



Minutes of the NREC Council  
 August 16, 2016  
 Illinois Department of Agriculture  
 Noon

DRAFT

Council Members Present: Dale Hadden, Ed Corrigan, Cindy Skrukud, Chuck Cawley, Chris Matlock, Jenny Mennenga, Ted Mottaz, Jessica Dexter, German Bollero, Amy Walkenbach, Robert Mullen and Matt Duncan.

Also present were: Julie Armstrong (NREC Executive Director), Robert Hoelt (NREC Research Coordinator), Mark Schleussner (USDA-NASS), Bethany Jaeger and Kristi Jones (KEB), Chuck Davis (NREC Attorney), Jean Payne (IFCA), Lauren Lurkins and Lindsey Ramsey (ILFB), Jeff Kirwan (incoming ILFB appointee to NREC)

Chairman Hadden called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and apologized for the lack of electricity which was out across most of the fairgrounds.

Secretary Chuck Cawley presented the minutes from the February 5, 2016 Council meeting. **Jenny Mennenga moved to accept the minutes as presented and Ed Corrigan seconded. The motion was approved.**

Executive Director Julie Armstrong provided an update on her activities and highlighted some of the important activities of the summer including field days, website development, and strategic planning. Jenny Mennenga, Ed Corrigan and Cindy Skrukud volunteered to be on a website-review committee. Julie also invited Mark Schleusener, Illinois State Statistician with USDA/NASS to provide an update on the NASS Survey that was sent out in early summer. Mark reported that the return rate was lower than anticipated and that they are doing another round of mailings and will also be doing calls to ensure that they get a statistically valid return rate.

Julie Armstrong presented the financial report on behalf of Treasurer Ted Mottaz. The details of that report are attached as Attachment A. Julie and Ted also reviewed the process and procedures of the daily financial transaction management for the Council.

**Ted Mottaz moved to approve the financial report as presented. Ed Corrigan seconded and the motion passed.**

Illinois Department of Ag designee Chuck Cawley reviewed the status of collection of Fall 2015 assessment and reminded the group that the Spring 2016 Assessments will begin coming in shortly. He also reviewed Council terms and provided the Council with a report outlining these.

Incomplete Term		Term 1		Term 2	
Start	End	Start	End	Start	End

Matt Duncan	2012	2015	2015	2019	2019	2023
Ed Corrigan	2012	2016	2016	2020	2020	2024
Robert Mullen	2015	2017	2017	2021	2021	2025
Dale Hadden	2012	2015	2015	2019	2019	2023
Ted Mottaz	2015	2016	2016	2020	2020	2024
Jenny Mennenga	2015	2017	2017	2021	2021	2025
Andy Knepp			2015	2018	2018	2022
Chris Matlock	2012	2014	2014	2018	2018	2022
Jessica Dexter	2012	2014	2014	2018	2018	2022
Cindy Skrukrud	2012	2015	2015	2019	2019	2023
German Bollero	2012	2016	2016	2020	2020	2024

Dale Hadden provided a committee report for the Research Committee. He reviewed the updated RFP priorities with the Council and the updated voting procedures which were presented at the July Research Committee meeting. Dale also announced that Illinois Corn Growers will be changing their appointee to the Research committee from Laura Gentry to Paul Jeschke.

Dr. Bob Hoeft then reviewed the mid-year reports for 2016 research projects.

Chuck Cawley provided an update from the Governance Committee on the Strategic Planning process and turned the meeting over to Bethany Jaeger and Kristi Jones with KEB to present the Strategic Plan.

**Chuck Cawley moved to accept the new strategic Plan (attached as attachment b). Ted Mottaz seconded and the Council approved.**

In keeping with Public Act 97-0960 and the requirement outlined within: *“The Council shall recommend, and the Director shall set, the fertilizer tonnage assessment for the purpose of funding the NREC at no less than 50 cents per ton and no greater than \$3 per ton to fund, administer, publish, and implement the research, education, and outreach programs designated each year by the Council.”*, Chairman Hadden entertained a motion to set the assessment level for 2017. **It was moved by Ted Mottaz and seconded by Jenny Mennenga to retain the assessment level at 75 cents per ton. The motion passed unanimously with the three farmers on the council approving.**

**Chuck Cawley moved and Ted Mottaz seconded a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:15 p.m.**

**Executive Session was ended at 3:05 p.m.**

**Ed Corrigan moved and Matt Duncan seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m.**