



December 1, 2020
NREC Research Committee Meeting Minutes
Held via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Ed Corrigan, Jeff Kirwan, Jenny Mennenga, Chuck Cawley, Dale Hadden, Don Guinnip, Paul Jeschke, Matt Duncan, Trevor Sample, David Droste, Robert Mullen, Cindy Skrukud, German Bollero

Staff Present: Julie Armstrong, Shani Golovay

Others attending via Zoom: Dr. Austin Omer, Jean Payne, Dirk Rice, David Wessels

Meeting was called to order by committee chairperson Ed Corrigan at 10:04 a.m. and the meeting agenda and purpose were reviewed.

Chairman Corrigan asked for a review and approval of minutes from the July meeting. Minutes were updated to reflect Paul Jeschke's attendance via Zoom. **Cindy Skrukud moved to approve minutes as updated, Robert Mullen seconded. Motion passed.**

Dr. Golovay reviewed the current projects and provided an update on progress and timelines. She updated the committee that field work had proceeded as planned but that lab operations were continuing to be impacted by COVID restrictions. Due to this fact, the deadline for final project reports has been pushed back.

The committee then talked through the plans for the 2022 RFP and the survey that it sent to stakeholders. Discussion was held on the issue of "soil health" and the committee talked through the focus of NREC being on nutrient efficiency and ensuring that the focus remains on that issue.

Dr. German Bollero shared an announcement regarding funding from FFAR for a satellite-based project being conducted by Dr. Guan and the committee discussed the opportunities and hurdles related to data privacy and satellite images. Jeff Kirwan cautioned the committee to remain vigilant in considering the issues related to farmer data privacy.

Dr. Golovay provided an update on the report that she generated for the NLRS Science Team regarding saturated buffers and added that Dr. Austin Omer with Illinois Farm Bureau had submitted a similar report on WASOB's. The NLRS agency leads and science team will be reviewing the science and looking to update/include these data points into the strategy going forward.

The committee reviewed an updated request from Lowell Gentry for an additional \$35,735.00 on the Douglas County project to bring the total project amount to \$273,089.00 for 2021. The reason for the

increase was the loss of FFAR funding as well as an increase in customer farming expense. **Jeff Kirwan moved and Don Guinnip seconded a motion approving this funding. Motion passed.**

Julie reviewed the outreach plans for early 2021 and talked about an added focus on CCA communication to help fill the gap on CEU's. She will work with Lisa Martin to see where the needs are and how we can support that need.

Jean Payne, President of Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association asked to address the committee with some legislative updates from Springfield. She shared concerns around the lack of information posted on the NREC website and availability of financials and meeting minutes. There was a short discussion around requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

At 11:07 a.m. Robert Mullen moved and Paul Jeschke seconded to adjourn the meeting.