**ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of a Meeting**

**Held January 16-17, 2018**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Corn Growers Association was held at the Illinois Corn office in Bloomington, Illinois on January 16-17, 2018.

 Directors present were:

 Bill Leigh Aron Carlson

 Justin Durdan Ted Mottaz

 Terry Smith Dave Rylander

 Marty Marr Don Guinnip

 Garrett Hawkins Randy DeSutter

 Matt Rush Joe Murphy

 Bill Christ Mike Homerding

 Jeff Jarboe Grant Noland

 Dennis Green

Also present were:

 Rodney Weinzierl Jim Tarmann

 Phil Thornton Lindsay Mitchell

 Laura Gentry Kayla Veeder

 Tricia Braid Dave Loos

 Travis Deppe Suzie Rogers

 Rich Clemmons Liz Brown-Reeves

 Kenny Hartman

The Board meeting was called to order by President, Justin Durdan at 12:45 pm.

The board had a joint meeting with the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, in which they discussed the termination of the management services agreement between IFB and IL Corn. The boards were presented with recommendations on a new employee benefits package from the Business Services Committee.

**It was moved by Randy DeSutter and seconded by Terry Smith**

**THAT we partner with TriNet, a Professional Employer Organization (PEO), to act as a co-employer with the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, who would sub-contract with the Illinois Corn Growers Association to split the associated costs equally.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Don Guinnip and seconded by Joe Murphy**

**THAT we offer our employees group health, dental, vision and life insurance as presented.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Ted Mottaz and seconded by Mike Homerding**

**THAT we carry short-term and long-term disability insurance with TriNet and continue our current wage continuation strategy for disability leaves.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Mike Homerding and seconded by Justin Durdan**

**THAT we keep our current Paid Time Off (PTO) accrual strategy as presented.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Matt Rush and seconded by Joe Murphy**

**THAT we contract with Benefits Planning Consultants (BPC) to provide our employees a retirement program as presented.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Kate Danner and seconded by Marty Marr**

**THAT the balance of undedicated “Post Healthcare Retirement” funds be redirected for “Post Management Services Agreement” for the purpose of covering the costs of vesting current employees in the retirement program upon their fifth anniversary of employment with the organization as well as other costs deemed appropriate by the Business Services Committee.**

 **The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Randy DeSutter and seconded by Bill Christ**

**THAT we authorize the Business Services Committee to negotiate a contract with our Executive Director that will be presented to the full board for approval.**

**The motion carried.**

Kenny Hartman gave an NCGA update.

Liz Brown and Rich Clemmons gave an Illinois legislative update.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Don Guinnip presented the minutes of the November Executive Committee meeting.

 **It was moved by Don Guinnip and seconded by Justin Durdan**

**THAT the minutes of the November 19, 2017 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Corn Growers Association be approved and placed on file.**

 **The motion carried.**

Don Guinnip presented the minutes of the August full board meeting.

 **It was moved by Don Guinnip and seconded by Terry Smith**

**THAT the minutes of the November 19-20, 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 December 31, 2017.

 **It was moved by Marty Marr and seconded by Kate Danner**

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

 **The motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Rod provided a recap of the IFB annual meeting. There was some discussion about the termination of the management services agreement and it seems as though IFB is getting some push back from their membership about this decision.

We are hearing that the farm bill will likely slip into 2019, or at least until after the election. We will be doing presentations to different groups on how to get the conservation title into the farm bill. There has been a lot of discussion about putting more work requirements on SNAP.

Tax reform legislation passed. We will continue to study this legislation and figure out the implications for corn growers.

The infrastructure bill could also slip into late summer or right ahead of the election. We will continue to watch this closely. President Trump talked about infrastructure at the AFBF conference last month. We will talk more with Congressmen about infrastructure when we are in DC in March.

We are still watching to see how the Undersecretary of Ag appointment will play out. Senator Cruz is not relenting to Bill Northy relative to his appointment as Undersecretary. The three positions under the Undersecretary will not be filled until the Undersecretary is appointed. This includes the Risk Management Agency Administrator, NRCS Chief and the FSA Administrator.

Iowa Corn plans to bring back nineteen of the deleted resolutions from the Corn Congress session last March. The policy group chairmen are reviewing these proposals and will make a recommendation during our caucus in Anaheim. There will likely be a resolution from South Dakota on mandatory base update but this is the only potentially controversial resolution that we have seen.

Randy Stauffer gave a Field to Market update.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Kayla Veeder reminded the board that we will be going to Washington, DC on March 11-14 and will be staying at the Phoenix Park Hotel.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Aron Carlson reported for the committee.

***Business Services Committee Meeting***

The Business Services Committee met last Wednesday and came up with the recommendations that we voted on during our joint meeting with ICMB.

***New Board Member Orientation***

Kate Danner, Garrett Hawkins and Keith Sanders were at the office on December 20 for their new board member orientation. Each new member will be assigned a tenured mentor to help them get acclimated.

***Ag Legislative Day***

Ag Legislative Day will be on April 11 this year. We will be assigned to visits with legislators. The event is a little later than usual this year but we will work to get some staff and directors to the event.

***2018 PAC Committee Assignments***

Aron Carlson has approved the following 2018 PAC assignments:

 Larry Walsh-District 1

 Mike Homerding-District 11

 Henry Kallal-District 13

 Chris Gould-District 14

 Ron Gray-District 15

 Tom Mueller-District 17

 Steve Pigg-District 18

***NCGA Priorities and Emerging Issues Meeting***

Aron Carlson attended the meeting. There was a lot of strategic planning. At some point we need to hold off on planning and start having some action.

***Corn Congress-Anaheim***

The Commodity Classic will be in Anaheim, California this year. Policy group leaders will be reviewing our proposed resolutions again, as well as proposed resolutions from other states in preparation for our caucus before the first session of Corn Congress.

***March DC Visits***

We will be going to Washington, DC for Hill visits on March 11-14.

Jeff Jarboe has made the decision to resign his director position on ICGA, effective immediately.

 **It was recommended by the committee**

 **THAT we accept Jeff Jarboe’s resignation.**

 **The motion carried.**

 **It was moved by Justin Durdan and seconded by Marty Marr**

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

 **The motion carried.**

EXPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Randy DeSutter reported for the committee.

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

ICGA was contacted by Congressman Rodney Davis to see if we could submit some questions for Senator Duckworth to ask at a Senate hearing to pin the Army Corps of Engineers to supporting NESP.

Marty Marr and Jim Tarmann were in Washington, DC in December, reminding our Congressional Delegation about the importance of lock and dam modernization before the beginning of the new year. The administration is supposed to be releasing their version of an infrastructure plan right after the State of the Union at the end of this month.

As long as we continue to budget via an omnibus bill, we do have a significant amount of funding, but we are unable to get a new start. The funding can only be used for ongoing projects.

In addition to the forty Congressmen that sent a letter to OMB supporting locks, we now have ten Senators on record via a letter to Director Mulvaney that they support locks and dam funding.

Jeff Jarboe has made the decision to resign his director position on ICGA, effective immediately.

 **It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICGA commit up to $1,300 for Waterways Council 2018 membership dues.**

 **The motion carried.**

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICGA commit up to $1,500 to sponsor the Waterways Council Feb 2018 symposium.**

 **The motion carried.**

Michigan, Minnesota and other great lakes states have asked for a permanent barrier between the Illinois River and Lake Michigan to eliminate the migration of Asian Carp.

There will be a WCI meeting on Feb 13-15 in Washington DC.

The UMIMRA annual meeting will be on Feb 9 in Burlington.

The ISA Symposium will be on Feb 15 in Bloomington.

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

Rod reviewed IL Corn efforts to get positive trade information in the hands of our farmers, legislators, etc. We reviewed the Trade Matters publication that was inserted into FarmWeek on Monday and will be arriving in all member mailboxes soon.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICGA commit $3,000 to for U.S. Grains Council 2018 membership dues.**

 **The motion carried.**

Phil Thornton provided an update on ethanol exports to Japan and China.

We are working with Japan on GHG emissions.

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

Lindsay shared an update of the most recent meeting of the Illinois Livestock Development Group. 2017 saw more than 120 Notices of Intent of Construct equaling more than 95,000 animal units. There were twelve open houses across the state directly reaching more than 3,000 people.

*Goal 4: Increase global consumer acceptance of science-based farming practices by 2020.*

Please pay attention to the daily updates for more information on where you can find a Dicamba training.

Lindsay shared an article from Global Farmer Network regarding the funding USDA has allocated to non-GMO education and PR.

*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.*

Travis Deppe provided an update of his work with ICMB on water quality. ICMB just approved funding to WIU to develop soil health curriculum and work with high school ag teachers to help them understand soil health.

ICMB committed $25,000 to have a grad student from ISU working with us on water testing and soil testing. They also allocated $46,000 to work with Waterborne Environmental on a modeling project.

Travis reviewed our cover crop coupon program for ICGA members and the state-wide water testing program which we’ll start gearing up for 2018.

Randy Stauffer provided a Field to Market update. He explained the group has the opportunity to have everyone in the room together to discuss sustainable ag. The group focuses on outcomes and keeping the decision making on how farmers farm in the hands of farmers. Randy DeSutter wonders if we can make the NCGA Yield Contest Winners spokespeople for our issues if the winners are using no-till, cover crops, or other practices we promote.

Phil shared an update on the Zea Mays Foundation, it’s work providing education and research on water quality and soil health, and how ICGA is benefitting from the extensive partnerships built with Zea Mays. Zea Mays is the ICGA formed not-for-profit foundation, organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes.

 **It was moved by Randy DeSutter and seconded by Joe Murphy**

**THAT the report of the Exports Committee be placed on file including all committee recommendations for a total budget impact of $5,800.**

 **The motion carried.**

Denis Bowman gave a U of I Extension update.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Terry Smith reported for the committee.

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

CHS is Rochelle is going to contract with Syngenta to purchase Enogen corn in the area. This will be a large contract for Syngenta.

The committee reviewed the ethanol production numbers for 2017. The US produced 15.8 billion gallons and set records for domestic blending and exports. Total demand was 15.7 billion gallons for the year, which was also a record.

Congressman Shimkus held a hearing last week with the Department of Energy about restructuring some of their programs. David Beudreau with DCLRS called this hearing to our attention and we were able to get information out to several of the automobile manufacturers, NREL and Oakridge Lab.

*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.*

Growth Energy, BIO, RFA and NCGA are working closely to convince EPA that they have the authority to grant the RVP waiver. Boyden Gray helped to point out the language in the statute that gives EPA that authority. EPA is reluctant to take this on right now. Petroleum marketers are trying to sell E15 but when they have to switch over during the summer months, it causes confusion for the consumer.

Rich Clemmons and Liz brown Reeves were here yesterday to give an update. Last summer we were effective in moving the sales tax incentive from E10 to E15 so now there is a level playing field in the marketplace. We did get an extension on E85 through 2023. This spring we are going to introduce legislation to provide a sales tax incentive on E15 and mid-level blends.

We would like to ask 25x25 to solicit everyone who participates in the program for membership monies instead of just corn. We will discuss this with other participants and possibly take action on this during our board meeting at Classic.

Dave Loos gave an update on the Ag/Auto/Ethanol working group.

We have a meeting on January 24 with Gilbarco and our partners who have been negotiating standardization agreements. We will talk about the results of the E30 and E40 testing that was just completed at Underwriters Laboratory and how we can move the certification for trees higher than E25. We will also investigate whether or not the certification could be retroactive for pumps that are already in use.

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

NCERC is very thankful and appreciative of our work to get funding for the center in our last tax incentive bill. We will be working with NCERC to get them this funding again.

*Goal 5: Grow and support the use of corn and corn co-products by the livestock industry in Illinois.*

Lindsay Mitchell gave an update on the Illinois Livestock Development Group.

We received a thank-you from the National Academy of Science for helping publish their nutrition books.

 **It was moved by Terry Smith and seconded by Justin Durdan**

**THAT the report of the Industrial Committee be placed on file.**

 **The motion carried.**

GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Justin Durdan 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.*

Jim Tarmann distributed the CornBelters schedule for this year. Directors can select a date during the season and use the suite if they desire.

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

Aron Carlson has made 2018 PAC Committee assignments. Jim Tarmann distributed the list of representatives. Districts for our PAC committee mimics our congressional districts.

Jim Tarmnn distributed our 2018 NCGA delegate listing. We have 18 delegates this year.

Kane County Corn Growers did not submit some receipts from expenses last fiscal year but would like to turn them in now for reimbursement.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we approve $1,000 in county grants for Kane County Corn Growers.**

 **The motion carried.**

David Beudreau and David Crow will be doing a presentation during our PAC Committee meeting on February 8. We will record their presentation and post it to the website.

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

We typically do an annual membership mailing in the winter. We plan to do the mailing in March this year. The mailing typically generates about 250 new members.

 **It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we spend up to $15,000 in expenses for the annual ICGA membership mailing**

 **The motion carried.**

*Goal 4: Reduce the use of nitrogen and phospherous by 5 percent per bushel by 2019 using 2005 as a baseline.*

We will be partnering with Bayer once again to get their new fluidity agent into the hands of farmers. This product eliminates dust and lubricants that are known to be harmful for bees. This year we’ll be giving product to 200 people with a potential option for a coupon for additional interested farmers.

Laura Gentry gave an update on PCM. There are currently 112 enrollees in Precision Conservation Management (PCM) Illinois and twelve in Kentucky, for a total of over 1,800 fields and 115,000 acres enrolled. Clay Bess serves the eastern region specialist, Jacob Walker in the northern region, and we have just closed the search for a specialist for central Illinois (Christian, Macoupon, and Sangamon Counties). We’ve gotten more serious about expanding PCM into Macon, Piatt, and DeWitt Counties.

Resource Analysis Assessment Plans are the current focus for the PCM team. This is the first year that there are several years of data available for specialists to evaluate for farmers and start to see meaningful details and results. Farmers are expecting to receive their RAAP on February 1.

Using a USDA cost match grant, we are also working on analyzing all of this data and come up with some financial/environmental conclusions for Illinois farmers.

Our annual CBMP membership is up for renewal.

 **It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we approve $1,000 for the Council of Best Management Practices membership dues.**

 **The motion carried.**

Our annual Ag Drainage Management Coalition membership is up for renewal.

 **It was moved by the committee**

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

 **The motion carried.**

Our annual CTIC membership is up for renewal.

 **It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we approve $1,000 for CTIC membership dues**

 **The motion carried.**

 **It was moved by Justin Durdan and seconded by Marty Marr**

**THAT the report of the Grassroots Committee be placed on file including all committee recommendations for a total budget impact of $21,000.**

 **The motion carried.**

Directors gave brief board member reports.

 **It was moved by Joe Murphy and seconded by Kate Danner**

 **THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

 **The motion carried.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 Don Guinnip, Secretary