



December 16, 2021
NREC Council Meeting Minutes
Held at Illinois Corn Growers Association and virtually via Zoom

Council Members Present in person: Jeff Kirwan, Chuck Cawley, David Wessel, Matt Duncan, Scott Lagger, Tim Laatsch

Council Members present via Zoom: Trevor Sample, Cindy Skrukruud, Al Grosboll

Staff Present: Julie Hewitt

Others attending: Liz Hobart, Austin Omer, Chuck Davis

Meeting was called to order by chairperson Jeff Kirwan at 10:09 a.m. and the meeting agenda was reviewed.

Chairman Kirwan asked for a review and approval of minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Chuck Cawley and a second by Matt Duncan.

Executive Director Julie Hewitt reviewed anti-trust requirements and reminded council members that there are members who are subject to anti-trust regulations based on their full time employment and our discussions may be subject to those restrictions. Julie will work with Chuck Davis to establish a statement for the policies and procedures book.

At 10:18 a.m. Scott Lagger moved and Chuck Cawley seconded a motion to go into executive session to conduct an employee evaluation. At 11:03 a.m. the Council came out of executive session and Chuck Cawley moved with a second from Matt Duncan to adopt the recommendations of the executive committee as related to staff salary.

Executive Director Julie Hewitt provided a financial update with a review of the 2021-22 fiscal year end final financial reports. She also reviewed the ending budget vs. actual. Chuck Cawley provided an update from the Illinois Department of Agriculture on the status of past due assessment collections. As of the reporting date, there were approximately \$80,000 worth of old tonnage fees to be collected. Some of these are from inactive accounts which may be difficult to collect. Chuck and his team at IDOA continue to track them down.

Chuck also reviewed the statute as it relates to the appointments to the Council and specifically the seat assigned to a member of the specialty fertilizer segment.

The Council had a brief discussion on the recently published article from the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting related to nutrient losses and the impacts. Julie reviewed the communication

coordination that took place with the commodity groups and Illinois Farm Bureau to prepare a response if the article gained traction.

Julie also provided an update on the upcoming NREC Investment Insights Live event and reviewed the planned agenda and meeting details.

Matt Duncan asked the group if they are happy with the current amount of projects that are being funded and asked for discussion on if the group has been able to fund where needed to meet the needs of the strategy and overall mission of NREC. Tim Laatsch added that we have a strong and diversified research portfolio and asked about the need to drive additional adoption of practices and asked what the role is for NREC in moving that needle. Additional discussion was held on the possibility/need to invest in cost/share or demonstration projects. Robert Mullen reminded the group that we ARE making changes but just not at the scale that we may hope to be able to. He also added that the value we bring is the transparency of the science and the next step is moving forward with knowledge transfer.

As part of the statutory requirements, the Council annually sets the assessment level and communicates that to the Illinois Director of Agriculture before December 31 each year. Matt Duncan moved and Robert Mullen seconded to keep the NREC assessment at \$0.75/ton for the 2022 year. Motion passed.

Julie Hewitt reviewed the current committee assignments and reaffirmed the committee makeup.

Executive Committee:

Chairman - Jeff Kirwan, Vice-Chairman – Matt Duncan, Secretary – Chuck Cawley, Treasurer – Don Guinnip

Research Committee:

NREC Council Members: Matt Duncan (Chair), Robert Mullen , Trevor Sample, Cindy Skrudud, Chuck Cawley, David Wessel, Jeff Kirwan, Don Guinnip, Tim Laatsch, Scott Lager

Other Members: Dale Hadden, David Droste, Michael Ganschow, Mark Litteken, Dirk Rice

Finance/Audit Committee:

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

Governance Committee:

NREC Council Members: Chuck Cawley (Chair), Jeff Kirwan, Cindy Skrudud, David Wessel, Scott Lager

Outreach & Education Committee:

NREC Council Members: Jeff Kirwan(Chair), Chuck Cawley, Matt Duncan, Robert Mullen, Tim Laatsch, Scott Lager

David Wessel moved and Chuck Cawley seconded to approve the committee assignments as listed. The motion passed.

At 2:07 p.m. Matt Duncan moved and Scott Lager seconded to adjourn the meeting.