



December 15, 2020
NREC Research Council Meeting
Held via Zoom

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

Staff Present: Julie Armstrong, Shani Golovay

Others attending via Zoom: Dr. Austin Omer, Liz Hobart, Amy Roady, Charles Davis, Kate Ward

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Kirwan at 9:01 a.m. and the meeting agenda and purpose were reviewed. **Jeff Kirwan moved to add “Committee Assignments” to the agenda, Matt Duncan seconded. Motion passed.**

Chairman Kirwan asked for a review and approval of minutes from the August meeting. **Chuck Cawley moved to approve minutes as updated, Ed Corrigan seconded. Motion passed.**

At 9:08 a.m. Jeff Kirwan moved and Don Guinnip seconded to go into Executive Session for the purpose of completing employee reviews. The Council returned from Executive Session with a Motion from Don Guinnip and second from Tom Kelley at 10:39 a.m.

Jeff Kirwan moved and Ed Corrigan seconded a motion to maintain current employee compensation with an addition of a quarterly review by Executive Committee. Motion passed.

Executive Director Julie (Armstrong) Hewitt reviewed the Illinois Department of Ag collections process and timing. Julie is working with IDOA to streamline this process and see where we can gain some efficiencies.

Kate Ward with KEB joined the meeting to review the role that KEB plays in the financial processes of NREC. She talked through the checks and balances that the engagement of the company plays in maintaining controls. The Council had a discussion regarding a fiscal versus accrual accounting system and what the cost/benefits of a shift to accrual would be. The overlap of collections from one fiscal year to the next does create some issues around the reporting of assessment collection. Kate suggested that it could be footnoted in the financial reports or the Council could consider a shift to accrual. The finance committee will review these options at their January meeting.

Dr. Shani Golovay gave updates on current NREC projects and related outreach projects. She talked about the “NREC Research Superhero” series of videos that are on the NREC YouTube channel and the

collection of final reports from researchers. She also reviewed current project status and talked through the potential delay of data based on COVID restrictions.

Dr. Golovay also reviewed the science summary on saturated buffers that was submitted to the NLRS Science Team. The goal of this science update is to add the practice to the NLRS and to update the removal rates. Illinois Farm Bureau presented a similar report on WASCOP's. The reports are with the review team of Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Ag and Extension and will then go the Science Team (Reid Christianson, Laura Christianson, Maria Villamil, Jonathon Coppess, Paul Davidson)

The Council reviewed the current committee assignments and discussed the makeup of the committees. Matt Duncan asked about the non-Council appointments to the Research Committee and asked if there are concerns around the appointment members all being farmers and not from the other stakeholder groups. The Council did not feel there was a need to revisit the makeup at this point in time.

Jeff Kirwan moved and Don Guinnip seconded the addition of Chuck Cawley to the Finance Committee. Motion passed.

Tom Kelley moved and Matt Duncan seconded the approval of the committee assignments as presented. Motion passed. (committee assignments are attached to minutes)

At 11:58 a.m. Don Guinnip moved and Tom Kelley seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Committees 2021

Executive Committee:

Chairman - Jeff Kirwan, Vice-Chairman – Ed Corrigan, Secretary – Chuck Cawley, Treasurer – Jenny Mennenga

Research Committee:

NREC Council Members: Ed Corrigan (Chair), Robert Mullen, Matt Duncan, Trevor Sample, Cindy Skrurud, German Bollero, Chuck Cawley, Jenny Mennenga, Jeff Kirwan, Don Guinnip,

Other Members:

Dale Hadden, David Droste, Michael Ganschow, Mark Litteken, Dirk Rice

Finance/Audit Committee:

NREC Council Members: Jenny Mennenga (Chair), Chris Matlock, Al Grosboll, Chuck Cawley, Don Guinnip

Governance Committee:

NREC Council Members: Chuck Cawley (Chair), Jeff Kirwan, Cindy Skrurud, Chris Matlock

Outreach & Education Committee:

NREC Council Members: Ed Corrigan (Chair), Chuck Cawley, Matt Duncan, German Bollero, Robert Mullen, Tom Kelley