



**August 3, 2021**

Minutes of the NREC Research Committee  
Meeting

Brandt Consolidated Global Headquarters  
2935 S Koke Mill Rd, Springfield, IL 62711  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The committee meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by committee Chairman Ed Corrigan. Committee members present in person were: Ed Corrigan, Michael Ganschow, Jeff Kirwan, Dale Hadden, Trevor Sample, Chuck Cawley, Davis Wessel, David Droste, Matt Duncan, Don Guinnip, and Dirk Rice. Committee members present via Zoom were: Cindy Skrukrud, German Bollero, and Mark Litteken. Staff members Julie Hewitt and Shani Golovay were present as were incoming council member Tim Laatsch and Illinois Farm Bureau staff member Austin Omer.

Chairman Corrigan reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting and asked for the group to do introductions.

Executive Director Hewitt reviewed the Conflict of Interest policy as well as the voting procedures. Dirk Rice disclosed that he is a participant in the N-rate trials which are funded as part of the ongoing IFCA project. Don Guinnip moved and Jeff Kirwan seconded to allow Dirk to vote. The motion passed.

Matt Duncan reminded the committee that they should be using the provided rubric as they rate the projects and should avoid allowing personal biases to impact their ratings.

Ed Corrigan called for a review of the previous committee meeting minutes. Chuck Cawley moved to approve and David Droste seconded. Motion was approved.

Julie provided a financial update. She provided an update on the collection process as NREC and IDOA worked to collect assessments from the Fall of 2020 and also working on the collection of past due invoices. Julie outlined the 2021 budget vs actual financials and then walked through the preliminary 2022 budget. She also reviewed the historic funding levels and recommended that new projects be limited to approximately \$600,000. In addition, she reviewed the "Where does my \$1 Go"? document.

Julie then led a discussion around the portion of the NREC statute which requires that 20% of the budget be spent on cost share/demonstration. The committee reviewed the original intent of the language and talked through the focus on ensuring that the research was focused on water quality and not just agronomic impacts. Chuck Cawley talked about the possibility of IDOA or related programs being audited and that we need to be aware of this possibility and to ensure that we are working towards that goal and look at additional metrics around how to measure that.

The committee then moved into a review of ongoing NREC projects (see Attachment A). Dr. Shani Golovay led the committee through the projects up for renewal that are on time, on budget and within scope. After that discussion Don Guinnip moved and Jeff Kirwan seconded that the committee approve the renewals as presented. Motion passed.

There were two renewal projects that included a change in scope/methodology. Those projects were

reviewed individually. The first was the Project # 2021-4-360731-469, Andrew Margenot's legacy P project. Dr. Margenot wants to include a literature review on streambank erosion contribution to watershed P. Cindy Skrukud moved and Jeff Kirwan seconded funding this project as amended. Motion passed.

The committee also reviewed an update in methodology for the IFCA project and the use of a "stamp method" of N rates in an attempt to be efficient with N-rate trials. Dale Hadden moved and Jeff Kirwan seconded the approval of this project. Motion passed.

There were 6 projects that are considered "extensions" and the committee considered each of these individually.

The two projects that are being done by Shalamar Armstrong in the Lake Bloomington watershed have exceeded their original timeline. Dr. Armstrong has updated the methodology and expanded his research to include phosphorus. He is working to create a "living research report" that will provide real-time field information. The paired watershed project will be expanded to monitor both nitrates and dissolved reactive phosphorus plus total phosphorus. Dirk Rice moved and Jeff Kirwan seconded the approval of this project. The motion carried. It was noted that the committee wants additional information on the future plans for both of these projects.

Dr. Fred Below asked for additional time and an additional \$28,000 to finish and compile the data from the previous growing season. This project was started under the old funding cycle and they need a few more months to finish up the data analysis. Don Guinnip moved and Matt Duncan seconded the approval of this project. The motion carried.

Lowell Gentry would like to continue the ongoing projects at the Miller farm in Piatt County. This project has been funded since 2015 and is a staple of the NREC research portfolio. It is an extension since it is beyond its original timeline. Dirk Rice moved and David Wessel seconded the approval of this project. The motion carried.

Dr. Angela Kent asked for an additional extension on her original DNRA project. Part of the justification for the extension was her desire to utilize the Morrow Plots for soil assessments during an all corn year in the plots. She also asked for additional time due to lack of lab availability and supplies due to COVID restrictions. Jeff Kirwan moved to not approve this funding request but to allow for a no cost extension. Matt Duncan seconded and the motion passed.

Dr. Karl Williard at SIU requested an additional \$38,000 to cover an additional 10 months of time for a graduate student to finish her degree and develop a journal article for publication. Jeff Kirwan moved and Matt Duncan seconded the approval of this request. The motion carried.

The committee broke for lunch at 12:30 pm and reconvened at 1:13 pm.

Dr. Shani Golovay led the discussion and review of the 17 new projects. Each of the three subcommittees: Southern Illinois/Phosphorus, 4R, and technical subcommittees. Discussion was held on each project and then each committee member utilized the "Poll Everywhere" system to submit their ratings for each of the new projects. Committee member Dale Hadden had to leave the meeting prior to votes being cast.

Once the projects were rated by the committee, Julie presented a summary of the ratings sorted from highest to lowest. Once the project ratings were entered, the committee reviewed the ratings and the associated dollars. Jeff Kirwan moved and Michael Ganschow seconded that we fund all projects rated 3.0 and above with 27 projects funded at 100% and Guan's project funded at 85% for a total research budget of \$3,912,499.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. with a motion by Dirk Rice and a second by Matt Duncan.