



March 16, 2023
NREC Council Meeting
Held in person:
Illinois Soybean Association
AND via ZOOM

Attending in person: Don Guinnip, David Wessel, Tim Laatsch, Scott Lager, Trevor Sample, Jake Vossenkemper, Chuck Cawley, Shani Golovay

Attending via Zoom: Jeff Kirwan, Matt Duncan, Julie Hewitt

Others attending in person: Megan Dwyer

Others online: Lauren Lurkins, Liz Hobart

Meeting called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Chairman Don Guinnip

Agenda moved to accept by David Wessel and seconded by Scott Lager. The motion was approved.

Jeff Kirwan moved and Matt Duncan seconded to accept the minutes of the November 29, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

The meeting was briefly interrupted by a power outage at the ISA office.

Chuck Cawley gave an update on IDOA collections. About 60% of current invoices have been collected and Brenda Eller in the office is working to finish cleaning up the past due invoices. 2022 outstanding balance is \$61,000 which is manageable and will be collected.

Julie Hewitt joined the meeting remotely as she was ill with COVID. She provided an update on the audit. The audit is underway and Julie continues to work with the team at CLA. We don't have a specific timeline for it, must be finished within each year.

Julie gave her Executive Director report. Research RFP's have been sent out and due mid-May. She reviewed the status of the Outreach and Education RFP. Investment Insights event has been set and other events are coming. She also covered the coverage that has been received from Andrew Margenot's project on the soil archives.

Shani Golovay provided an update on the relationship building that she has focused on for the last several years. David Wessel asked about including the community colleges in the OEPP RFP.

Julie provided an update on the Grow More conference that NREC is sponsoring as an alternative to the watershed academy training that was presented previously.

Don Guinnip discussed the open seat on the Illinois NREC **Research Committee**. Don named Larry Dallas as the new member. David Wessel moved and Scott Lager seconded a motion to approve Don's nomination to serve on the Illinois NREC Research Committee. The appointment was approved.

Governance Committee report. David Wessel reviewed the work done by the committee on updating the bylaws to change the list of officers to include the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture or his or his designee. This term will not expire. David made the motion to approve the bylaw change. Jake Vossenkemper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don Guinnip provided an update on conversations with the Illinois Wheat Growers Association and attempts to grow relationships with the wheat growers. Shani reviewed the ongoing projects that include wheat and the review that is happening to potentially add wheat rotation as an accepted practice in the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. The group reviewed the process for adding projects to the strategy or updating the existing practices.

Shani Golovay provided an update on her trip to Europe as part of the Illinois Ag Leadership program.

Motion to adjourn made by Scott Lager and seconded by David Wessel.