



Minutes of the NREC Council Meeting
August Department of Agriculture
August 14, 2018
12:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Jenny Mennenga, Ted Mottaz, Cindy Skrukruud, Tom Kelley, Ed Corrigan, German Bollero, Chuck Cawley, Jeff Kirwan

Also present were: Julie Armstrong (NREC Executive Director), Shani Golovay (NREC Research Manager), Robert Hoefft (NREC Research Coordinator), Mary Auth, Liz Hobart, Stan Miles, Karren Midden, Susan Graham, Rhiannon Storm, Marianne Shields, Trevor Sample, Travis Deppe, Don Guinnip, Steve Stierwalt, Mark Schleusener, and Chuck Davis (NREC Attorney)

Chairman Kirwan called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and asked for introductions and reviewed the agenda. He also reviewed the Public Comment Policy from the NREC Bylaws:

Public Participation at Council Meetings and Committee Meetings

Citizens may attend these meetings and may provide comments. Comments may be submitted orally or in writing. If comments are submitted in writing, they must be received 10 days prior to the date of the meeting and are limited to five pages. If comments will be provided orally, the citizen must inform the Board Chairman prior to the starting time of the meeting and the oral comments shall be limited to five minutes unless the Chair provides for additional time.

Secretary Chuck Cawley presented the minutes from the December 13, 2017 Council meeting. **Chuck Cawley moved to accept the minutes as presented and Ted Mottaz seconded. The motion was approved.**

Karen Midden, Dean of the School of Agriculture at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale updated the Council and guests on the status of the Department and thanked the Council for their support of research activities at the University.

Executive Director Julie Armstrong provided an update to the Council on her activities and overall activities of the Council. She reviewed the hiring of a new Research Manager, Outreach Efforts, and Meetings. The Outreach Efforts focused on an increased online presence, quarterly newsletters, engagement with researchers and continued focus on producer and retail contact. It also included reviewing the new videos that have recently been launched. Details of her report are available in Attachment A.

Discussion was held on next steps for the Cover Crop Guide and a Phase II publication. The Council also held a discussion around the NASS Survey with USDA NASS Illinois State Statistician Mark Schleusener.

FINANCIAL/TREASURER REPORT

Julie Armstrong and Ted Mottaz presented the Financial Report and reviewed current financial reports, account balances and anticipated remaining expenses for the Communication line item. Details are included in Attachment B.

New Council members asked for clarification on cash flow management and it was decided that the Finance Committee should meet to establish these policies and to develop plans for moving forward.

Ted Mottaz moved and Jenny Mennenga seconded the financials being approved as presented. Motion carried.

ILLINOIS DEPT. OF AG UPDATE

Chuck Cawley provided an update to the Council on the collection of assessments and overall Department updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Dr. Shani Golovay and Dr. Robert Hoefft updated the Council on research activities and reviewed the RFP status.

2019 Assessment Level

In keeping with Public Act 97-0960 and the requirement outlined within: *“The Council shall recommend, and the Director shall set, the fertilizer tonnage assessment for the purpose of funding the NREC at no less than 50 cents per ton and no greater than \$3 per ton to fund, administer, publish, and implement the research, education, and outreach programs designated each year by the Council.”*, Chairman Kirwan entertained a motion to set the assessment level for 2019. **It was moved by Ed Corrigan and seconded by Jenny Mennenga to retain the assessment level at 75 cents per ton. The motion passed unanimously with the three farmers on the council approving.**

Other Business

Ted Mottaz moved and Ed Corrigan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m.