



**Minutes of the Nutrient Research & Education Council Meeting
Illinois Department of Agriculture, Springfield IL
August 13, 2013**

The Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC) convened at 1:30 p.m. at the Illinois Department of Agriculture GO Conference Room in Springfield, IL. In attendance were:

Voting Members:

Dale Hadden, Gary Hudson, Matt Hughes, Howard Brown, Ed Corrigan, Chris Matlock and Jim Larkin. Dave Creech joined the meeting by conference call. Matt Duncan was absent but excused.

Non-Voting Members:

Jessica Dexter; Cindy Skrukud joined by conference call. German Bollero and Marcia Willhite were absent but excused.

Also in attendance were Dr. Robert Hoeft (NREC Research Advisor) Jean Payne (NREC Administrator) and David Reid (NREC legal counsel). Other attending were Lauren Lurkins, Jack Darin, Terri Treacy, Tamika Gibson, Jen Walling, Jered Hooker, Linda Kull and Pam Hudson.

The first order of business was to review the agenda. Gary Hudson moved to divide the agenda into two meetings, with one being a regular meeting and the 2nd being the annual meeting. Dale Hadden seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of February 1, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes of the February 1, 2013 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes made by Howard Brown, seconded by Jim Larkin, motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

Jean Payne provided a financial report, and Jim Larkin provided general information regarding the collection of the NREC tonnage assessment. There have been very few issues with the industry with regard to payment, it has been going smoothly. Jean and David Reid are working on the IRS application to move the NREC assessment program into a 501(c)(5) organization as previously directed by the Council. Jean has also worked with Commerce Bank to invest NREC monies into laddered CD's so that we can receive some return while the monies are being held in the NREC account pending contractual payments. Motion to approve the financial report made by Dale Hadden, seconded by Ed Corrigan, motion carried unanimously.

Research Committee Report

Bob Hoeft reported to the Council that he has reviewed all the semi-annual reports submitted by the project managers for projects funded in 2013. The Discovery Farms project sought approval to allocate their resources toward development of a discovery farm field in conjunction with Illinois State University in McLean County and is proceeding in that effort. There were also some minor modifications in the Phosphorus Runoff Study given the departure of Dr. Fernandez and the need for personnel modifications to ensure the work could be accomplished by additional graduate students under Dr. Bollero's supervision.

Dale Hadden informed the Council that the Research Committee met on July 29, 2013 to discuss the timeline for funding of projects in 2014. The committee developed a timeline as follows:

1. Current NREC projects that had indicated they would seek multi-year funding are required to send NREC a letter requesting funding for the 2nd year. This includes the following projects: Cover Crop Study, P & K Recommendations, Phosphorus Runoff, Keep it for the Crop and Discovery Farms.
2. NREC will issue a request for proposal (RFP) on September 3, 2013 for funding in calendar year 2014. This will include a statement that NREC will give priority to projects that seek to result in knowledge and applied methods that minimize environmental impact, optimize harvest yield and maximize nutrient utilization.
3. RFPs are due back to NREC by November 1, 2013.
4. The NREC Research Committee will review the proposals and participate in a conference call on November 15, 2013 to determine which appear worthy of funding and those that need to go to peer review.
5. The Research Committee will meet in person on December 17, 2013 to review the proposals again and the peer review reports, and prepare a recommendation to the full Council.
6. The NREC Council will meet on January 7, 2014 to make the funding decisions for the 2014 calendar year.

There was some discussion on how much money would be carried over from FY 2013 to FY 2014; NREC took a stance in 2013 to fund projects based on the collection of assessments from the fall 2012 fertilizer sales. In 2014, NREC will have monies collected from spring 2013 and fall 2013 sales in which to utilize for project funding and program administration.

2014 NREC Assessment Recommendation

The Council discussed what the NREC assessment should be for the 2014 year; motion made by Jim Larkin to keep the assessment at .75 cents per ton; seconded by Ed Corrigan, motion carried unanimously. Jean will prepare a letter to prior to IDA Director Flider before December 31, 2013 informing him of this NREC decision so that IDA staff can continue to carry out the invoicing for the program.

Having no further business in the regular meeting of NREC, Chairman Hudson asked for a motion to adjourn at 2:30 pm. Motion made by Howard Brown, seconded by Dale Hadden, motion carried.

Minutes recorded by Jean Payne and David Reid, reviewed by Dale Hadden, Secretary.