



Minutes of the NREC Council  
January 19, 2016  
Peoria Civic Center – Peoria, IL  
1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Dale Hadden, Ed Corrigan, Cindy Skrukud, Chuck Cawley, Andy Knepp, Chris Matlock, and Matt Duncan. Also present were Dr. Robert Hoeft (NREC Research Advisor), Julie Armstrong (NREC Executive Director), Laura Gentry (ICGA), and Trevor Sample (IEPA)

Chairman Hadden called the meeting to order at 12:51 pm.

Julie Armstrong reviewed the proposals that were received from three accounting firms in response to the RFP for financial services. Discussion was held on the strengths and potential weaknesses of each response.

**Andy Knepp moved and Ed Corrigan seconded that the Council select KEB as the Accounting Firm for NREC. Motion carried.**

Dr. Robert Hoeft updated the Council on Rachel Cook's departure from SIU and reviewed the status of the two projects that are currently being funded through NREC with Rachel as the Primary Investigator. Dr. Hoeft has been in touch with Rachel and she is working on a path forward. She assured Dr. Hoeft that the projects would be able to be taken over by other SIU faculty. We will need an updated budget and plan of work that reflects this change in faculty status.

Dr. Hoeft and Julie also reviewed the current status of 2016 contracts and Julie informed the Council that Dan Wright is reviewing contracts and we will have those ready to go out soon. Dr. Hoeft communicated that a big improvement for 2016 is that NREC will be able to make payments directly to farmer cooperators rather than them having to go through the University.

The Council discussed the need for more conclusions and more actionable results from the research that is being funded.

Julie reviewed an updated budget but further budget discussions were tabled until the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dale Hadden reviewed the current committee list and the Council re-worked the committee to address people that have left Council or are no longer available to serve on a committee. Matt Duncan asked that industry sector be indicated by names on the committee list.

The updated committees are:

**Research:** Dale Hadden, Robert Mullen, Ed Corrigan, Matt Duncan, Marcia Willhite, Jessica Dexter, Cindy Skrukud, German Bollero, Ted Mottaz, Chuck Cawley, Jenny Mennenga. *Dean Campbell, Linda Kull, Laura Gentry, Terry Pope, Curt Zehr.*

**Finance/Audit:** Ted Mottaz (Chair), Marcia Willhite, Chris Matlock

**Governance:** Chuck Cawley (Chair), Dale Hadden, Andy Knepp, Cindy Skrukud, Chris Matlock

**Outreach & Education:** Ed Corrigan (Chair), Chuck Cawley, Robert Mullen, Matt Duncan, German Bollero, Marcia Willhite. *Mike Plumer, Lori Laughlin, Rachel Torbert*

**Chuck Cawley moved to accept the new committee assignments. Andy Knepp seconded and the motion carried.**

**Ed Corrigan moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 p.m. Andy Knepp seconded and the motion carried.**