



Minutes of the NREC Council Meeting
Illinois Department of Agriculture
August 13, 2019
Noon

Council Members Present: Ed Corrigan, Cindy Skrukud, Chuck Cawley, Jenny Mennenga, Jeff Kirwan, Tom Kelley, Chris Matlock, Trevor Sample, Robert Mullen, Matt Duncan, Don Guinnip and German Bollero.

Also present were: Julie Armstrong (NREC Executive Director) and Shani Golovay (NREC Research Manager).

Members of the public in attendance: Michael Ganschow, David Wessell, Marianne Shields, Steve Stierwalt, Jean Payne, Liz Hobart, Megan Dwyer, and Dale Hadden.

Chairman Kirwan called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm

Secretary Chuck Cawley presented the minutes from the December 20, 2018 meeting. **Ed Corrigan moved to accept the minutes as presented and Robert Mullen seconded. The motion was approved.**

Executive Director Julie Armstrong provided the Council with an update on her activities. See Slides 8-12 in Attachment B. Highlights included continued monthly meetings with Chairman Kirwan, successful field days and research forums, and background work in making changes to the funding timing for 2020.

Steve Stierwalt commended the Council on the work that they are doing and on the research that is being funded.

Armstrong reviewed the current financial situation with NREC and reviewed the income from the past three Fall reporting periods. Income is down over this time period but the hope is that Spring numbers will make up some of that balance. The updated financial reports were not available and Julie sent those out via email to the Council following the meeting.

Chuck Cawley gave an update from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and discussed open seat assignments. Matt Duncan and Cindy Skrukud are both up for reappointment at the end of 2019.

Dr. Golovay led a discussion on the Outreach and Education needs as it relates to moving research into the field. A good deal of discussion was held around what this looks like and how it should be implemented. There was concern about handing over money with no control over the message and ensuring that only NREC-funded or approved research was being shared. Julie and Shani will work to develop this RFP and report back to the Council.

Dr. Golovay also updated the Council on the project timing and funding cycle and shared the RFP that is being sent out for Renewal Projects. No new projects will be funded in 2020.

Dr. Golovay discussed the role that NREC and NREC-funded research will play in the Science Assessment of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Shani will be working with the Science Advisory Committee to write and recommend Drainage Water Management, WASCOB's, and Saturated Buffers into the strategy. These reports are due in December of even numbered years and Shani is working with Trevor and the committee on this.

Trevor Sample of IEPA provided an update on the updated NLRS report. Comments were submitted in early August and it will now go through Director approvals. It will be released prior to the December 3 and 4 conference.

Mark Schleussener with USDA-NASS joined the meeting to discuss the findings of the recent NLRS survey and to share those with the group.

Don Guinnip moved and Jenny Mennenga seconded that the NREC Assessment remain at \$.75/ton. The motion passed.

Julie Armstrong reviewed the calendar and highlighted upcoming meetings.

Ed Corrigan moved and Matt Duncan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 p.m.