**ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of a Meeting**

**Held June 6-7, 2017**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Corn Growers Association was held at the Illinois Corn office in Bloomington, Illinois on June 6-7, 2017.

Directors present were:

Bill Leigh Aron Carlson

Justin Durdan Ted Mottaz

Terry Smith Dave Rylander

Marty Marr Don Guinnip

Kenny Hartman Dennis Green

Randy DeSutter Bill Christ

Spencer Janssen Matt Rush

Joe Murphy

Also present were:

Rodney Weinzierl Jim Tarmann

Phil Thornton Lindsay Mitchell

Laura Gentry Kayla Veeder

Tricia Braid Dave Loos

Garrett Hawkins

The Board meeting was called to order by President, Justin Durdan at 2:30 pm.

Justin reminded the board that districts 2, 5, 8, 11 and 14 are up for election this year. Aron Carlson declared his intent to run in District 2. Justin Durdan declared his intent to run in District 5. Ted Mottaz declared his intent to run in District 8. Spencer Janssen announced that he will not be running in District 11. Garrett Hawkins declared his intent to run in District 14. Dave Rylander declared his intent to run as an At-Large Director.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Marty Marr presented the minutes of the February Executive Committee meeting.

**It was moved by Bill Leigh and seconded by Terry Smith**

**THAT the minutes of the February 28, 2017 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Corn Growers Association be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

Marty Marr presented the minutes of the February full board meeting.

**It was moved by Ted Mottaz and seconded by Kenny Hartman**

**THAT the minutes of the February 28, 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Corn Growers Association be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

TREASURERS REPORT

Marty Marr reviewed the financial statements for the period ending May 31, 2017.

**It was moved by Marty Marr and seconded by Kenny Hartman**

**THAT the treasurer’s report be placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The finance committee reviewed the vouchers that we received since the last meeting and everything looked good.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Rodney Weinzierl began his report by letting the board know that President Trump is Ohio to talk about locks today. We also expect him to say we need more private money to improve locks and dams. We were asked to brief the Illinois delegation staff on NESP recently and we expect to see a much stronger engagement from them on this issue going forward.

Rod then gave a farm bill update. We do not expect a farm bill in 2017. The cotton sector did attempt to increase funding for their programming in the recent budget bill but did not end up getting the increase. Cotton and Dairy will both be looking for more funding for their safety net programs. We should also start thinking about where funding will come from if Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres are raised. The odds of having more money for the farm bill are not great but a lot will depend on if we have an infrastructure bill before the farm bill and, if so, how much is allocated to it. The Administration has mentioned three changes to the farm bill including the elimination of Foreign Market Development (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP) funding, elimination of the harvest price election in crop insurance and an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) trigger of $500,000 and if that is hit, crop insurance subsidy for that farmer will be limited to $40,000.

Bill Northey is expected to become the undersecretary for farm production and conservation. This is one of the best representatives we have seen go into an undersecretary position. Ted McKinney is also expected to be appointed as undersecretary for trade and foreign affairs.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Kayla Veeder sent out an election notice in Districts 2, 5, 8, 11 and 14. ICGA members who wish to run must either declare their intent to run at this meeting or the August board meeting or complete a petition with signatures of twenty-five ICGA members.

ICGA directors should register themselves for Corn Congress online.

The Illinois Farm Bureau Farm Income and Innovations Conference will be on July 26 in Normal.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Justin Durdan reported for the committee.

***NCGA Corn Congress***

Directors should register themselves for Corn Congress ASAP. Harold Wolle, Gary Porter and Kenny Hartmann will be this afternoon and will have an opportunity to speak during the joint board meeting.

***Proposed Meeting Dates***

The board reviewed the proposed list of meeting dates for FY18.

**It was moved by Terry Smith and seconded by Marty Marr**

**THAT we approve the FY18 meeting dates as presented.**

**The motion carried.**

***Business Services Committee***

We have not received the necessary documents from IAA yet so the Business Services Committee will schedule a meeting sometime between now and our July board meeting.

***Illinois State Fair***

The Ag Day Luncheon will be on August 15 this year.

***Proposed Budget Discussion***

Suzie Rogers and Marty Marr reviewed the proposed FY18 budget.

**It was moved by Marty Marr and seconded by Joe Murphy**

**THAT we approve the proposed FY18 budget as presented.**

**The motion carried.**

***Past Directors Event***

Illinois Corn will host a past director event on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 for all past leaders of the organization. We will also invite past directors to an “update” session that will get past directors informed on current ICMB and ICGA projects.

***ICGA Board Elections***

Kayla Veeder sent out an election notice in Districts 2, 5, 8, 11 and 14. ICGA members who wish to run must either declare their intent to run at this meeting or the August board meeting or complete a petition with signatures of twenty-five ICGA members.

**It was moved by Don Guinnip and seconded by Bill Leigh**

**THAT we approve the Executive Committee Report.**

**The motion carried.**

EXPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill Leigh reported for the committee.

*Goal 1: Begin construction on one new lock on the Upper Mississippi by 2019.*

Jim Tarmann shared an update of locks and dams issues and activities.

Iowa and Illinois are working together to host a barge tour for Senators Duckworth and Ernst to continue building advocates for lock and dam funding. The event would also feature a fundraiser and a media event for the Senators.

We continue to find a way to look like we’re investing or proposing a P3 without driving tonnage away from the river.

Rod went to D.C. last week to participate in a staff briefing to bring everyone up to speed on the need for upgraded locks and dams.

*Goal 2: Work to increase net exports of corn and corn co-products 6 percent by 2019.*

Bob McCormick of the National Renewable Energy Lab, is hoping to get to Mexico to be a technical expert from the U.S. on gasoline emissions.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICGA commit up to $7,500 to support Bob McCormick of NREL to participate in meetings with the Mexican Government to promote the emissions benefits of using E10 in Mexico City.**

**The motion carried.**

U.S. Grains Council may also contribute some of the needed funds to get Bob McCormick to Mexico, in which case some of ICGA’s outlay would be minimized.

Several agricultural groups are creating the Ag Export Coalition to promote U.S. agricultural exports, especially MAP and FMD funding. Phil recommended the committee consider a donation of $1,000 - $2,500.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICGA commit $1,000 to the Ag Export Coalition for 2017.**

**The motion carried.**

Staff would like to continue to advocate for trade and specifically for NAFTA. Farmers need to be reminded that Mexico is their number one trading partner, but the content will have to walk a tight rope that does not upset members who are Trump fans.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICGA commit up to $10,000 for ads in Illinois ag publications to support and educate on NAFTA.**

**The motion carried.**

ICMB is sending Ted Mottaz to the Ukraine with Bill Long on August 12-19. This is part of the ICMB Ambassador’s Training Program.

*Goal 3: Increase the amount of Illinois corn fed to livestock domestically and increase the amount of meat exported internationally by 5% by 2019.*

Terry Smith provided an update of the most recent livestock hearing he attended in Schuyler County last week.

Lindsay shared an update of Illinois Livestock Development Group membership. Starting next week at the ILDG annual meeting, ICGA will be an ILDG member.

*Goal 4: Increase consumer acceptance of science-based farming practices by 2017.*

The committee reviewed this goal and discussed options for a new goal.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT the ICGA Export Committee goal 4 read as follows: “Increase global consumer acceptance of science-based farming practices by 2020.”**

**The motion carried.**

*Goal 5: Baseline and quantify improvements in sustainability specifically addressing nutrient loss, carbon footprint, soil preservation, and water use efficiency to remain competitive in domestic and international markets.*

Randy Stauffer shared an update of Field to Market activities.

**It was moved by Bill Leigh and seconded by Don Guinnip**

**THAT the report of the Exports Committee be placed on file including all committee recommendations for a total budget impact of $18,500.**

**The motion carried.**

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ted Mottaz reported for the committee.

*Goal 1: Increase corn used in ethanol production in Illinois from 600 million bushels to 750 million bushels by 2020.*

Congress Shimkus has initiated meetings with stakeholders concerning the RFS. There were six congressmen in attendance, and several industry representatives. NCGA was not invited to the initial meeting but will be at the next one. Congressman Shimkus has communicated with Marathon that he will not do anything that will hurt the corn farmers of Illinois. As of right now, it is unlikely that they will initiate new legislation.

We are hopeful that the Senate will take up legislation to give corn ethanol an RVP waiver for blends higher than E10.

Bob McCormick, National Renewable Energy Lab, is hoping to get to Mexico to be a technical expert from the U.S. on gasoline emissions.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit up to $7,500 to support Bob McCormick of National Renewable Energy Lab to participate in meetings with the Mexican government to promote the emissions benefits of using E10 in Mexico City.** (Goal 1A)

**The motion carried.**

All pumps that are being produced by Dresser Wayne are now U/L certified for E25. Gilbarco has not been responsive to our offer so NCGA drafted a letter retracting the current offer. The door is open for them to renew negotiations. We have also made contact with Bennett Pumps to schedule some meetings and start negotiations.

SB 517 and HR 1311 have been introduced and would provide an RVP waiver to E15 that is similar to the waiver on E10.

NCGA was invited by a group in California to help sponsor a workshop around the greenhouse gas benefits of corn based ethanol. We believe it is worthwhile for us to participate. It is good to see NCGA taking the lead on this.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $2,000 to support the Lifecycle Analysis Workshop in Sacramento, California highlighting the carbon footprint of corn starch ethanol and the sustainability of corn ethanol.** (Goal 1A)

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit up to $10,000 to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute to conduct Hill briefings on the carbon footprint of corn ethanol, the need for fixing the RVP issue for blends higher than E10 and to promote the benefits of moving to a high octane low carbon fuel such as E25 that the autos can design around.** (Goal 2C)

**The motion carried.**

*Goal 2: Increase the percentage of ethanol in the Illinois fuel supply from 10 percent (450 million gallons) to 15 percent (675 million gallons) by the end of 2020.*

Rich Clemmons and Liz Brown-Reeves gave an update on our legislation in Springfield. Nothing will happen until we have a budget. The current situation echoes last year, when Democrats in the House and Senate could not agree on a budget proposal to send to Rauner. Things are a little different this year, as Senate President John Cullerton worked closely with Republicans in an unsuccessful attempt to reach an agreement. Speaker Madigan was cut out of those talks.

*Goal 3: Establish multiple corn biorefineries in Illinois by 2020.*

We are still working with NCERC to figure out ways for them to do more public research, as they are now being dominated with private projects. The pilot plant has contracts for work through next year. NCERC has hired a new Research Director, Yanhong Zhang, PhD.

*Goal 4: Increase corn yield per acre to meet growing demand while reducing inputs per bushel.*

The committee reviewed this goal and recommended that we review it at the next board meeting. Staff will come back with recommendations in the sustainability area.

**It was moved by Ted Mottaz and seconded by Joe Murphy**

**THAT the report of the Industrial Committee be placed on file including all committee recommendations for a total budget impact of $19,500.**

**The motion carried.**

GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Don Guinnip reported for the committee.

*Goal 1: Provide short and concise information to leaders and members which enable them to improve the image of the family farm through at least three venues.*

We were approached by the Illinois Soybean Association with an opportunity to work together on a joint tent at the Farm Progress Show. We will have a joint pavilion that will sit between the Illinois Corn tent and Illinois Soybeans tent that will show that commodity groups are working together on issues. Our Illinois Corn tent will focus on ethanol, our call to action and monarch/pollinator work.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $5,000 for a joint corn/soy tent at the Farm Progress Show.**

**The motion carried.**

Tricia plans together to put together a print ad that will use the same theme as our ICGA annual report. The ad would repurpose some of the content of the annual report to reinforce the points to our members and non-members in the media

**It was moved by the committee.**

**THAT we commit $5,000 for a print ad to compliment the ICGA annual report.**

**The motion carried.**

*Goal 2: Increase the knowledge and involvement of 500 ICGA members.*

Tazewell County Corn Growers made a proposal for a program of work and are in need of additional funding.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $1,776 in additional county grants to the Tazewell County Corn Growers.**

**The motion carried.**

The Knox County Corn Growers also made a proposal for a program of work and are in need of additional funding.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit up to $2,000 to the Knox County Corn Growers.**

**The motion carried.**

The Greater Ethanol Golf Outing will be on June 30 this year.

ICMB is hosting a congressional staff tour on August 8-10. Attendees will visit the United Soybean Board, Monsanto, Bunge, McCormick Farms, Gateway Motorsports Park, Neuhaus Farms, The Maschhoffs, Stumpy’s Spirits Distillery, George Obernagel’s farm, Melvin Price Lock and Dam, HWRT Terminal and NCERC.

*Goal 3: Increase ICGA’s state organization representation from membership by 2% per year.*

The board approved funding for an updated membership program. Staff are currently in the process of working with the vendor to create the new program. We hope to transition to the new membership program by end of June.

*Goal 4: Reduce the use of nitrogen and phosphorus by 5% per bushel by 2014 using 2005 as a*

*baseline.*

The Ag Drainage Management Coalition is a group of tiling companies working together to do work on saturated buffers. The do a lot of projects in the central part of the corn belt. We like to stay in touch and show our support of the work that they do. $

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $3,000 for Ag Drainage Management Coalition dues.**

**The motion carried.**

Our Conservation Technology Information Center dues are due.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $1,500 for Conservation Technology Information Center dues.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $2,500 for Ag Nutrient Policy Council dues.**

**The motion carried.**

Our CBMP dues are due.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $1,000 for Council on Best Management Practices dues.**

**The motion carried.**

The board discussed current issues at CBMP and what ideas we have for the organization going forward.

**It was moved by Don Guinnip and seconded by Randy DeSutter**

**THAT Randy DeSutter communicate that we want the program of work at CBMP to continue.**

**It was moved by Kenny Hartman and seconded by Matt Rush**

**THAT we table the motion and go into executive session.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Marty Marr and seconded by Matt Rush**

**THAT we come out of executive session.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Don Guinnip and seconded by Randy DeSutter**

**THAT we amend the motion on the table to, “THAT the Illinois Corn Growers Association request that CBMP reset their mission at their September meeting, create new goals that relate to that mission and be unified front in their issues going forward”.**

**The motion and amendment carried.**

Randy DeSutter indicated that if CBMP members can’t agree to a common goal that it should be disbanded or move forward only with those members who are in agreement.

*Goal 5: Improve the loss ratio of crop insurance for corn farmers in Illinois to at least a loss ratio of .8.*

The Farm Bill Task Force has met one time so far and will meet again soon. The task force will be working with other groups and individuals, including Gary Schnitkey at the University of Illinois, and will need funds to do the work.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $10,000 for the Farm Bill Task Force.**

**The motion carried.**

Randy Stauffer went over the Field to Market recognition program.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $1,500 for the Field to Market recognition program.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Don Guinnip and seconded by Ted Mottaz**

**THAT the report of the Grassroots Committee be placed on file including all committee recommendations for a total budget impact of $33,276.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Dave Rylander and seconded by Marty Marr**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

**The motion carried.**

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Marty Marr, Acting Secretary