



Science Policy Committee (SPC) American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee Meeting, February 27, 2024, 11:00 AM EST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://lewis-burke.zoom.us/j/82098703458?pwd=azBZUINiNW5UZmtnKzJNQjBxcUZDQT09>

Invited Participants:

SPC Chair: Tessa Burch-Smith

SPC Members in attendance: Charlie Anderson, Victoria Swiler, Dawn Nagel, Georg Jander, Miguel Vega-Sanchez, Libo Shan, Robert Stanley, Pradeep Kachroo, Gustavo Macintosh, Crispin Taylor

ASPB President (invited): Leeann Thornton

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC: Bridget Krieger, Eve Granatosky, Joanna Ratigan, Courtney Parker

Agenda

1. Appropriations:
 - a. The government has passed another continuing resolution to extend government funding past its March 1 deadline, staving off a government shutdown for now.
 - b. When appropriations bills are released, we largely expect flat funding across the board for our agencies of interest.
 - c. There is a lot of uncertainty about whether the LHHS and Ag appropriations bills, in particular, will pass due to controversial policy riders.
2. Farm Bill update
 - a. The longer it takes for the appropriations bills to get done, the longer we will have to wait to see Farm Bill draft text.
 - b. We are likely to see drafts this summer; however, it is very likely the bill will not pass in this environment and with the election looming that much closer.
 - c. Staff remain very supportive of the research title, research funding, and research infrastructure.
3. Mary Clutter Award discussion
 - a. The SPC has ranked nominees and voted on a recipient.
 - b. Wayne Parrott has been selected.
4. Hill meetings - virtual meetings to discuss FY 2025 appropriations priorities
 - a. SPC members meet with DC offices of congressional delegation every year.
 - b. Each SPC member aims to have three meetings, one with the staff of their representative and one with the staff of each senator.
 - c. Lewis-Burke staff will schedule the meetings and provide background/prep materials to SPC members.

- d. Charlie can come for in-person meetings if all in one day.
- 5. Outside Witness Testimony – volunteers needed to write stories
 - a. NSF: Charlie, Georg, Crispin
 - b. USDA: Libo, Georg, Robert
 - c. NIH: Gustavo, Libo
 - d. DOE: Charlie, Pradeep, Robert
 - e. NASA: Simon, Victoria, Dawn
 - i. Rather than asking for an overall number, we will advocate for increased support of plant science through key NASA programs.
- 6. NIH contacts
 - a. Gustavo made a list of program directors at NIGMS who have funded plant science/plant scientists.
 - b. Eve is coordinating this outreach effort; Pradeep and Libo can help with additional names/contacts, as needed.
- 7. NC-FAR
 - a. NC-FAR sponsors signature “Lunch N’ Learn” briefings about timely topics in agriculture research.
 - b. ASPB pitched a potential briefing topic on gene editing and biotech, which was selected by NC-FAR and will be happening April 23.
 - c. Georg Jander can come down in person for this briefing and also participate in Hill meetings, which LBA will schedule.
- 8. Next meeting: March 26, 2024
- 9. Adjournment