**Science Policy Committee (SPC)**

**American Society of Plant Biologists**

Committee meeting, February 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM ET

Via RingCentral (Password: 010165): <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1481997507?pwd=a1FrTWl3NnZwYlE3dFErSVIwMWs3QT09>

**Participants:**

*SPC Chair:* Tessa Burch-Smith

*ASPB Staff:* Crispin Taylor

*SPC Members*: Becky Bart, Judy Callis, Jeff Chen, Erin Doody, Scott Jackson, Carolyn Lawrence-Dill, Gustavo MacIntosh, Shandrea Stallworth

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

*Guest Speaker:* Amit Dhingra, ASPB’s representative to the CAST Board

**Agenda**

1. Welcome from Tessa
2. CAST Briefing
   1. CAST aims to write simplified reports on complex research to inform policy and convey it in layman’s terms.
   2. Will start saving reports in a location ASPB members have access to so as to demonstrate the work CAST does.
   3. Would like to compile issue areas of interest to ASPB and, after they are approved by SPC, submit them to CAST and eventually assign authors to research topics.
   4. Amit will provide quarterly updates to the SPC on CAST activities and will also write an article for the newsletter.
3. UPDATE: 117th Congress & Funding Update
   1. Reconciliation Update, possible $600M for NSF
      1. In process, likely complete by March 14.
   2. Reconciliation Part II
      1. An Infrastructure package with a large climate component. Spring/Summer timeline.
   3. FY 2022 Appropriations Underway
      1. President’s budget report (PBR) is set to be released on May 3; some high-level details may emerge in March/April via a “skinny budget.”
      2. Research community asks (i.e., NSF, AFRI, NIH) are ambitious this year given new Administration and lack of guidance from the White House.
   4. Letters of Support signed by ASPB:
      1. NSF support via pandemic relief legislation
      2. AGARDA
      3. Upcoming Community letters re: AFRI, DOE OS, NSF
   5. ASPB Testimony
      1. Complete by March 1 (internal deadline). Reach out to LBA counterpart with any questions.
   6. SPC Hill Day(s)—Pick your date format
      1. LBA will reach out next week for scheduling; meetings will take place late March through mid-April.
4. UPDATE: Biden Administration
   1. OSTP Engagement
      1. Crispin has reached out to Kei Koizumi, OSTP COS, who responded warmly. He mentioned bioeconomy as a future priority and wants to include agriculture as part of the discussion. Crispin will continue to follow-up with Kei.
   2. Climate Initiative
      1. The National Climate Task Force convened for the first time on Feb. 11 and established the Climate Innovation Working Group.
         * Specific mention of “plant biologies” in the press release.
   3. Confirmations:
      1. Vilsack and Granholm both confirmed
5. Spring Meeting
   1. UPDATE: Afternoon of March 23
      1. NSF, DOE, NIFA invited
         * DOE: Sharlene Weatherwax confirmed.
         * NSF: Joann Tornow declined, but offered Donal Manahan and Alan Tessier.
         * NIFA: Invite extended to Carrie Castille, waiting on reply.
      2. TBD on additional speakers pending availability

1. Other
   1. ASPB Leadership Award
      1. Crispin will circulate a survey with final contenders (four names)
      2. In the future, possible political award could go jointly to Reps. Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA). Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Kei Koizumi also both options.
   2. Next steps on PGRP
      1. Will finalize the data and analyses that Lewis-Burke compiled and discuss with interested SPC members.
2. Next meeting: March 25 at 3 PM ET
3. Adjournment