



August 11, 2020
NREC Council Meeting Minutes
Meeting held in hybrid format
In person at Illinois Soybean Association
Virtual via Zoom

Members in attendance in person: Jeff Kirwan, Ed Corrigan, Jenny Mennenga, Chuck Cawley, Don Guinnip, Al Grosbell

Members attending via Zoom: Chris Matlock, Tom Kelley, Trevor Sample, Robert Mullen, Cindy Skrukud, German Bollero, Matt Duncan

Staff in attendance: Julie Armstrong, Shani Golovay

Others in attendance via Zoom: Austin Omer (Illinois Farm Bureau), Liz Hobart (Growmark), and Megan Miller (Illinois Soy), David Wessels

Chairman Kirwan called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

John Lumpe, new Illinois Soybean Association CEO welcomed the Council to the office and gave a brief introduction and background.

Chuck Cawley, Secretary, presented the minutes for the March 30, 2020 meeting for approval. Jeff Kirwan moved and Ed seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

Chuck Cawley, IDOA and Julie Armstrong reviewed tonnage reports and updated the Council on the progress of receiving tonnage reports and creating invoices. A preliminary review of several of the largest remitters showed an increase in tonnage of around 25%.

Jonathan Coppess joined the meeting via Zoom to update the Council on the status of his cover crop tool project and to talk through timelines, progress, and next steps.

The Council discussed the tonnage assessment and Chuck Cawley outlined the difference in where the \$.25 to IDOA and \$.75 goes and what purpose each serves. Julie reviewed the process of handling collections and reporting.

Jenny Mennenga moved and Ed Corrigan seconded that the NREC assessment be maintained at \$.75/ton for the 2021 calendar year. Motion passed.

Julie will notify IDOA Director of this decision.

Discussion was held around outreach and education and using the Lake Springfield project as a model for a watershed based outreach project. And members reinforced the value of communicating directly to farmers and supporting that with messaging to retailers and other trusted advisors.

The Council reviewed the status of the web based cover crop tool and talked through the adoptability and usefulness of the tool. Additional discussion was held around this tool being a base upon which a carbon trading platform could be built. There was additional discussion around the guidance and classification of projects as either renewals or extension.

Matt Duncan moved and Ed Corrigan seconded a motion that the Research Committee develop a renewal/extension guidance document that be shared with the RFP. Motion passed.

Don Guinnip moved and Chuck Cawley seconded a motion to fund the Web based cover crop tool project at 50% of the request for a total of \$78,000. Motion passed.

Ed Corrigan revisited the need for outreach that goes beyond just telling and focuses on education.

Julie provided an update on a planned project to create a searchable online database that will reside on the website and allow for easy access to NREC funded research projects.

Don Guinnip moved and Ed Corrigan seconded a motion to fund 2021 projects at a total investment of \$4,037,640. Motion passed.

Ed Corrigan moved and Don Guinnip seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 2:07 p.m.