



**March 30, 2020**  
NREC Council Meeting Minutes

Due to COVID restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom.

Members in attendance: Jeff Kirwan, Ed Corrigan, Jenny Mennenga, Chuck Cawley, Don Guinnip, Matt Duncan, Robert Mullen, Cindy Skrukud, Al Grosbell, Trevor Sample, Tom Kelley, German Bollero

Staff in attendance: Julie Armstrong, Shani Golovay

Others in attendance: Austin Omer (Illinois Farm Bureau), Liz Hobart (Growmark), and Megan Dwyer (Illinois Corn)

Chairman Kirwan called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Executive Director Julie Armstrong updated the Council on issues related to the recent developments related to COVID-19. Dr. Bollero provided an update from the University and talked about the fluid state of the situation and how the social distancing rules are being implemented. He shared the agricultural research is being continued under the designation of ag and food security as an essential business/function.

Members of the Council discussed the status of Spring Fertilizer applications and potential acre shifts. It was the general consensus that we won't see significant acre shifts from corn to beans and that fertilizer applications will be status quo.

The Council then moved to consider a recommendations from the NREC Research Committee.

*It was moved, seconded and approved by the Research Committee to recommend funding the "The Effect of Cover Crops on Surface Water Quality: A Paired watershed experiment in the Lake Bloomington watershed" at a level of \$160,711. The funding should be awarded to Illinois State University with a subaward to Purdue.*

Jeff Kirwan moved and Robert Bollero seconded the approval of this recommendation. The recommendation was approved.

The Council then reviewed the status of the contract with The Wetlands Initiative. Al Grosbell recused himself from the discussion as he serves on the TWI Board. There was an issue related to the funding that was approved at the December Research/Council meeting. The Council approved \$73,690 for Sensors and Microbial sequencing. There was a miscommunication around the amount requested and they asked for an additional \$30,001 for a share of personnel plus related benefits and overhead costs. The Council elected to take no action on this request and leave the funding as-is.

Julie reviewed the timing on the upcoming meetings/assessment updates. The Research Committee will meet in July to make suggestions and Council will meet in August to approve.

Megan Dwyer provided an update on the NH3 online training. No final rules or decisions have been made but there haven't been any changes to the plan. Chuck Cawley shared his appreciation to NREC for making the funding available for the original video and for continued support of the training.

Don Guinnip moved and Matt Duncan seconded a motion to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.