



August 14, 2024

NREC Council Meeting

Held in person: Heartland Community College and Zoom
10 am – 3 pm

Chairman Don Guinnip called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. Members present in-person were: Don Guinnip, Allen Stenwell, David Wessel, Scott Lagger, Chuck Cawley. Members present via Zoom: Al Grosboll, Tim Laatsch, Trevor Sample, Cindy Skrukud, Jeff Kirwan. Staff members Julie Hewitt and Shani Golovay were also present in person.

Dan Schaefer (IFCA), Lisa Martin (Illinois CCA), Connor Kaeb (GROWMARK) and Stacy Zuber (ISA) were present in person and Shawn Meyer (Waterborne), Brent Pollard (ILFB) and Amelia Cheek (ILFB) joined via Zoom.

David Wessel moved and Scott Lagger seconded to approve the agenda and minutes from the March 5, 2024 meeting. Motion approved and minutes placed on file.

Chairman Guinnip shared with the group that USDA/NASS would like to meet with the Council re: the NLRs survey and the plans going forward. The Council discussed the two surveys that are currently being conducted – the USDA/NASS Survey (funded by NREC) and the Ag Retailer Survey which was funded by CBMP and Illinois EPA. After further discussion, the Council directed Executive Director Hewitt to reach out to Mark Schleusener with USDA/NASS and KJ Johnson with IFCA to have them attend the December meeting.

Chuck Cawley reviewed the assessment collection progress and provided an update on past due invoices.

Julie Hewitt and David Wessel reviewed current financials and presented the proposed 2025 budget.

Research Committee chairman Scott Lagger provided an update from the July research committee. He presented the list of recommended projects and reviewed the feedback from two researchers who required updates following the Research Committee meeting. Angela Kent chose to continue work on her ongoing project and hold off on the new project. And Dr. Amir Sadeghpour agreed to adjust his budget to reduce it by 15%. Lagger approved and Allen Stenwell seconded a motion to approve funding \$4,095,549 for 2024/25 projects. The motion passed.

Executive Director Julie Hewitt reviewed an opportunity to apply for membership in the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership. Scott Lagger moved and David Wessel seconded a motion to approve the application to join ISAP and pay the \$2,000 membership fee. The motion passed.

Julie Hewitt reviewed member terms and committee assignments.

Julie Hewitt presented the updated 2024/25 budget to include the updated research funding level and ISAP membership amount. Scott Lager moved and Allen Stenwell seconded the approval of the budget.

Members suggested scheduling a meeting in the Decatur area in order to visit the Macon County research site at Pete Pistorious' farm.

Scott Lager moved and Jeff Kirwan seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 pm.

APPROVED 12/17/24