



December 13, 2023

NREC Council Meeting

Held in person: Illinois Soybean Association and via Zoom

10 am – 3 pm

Chairman Don Guinnip called the meeting to order at 10:02a.m. Members present in-person were: Don Guinnip, Matt Duncan, Chuck Cawley, Jeff Kirwan, Scott Lager, David Wessel, Jake Vossenkemper, Ronaldo Maghirang, Trevor Sample. Members present via Zoom: Al Grosboll, Cindy Skrukud, and Tim Laatsch. Staff members Julie Hewitt and Shani Golovay were also present in person.

Others participating in the meeting included Amelia Cheek, Conner Kaeb, Brent Pollard, Lisa Martin and Stacy Zuber.

Secretary Jeff Kirwan moved to accept the minutes from the August 17, 2023 meeting. Matt Duncan seconded and the minutes were placed on file.

Treasurer David Wessel presented the current financials and provided an update on the 2022 audit. Chuck Cawley provided an update on collections of assessment fees and notified the Council that 13 companies were issued non-renewals of their fertilizer license due to non-payment.

Al Grosboll led a discussion around the development of a policy regarding the cycle of auditors. Scott Lager moved to direct Executive Director Julie Hewitt to identify a new audit firm for the 2023 audit. Matt Duncan seconded the motion and it passed.

Scott Lager moved to direct Julie Hewitt to evaluate banking options and report back to the finance committee. Jeff Kirwan seconded. The motion was approved.

Jeff Kirwan moved to have the Governance Committee establish a policy around audit timelines and the cycle to rotate to new auditors. Scott Lager seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Shani Golovay did a review of the current research projects and upcoming events. She reviewed the process of creating the annual project and updated the Council on her visit to Purdue to see Dr. Shalamar Armstrong's lab and the growth chamber. The Council expressed a desire to have an instrumentation visit to the campuses where funding is directed.

At 11:30 am, Matt Duncan moved and Jeff Kirwan seconded to go into executive session for the purpose of conducting Executive Director Julie Hewitt's performance review. At 12:15 pm Jeff Kirwan moved and Matt Duncan seconded to come out of executive session and break for lunch.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:10 pm. Jeff Kirwan moved and Scott Lager seconded an update to the budget based on action taken during executive session. The motion passed.

Trevor Sample, Illinois EPA, provided an update on the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and the latest report.

Jeff Kirwan moved to set the 2024 assessment at \$0.75/ton for the 2024 season. Matt Duncan seconded. The motion passed.

Jake Vossenkemper moved to increase the 2025 assessment to \$1.00/ton. Scott Lagger seconded the motion. Chuck Cawley abstained from voting. The motion passed. Julie will communicate with IDOA and establish a plan for implementation.

Chairman Don Guinnip nominated Mark Lower to serve on the NREC Research Committee as the farmer representing the northern 1/3 of the state. Jeff Kirwan moved and Scott Lagger seconded the nomination. The motion was approved.

Chairman Guinnip nominated Jenny Mennenga as the Illinois Soybean Association representative on the NREC Research Committee. David Wessel moved and Scott Lagger seconded the nomination. The motion was approved.

Jeff Kirwan moved and Scott Lagger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 pm. The motion passed.