



Minutes of the NREC Research Committee
November 27, 2017
Office of Brandt Consolidated, Inc.
2935 Koke Mill Road, Springfield IL 62711

Committee Members Present: Ed Corrigan (Committee Chair), Matt Duncan, Robert Mullen, Jenny Mennenga, David Droste, Dale Hadden, Dean Campbell, Jeff Kirwan, Curt Zehr, Chuck Cawley, Cindy Skrurud, Amy Walkenbach, Ted Mottaz.

Present on Phone: German Bollero

Committee Members Absent: Jessica Dexter, Paul Jeschke

Also present: Dr. Robert Hoeft (NREC Research Advisor), Julie Armstrong (NREC Executive Director), Lauren Lurkins (Illinois Farm Bureau Government Affairs), Jason Solberg (IFCA), Mary Auth (acting meeting recorder).

Chairman Corrigan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (ATTACHMENT A)

Chairman Corrigan asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

Chairman Corrigan asked Julie Armstrong to review the Conflict of Interest Policy (ATTACHMENT B)

Curt Zehr discussed that he may have a conflict of interest with one project and suggested that Dr. Bollero might also have a conflict of interest in his role with the University of Illinois. Dr. Hoeft also suggested that he might.

Dale Hadden moved and Kirwan seconded that Dr. Bollero not be allowed to vote today on any proposals. Motion carried.

Chairman Corrigan asked Julie Armstrong to review the Voting Procedures (ATTACHMENT C) and (ATTACHMENT D)

Chairman Corrigan asked Julie Armstrong review the minutes from the previous Committee meeting. Approval for minutes will be accomplished at the next meeting.

Chuck Cawley provided a financial update. He reported that \$115,000 is not yet collected and that \$9600 has not been paid. Julie Armstrong explained historical funding (ATTACHMENT E) and that 2017 project funds comes from Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 fertilizer applications and that funding of projects is based upon money already collected. Cindy Skrurud discussed setting aside too much for overhead. Julie Armstrong noted that \$300,000 is for overhead.

Chairman Corrigan called upon Dr. Hoeft to review renewal projects. (ATTACHMENT F)

Curt Zehr asked my Angela Kent's project is not asking for renewals. Julie Armstrong explained that because it had a change of scope, it was included under new projects. Dr. Hoeft suggested the committee be cautious about what the committee is putting out and that we get "the rest of the story".

Committee members discussed the amount of data NREC is getting back from researchers and the amount of research dedicated to cover crops. Mullen asked if any renewals were not falling on track or behind schedule? Dr. Hoeft mentioned that the tile projects are behind year because of reasons outside the researchers control.

In discussing a project that involved IFCA, Jason Solberg was asked to leave the room. Some concern expressed and the amount of time it is taking to get information and data (and amount of data) back from researchers – on all projects. Kirwan asked if funding could be changed.

Dean Campbell motioned and Kirwan seconded that all renewals be renewed, except for project numbers 2014-3-360422-398 (Nafziger), 2015-3-360422-56 (Nafziger), 2015-3-860638-62 (TWI), 2016-1-833929-252 (Shaefer) and 2017-3-360574-222 (Coppess) which would be rated separately. Motion carried.

Chairman Corrigan polls the committee for ranking; results of those projects are as follows:

398 – 3.846154
56 -3.384615
62 – 4.076923
252 – 4.181818
222 – 2.923077

The committee broke for lunch at 12:15 p.m. Jason Solberg leaves the meeting

Chairman Corrigan reconvenes the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Hoeft lightly reviews each project with comments and questions specific to projects being discussed. Dr. Hoeft reminded the committee that they are ranking on merit alone for recommendation to go before the Board of Directors. (ATTACHMENT G)

Chairman Corrigan polls the committee for ranking after each discussion. Ranking results are listed after each project name and discussion (if any).

2018-1-206150-465 SIU – Campbell mentioned that the committee specifically asked for this project. A similar project. Dr. Hoeft mentions that another new proposal is similar.

RANKING = 3.153846

2018-1-206804-388 SIU

RANKING = 2.461538

2018-1-206939-300 SIU – this proposal is very similar to 465.

RANKING = 3.538462

2018-1-612338-75 Greenleaf

RANKING = 1.384615

2018-1-734257-290 WIU
RANKING = 1.384615

2018-1-740467-163 Illini FS – discussion that this should come from a Community College
RANKING = 1.692308

2018-2-206150-66 – SIU
RANKING = 1.538462

2018-2-360276-69 UI
RANKING = 2.153846

2018-2-360993-828 UI
RANKING = 1.923077

2018-2-880446-270 Trees Forever
RANKING = 1.083333

2018-3-237384-52 Zea Mays
RANKING = 1.461538

2018-3-242984-116 Ideal Soil Consultant was automatically rejected due to having a proprietary product

2018-3-360190-112 UI
RANKING = 3.923077

2018-3-360298-126 UI
RANKING = 2.846154

2018-3-360383-347 UI
RANKING = 2.461538

2018-3-360624-356 UI
RANKING = 4.076923

2018-3-762682-148 CTC - Discussion centered on giving funds to private entity. Committee requests the Board to provide formal guidance on future requests from private entities

2018-3-833929-158 IFCA
RANKING = 1.461538

2018-4-206939-77 SIU Extensive discussion on the history of the use of gypsum. Committee determines it would be valuable for the farmer on what not to do
RANKING = 4.076923 contingent on incorporating the correct products on the advice of Dr. Hoefl

2018-4-360340-646 UI – discussion on budget being adjusted to cover adding conventional tillage
RANKING = 3.384615

2018-4-360731-385 UI – discussion on how the project is unique, but may have a proprietary product
RANKING = 3.076923

2018-4-360818-89 UI – committee wondered if this was a duplicate of other project already funded
RANKING = 2.00000

2018-4-360861-478 UI – advanced water management
RANKING = 4.615385

2018-5-360420-363 UI – some concern expressed on the principle investigator graduating
RANKING = 1.384615

2018-5-430645-184 McHenry College – concerns more of a demonstration project; committee requests the board provide guidance on what percentage of projects should be research vs. outreach
RANKING = 2.384615

2018-5-568479-427 Sangamon SWCD
RANKING = 0.230769

Julie Armstrong presented the following information and that ultimately the Council will make the final decision. Ranks of each project presented from highest ranking to lowest ranking. Rating break last year was 3.125.

Chairman Corrigan motioned and Matt Duncan seconded to recommend to the Council to cut off the ranking at 2.846. Motion carried.

It was noted that both Phosphorous studies are above the recommended minimum ranking and that the Council could use the higher ranking proposal as a guideline for funding.

Dean Cambell motioned and Matt Duncan seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

NOTE: Project areas by focus document was supplied to the Committee for reference (ATTACHMENT H)