden's scale back included cuts for research and development but no specification of what that includes. Could pass an infrastructure bill through Reconciliation, lots of political football on this, not close to final on anything.
 - c. Authorization Bills:
 - i. NSF: U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (Renamed Endless Frontier Act)/NSF for the Future
 - Senate has been working on EFA for some time, new directorate and has morphed into this new package which includes funding for DOE, DARPA, etc.
 - Over 500 amendments and a lot of debate, working to finalize what the package will look like.
 - For research, it would create a new Directorate (\$20 billion), \$32 billion for other parts of NSF and \$17 billion for DOE, other aspects for the bioeconomy, manufacturing institutes, and several other things.
 - FASTR is included which shrinks the embargo timelines for open access, something that was introduced years ago. Crispin is watching this closely.
 - Senate will likely pass it this week then start working on a conference version of this with the House. Will assigned a conference committee, Schumer and Young will likely be spearheading it from Senate side as well as Commerce committee leadership (Cantwell and Wicker). On the House side Frank Lucas, Haley Stevens, and others could get pulled in.
 - d. Congressional Outreach
 - i. DCLs
 - Senate DCL supporting National Science Foundation, may be reaching out to some of you about reaching out to Senate offices. Just a way to show Senate support.
 - ii. Rep. David Trone (D-MD)
 - Bridget shared some past CJS PGRP language from House and Senate side.
 - Looking for opportunities to engage in person during the recess.
5. UPDATE: DSI/ABS/Nagoya
- a. Access and benefit sharing, put in place to handle physical specimens that were harvested in one country and taken to another for research. The idea was to provide returns to the country the specimen originated from if there is success from the research, this is looking to be expanded to digital sequencing information (DSI). A way to return revenues to the developing world on dsi and this will likely be debated in China in October.

- b. Crispin and Rebecca (at Lewis-Burke) are working on two fronts: submitting a proposal through NSF to raise understanding and the second is through direct advocacy and attending workshops.
 - i. Interested in support from anyone that would like to use the grant to have research pairs in other countries and working on access to sequences.
- 6. Other items
 - a. ASPB activity at meeting in July.
 - b. ASPB is a member of the National Coalition of Food and Agriculture Research, NC-FAR does several webinars. They selected APSB's proposal on "hacking photosynthesis" modeled after the NOVA episode. Lisa Ainsworth will be participating in a virtual event June/July.
- 7. Next meeting: June 24 at 3 PM ET
- 8. Adjournment