



Science Policy Committee (SPC) American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee meeting, September 30, 2021 at 3:00 PM ET

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88911630881?pwd=R3R2Z3dtSDErZW5iWGxaaWltWm9Udz09>

Meeting ID: 889 1163 0881

Passcode: 482564

Invited Participants:

SPC Chair: Tessa Burch-Smith

ASPB Staff: Crispin Taylor

SPC Members: Becky Bart, Jeff Chen, Erin Doody, Gustavo MacIntosh, Shandrea Stallworth

ASPB President: Maureen McCann

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC: Eve Granatosky, Victoria Haber

Agenda

1. Welcome from Tessa
 - a. Thank you, Jeff, Judy, and Shandrea for your service on the SPC, today is their last meeting.
2. **UPDATE:** OSTP White Paper
 - a. The draft reflects edits from the SPC and Women and Plant Biology. Would love comments or edits tonight, we are still working to narrow down our definition of the bioeconomy.
 - i. Becky: The word Biotech seems a bit limited, providing own definition to the draft.
3. **UPDATE:** DC State of Play
 - a. FY 2022 Appropriations
 - i. White House put out their budget in the Spring and then the House released their bills, the Senate has stalled progress and only released two bills (Ag and Energy and Water). We will have a continuing resolution until December 3, which means that the funding levels will remain the same as the last fiscal year. There were a few sticking points on the initial CR package, but they have been removed from a CR.
 - ii. With what is reflected in the House and President's budget request, most agencies will see a significant increase in funding.
 - b. Reconciliation
 - i. Two packages: Infrastructure, \$1 trillion, and the Build Back Better package, \$3.5 trillion. A lot of opposition to both bills and conflict on how either will move forward.
 - ii. Funding for research infrastructure, climate change, and research in the reconciliation package. Whether or not they pass, we are seeing priorities that will remain priorities in other packages and continue to appear in legislation.
 - c. USICA

- i. Bill passed through the Senate, the House has pushed discussions to the side with all other issues going on, will revisit after the mess of this week.
- 4. Agency Updates
 - a. NSF: TIP, BIO AC November 3-4
 - i. Creation of the new Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate that will be focused on use-inspired research, the general theme of its inception has been included in reconciliation and appropriations bills but NSF can create it with or without Congressional support. Expecting it to be stood up very soon. We know that BIO will play a large role in the Directorate. One of the priority areas laid out is biotechnology.
 - ii. The BIO AC is being held Nov. 3-4, Lewis-Burke will monitor. It will discuss the TIP Directorate and Panch will be speaking.
 - b. USDA: Carrie Castille engagement
 - i. Josh Stull, NIFA Stakeholder affairs officer, has been reaching out to members of the community and planning meetings for Dr. Castille. She is a great meeting and is excited to be innovative. This will likely be first of many conversations.
 - Wants to push on conservation efforts. NIFA is continuing to staff up, flexibility of having staff work virtual.
 - ii. Climate-smart agriculture, with emphasis on carbon markets, will continue to be a focus."
 - c. DOE: BER Engagement Opportunity/RFI on Assessing the National and International Standing of Biological and Environmental Research
 - i. Becky been working on a white paper in response to DOE's RFI, the AC is October 21-22, before the due date which may be a good opportunity to gauge priorities.
 - ii. Reach out to Becky if you have any specific interests or opinions on how DOE should be spending money.
- 5. Other items
 - a. Mary Clutter Leadership in Public Service Award – solicit nominations from the membership?
 - i. Add this award to the normal call? Intent is to spur more nominations.
 - ii. Will likely do a hybrid approach: Solicit nominations publicly but decide on recipient privately.
 - b. Planning for Plant Biology 2022
 - i. Not too long before the programming committee seeks proposals, should plan to come up with one or two workshop ideas for the SPC and share them with the committee. Erin will work on that initiative.
- 6. Next meeting: October 28, 3 PM ET
 - a. New members: Maureen McCann (succeeding Judy); Ka Man Jasmine Yu (succeeding Shandrea); Simon Gilroy (succeeding Jeff)
- 7. Farewells and thank yous
 - a. Shandrea; Jeff; Judy
- 8. Adjournment