**ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of a Virtual Board Meeting**

**Held December 30, 2020**

Directors present were:

Mike Wurmnest Matt Raben

Roger Sy Paul Jeschke

Pat Dumoulin Tim Lenz

Jim Reed Mark Wilson

Tim Thompson Dirk Rice

Dale Haudrich Rob Elliott

Jeff Scates Jon Rosenstiel

Also present were:

Rodney Weinzierl Laura Gentry

Jim Tarmann Kayla Veeder

Megan Dwyer Lucas McPherson Collin Watter Dan Obert

The ICMB Exports Committee met earlier this month to discuss the USGC proposal which will compare the value of corn from different origins to foreign wet milling customers.  The US Grains Council’s “Industrial Starch Proposal” seeks funding for a continuation of programming started with ATP funding which demonstrated that US corn has about three percent more starch than competitor origins (Brazil, Argentina, and Ukraine).  The higher starch content is an opportunity for foreign wet millers to extract greater profits from feedstocks, but is also a way for USGC to change the conversation about US corn export quality and condition concerns.  The proposal has two phases: 1) lab evaluation of corn samples by Dr. Vijay Singh at the University of Illinois, and 2) technical service outreach to foreign wet millers that utilizes the results of Phase One and helps maximize profit potential by using US corn.

**It was moved by the Exports Committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $110,000 annually, for two years, to support Dr. Vijay Singh’s research that demonstrates greater profit potential of US corn versus other corn export origins, with funds to be sent when staffing is sufficient to begin the work.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Pat Dumoulin: Yes

Jon Rosenstiel: Yes

Rob Elliott: Yes

Mark Wilson: Yes

Paul Jeschke: Yes

Dirk Rice: Yes

Jim Reed: Yes

Mike Wurmnest: Yes

Tim Thompson: Yes

Tim Lenz: Yes

Roger Sy: Yes

Matt Raben: Yes

Dale Haudrich: Yes

Jeff Scates: Yes

**The motion carried.**

Lindsay Mitchell and Jim Tarmann were finally able to sit down with Cornbelters officials this week to discuss a recap of their 2020 season activities.  Prior to the meeting we expected the cancellation of their season to have had a serious effect on them in 2020 like many businesses throughout the state.  To our surprise their numbers were better (in some cases, triple) than 2019 mainly because they were quick to change their business model and adapt.  Not only were they creative with baseball offerings they basically worked with the community to make it their space to use beyond baseball, hosting anything and everything i.e. funerals, graduations, church services, outdoor concerts and even a “Trump Rally”/debate watch party which drew more than 1700 attendees which was featured on CNN and other media outlets.  They were able to draw members of the community to the facility who had never been there before.

**It was moved by the Industrial Committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $175,000 for the FY21 Cornbelters Sponsorship.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Pat Dumoulin: Yes

Jon Rosenstiel: Yes

Rob Elliott: Yes

Mark Wilson: Yes

Paul Jeschke: Yes

Dirk Rice: Yes

Jim Reed: Yes

Mike Wurmnest: Yes

Tim Thompson: Yes

Tim Lenz: Yes

Roger Sy: Yes

Matt Raben: Yes

Dale Haudrich: Yes

Jeff Scates: Yes

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Paul Jeschke and seconded by Pat Dumoulin**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

**The motion carried.**

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Jon Rosenstiel, Secretary