**ILLINOIS CORN MARKETING BOARD**

**Minutes of a Meeting**

**Held November 23, 2020**

A meeting of the directors of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board was held virtually on November 23, 2020.

Directors present were:

Jon Rosenstiel Mike Wurmnest

Dan Cole Roger Sy

Pat Dumoulin Tim Lenz

Jim Reed Mark Wilson

Tim Thompson Dirk Rice

Dale Haudrich Rob Elliott

Jeff Scates Paul Jeschke

Matt Raben

Also present were:

Rodney Weinzierl Laura Gentry

Dave Loos Jim Tarmann

Lindsay Mitchell Kayla Veeder

Travis Deppe Megan Dwyer Collin Watters Ashley Deal

Jacqueline Muhammad Suzie Rogers

Dan Obert

Dirk Rice, chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and the board reviewed the agenda.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Jim Reed reviewed the minutes of the August Executive Committee meeting.

**It was moved by Jon Rosenstiel and seconded by Mark Wilson**

**THAT the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Executive Committee meeting be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

Jim Reed reviewed the minutes of the August full board meeting.

**It was moved by Jim Reed and seconded by Mark Wilson**

**THAT the minutes of the August 18-19, 2020 full board meeting be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

TREASURERS REPORT

Jim Reed reviewed an excerpt from the draft FY20 audit. Benn Knapp, partner at Dunbar, will present the details on the complete audit at a future date.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Roger Sy reported for the committee.

***Corn Congress***

ICMB leadership will work collaboratively with ICGA leadership to appoint delegates to NCGA Corn Congress. We have not seen any information about the format of the meeting from NCGA yet. This is typically an interactive session and we will encourage NCGA to ensure that delegates

We plan to have our policy breakout meetings in December and will attempt to coordinate the full policy meeting with the January joint board meeting with the Illinois Corn Growers Association.

We are considering a joint meeting with Illinois Soybeans during the dates that were previously scheduled for Commodity Classic.

***NCGA Corn Board Applications***

NCGA Corn Board applications will be due in January. Applications should be submitted to NCGA.

***Funding for Executive Programs & Communications Plan***

The committee discussed funding for Executive Committee programs. The Executive Committee would like to ensure that IL Corn does not process payments for programs that don’t happen this year.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT we commit funding for the following Executive Programs:**

**-IFB ALOT $1,500**

**-IL Agri Women $2,500**

**-4-H Project Partner Program $2,000**

The committee discussed redirecting funds that were previously committed for the 2020 IFB annual meeting to the Ag in the Classroom program. The program has pivoted to provide virtual learning tools during the pandemic. The committee looks forward to a formal funding presentation from the Ag in the Classroom program.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT we redirect $2,500 previously committed to the Taste of Illinois program at the IFB annual meeting to assist in the Ag in the Classroom auction.**

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT we commit funding for the following Communications Plan programs:**

**-Corn Education Supplies $8,000**

**-General Corn Brochures $4,500**

**-Exhibits/Displays $3,500**

**-Discretionary Media $20,000**

***Proposed Committee Name Changes***

The committee discussed the strategic planning process and began discussions about updating the names of the Industrial and Exports committees. We will begin analyzing goals for the committees at our committee meetings this week.

The committee previewed updated logo options. Lindsay Mitchell will officially present these options and review them during the full board meeting.

***Executive Director Performance Review***

The 2020 Executive Director performance review will be deployed on November 30. Newport Group will analyze the results and present to the Business Services committee in January.

***2021 ICMB Election Process***

We will begin working with other commodity organizations and the Illinois Department of Agriculture to manage expectations for the 2021 commodity elections.

***Finance/Audit Committee***

The committee discussed bringing in the audit committee as a small group to manage voucher reviews if they don’t have an opportunity to complete them during a board meeting.

The committee is interested in doing a more comprehensive analysis on refunds.

**It was moved by Roger Sy and seconded by Jim Reed**

**THAT we approve the report of the Executive Committee with a total budget impact of $42,000.**

**The motion carried.**

EXPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeff Scates reported for committee.

*Goal 1: Start construction of two new lock replacements within the Upper Mississippi River Basin by 2019.*

Waterways issues continue to be a bipartisan effort. The lock closures/openings on the Illinois River were on time. Jim Tarmann visited all the locks. The Chicago Carpenters invited us to be a part of their filming “Built to Last” to showcase the progress on the locks and their importance.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $50,000 for dues to be a part of Waterways Council. (Goal 1.A.1.)**

The House and the Senate are still meeting and will hopefully continue progress on the Water Resources Development Act. Again, WRDA is considered bi-partisan so there are high hopes of WRDA 2020 being passed during lame duck. We ended up with a 65/35 cost share change in the Inland Waterway Trust Fund and this has been secured in both chambers.

The Army Corp of Engineers put together a schedule which prioritizes the locks and dams. In the next section, two of the four locks are located in Illinois and will be a new start.

*Goal 2: Increase domestic and foreign demand for corn and corn-based products through improved sustainability of corn production and uses regarding it’s carbon footprint, water, nutrient inputs and other sustainable measures by 400 million bushels.*

Collin updated the committee on Kristy Moore’s work in Mexico and Indonesia. Kristy works with US Grains Council frequently and we partner with other states to fund her work.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $30,000 to fund Kristy Moore’s work partnering with others to grow demand for ethanol. (Goal 2.1.A.4.)**

The land use change project has gone extremely well. There is a workshop later this afternoon with the folks from the USEPA to discuss the work. The EPA was using land use change models with low resolution models. We found a model with better resolution and published a paper.

Field to Market recognized PCM with the Collaborator of the Year award.   
  
Travis Deppe gave an update on the RCCP renewal. PCM is the only group who received their renewal prior to their expiration date.   
  
We are now starting to partner with the Illinois Soybean Association on the PCM program. We will be adding several new regions with this partnership.

Laura Gentry talked about the Ecosystem Market Consortium (ESMC) which is a carbon market that is coming out. This program is modeled after Field to Market’s work. You can get more than carbon credits, including water credits and in the future, biodiversity assets.

*Goal 3: Inform a growing world population of the benefits of the improving technology of food production.*

ICGA is working on a new endorsement for the timing of nitrogen. This would potentially be available for the 2022 crop year. Rod Weinzierl asks that we be cognizant of the next Farm Bill and remain engaged on crop insurance, given the amount of government money spent on agriculture in the past years.   
  
Lindsay Mitchell explained the Global Farmer Network is a network of farmers around the globe who are focused on using technology and humanitarian uses for technology. They also talk significantly about trade and we all need to work together so everyone has access to food that they need.

**It was recommended by the committee****THAT ICMB commit $25,000 to fund Global Farmers Network to help produce quality content in regards to agriculture, technology and humanitarian issues. (Goal 3.1.D.2.)**

There are five-year registrations for two Dicamba products in cotton and soy. There are quite a few label requirement changes.

*Goal 4: Invest in and collaborate with others on research, demonstration, adoption, measurement, and modeling of natural resource issues to promote science-based, voluntary solutions to environmental regulatory concerns.*

Dr. Laura Gentry gave an update on the field lab. Laura reported the CIG grant was not funded.

Collin Watters touched upon how we’re still working with the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP). Illinois Soybeans plans to join ISAP.

Travis Deppe touched upon the cover crop program. The goal is to create a low barrier to entry for folks who have never used a cover crop before. The idea is to keep it low cost to allow them to try it

Travis gave an update on the water testing program. The program incentivizes individuals to submit a water test by communicating a donations to Illinois FFA for each test submitted.

The Nature Conservancy asked if we wanted to do some satellite imagery work with Ken Koppenhagen. We’ve been doing cover crop analysis and buffer strip analysis.

**It was recommended by the committee  
  
THAT ICMB commit up to $15,000 for continuation of Ken’s work to improve satellite imagery and promote usage of cover crop analysis and buffer strips. (Goal 4.1.D.2.)**

Travis Deppe talked about how the nitrate levels in the Rock River Region are really high and we need to work on it to keep it down. We are partnering with Growmark to help get the numbers down.   
  
The Illinois Monarch Project continues to work towards their goal of establishing more monarch habitats throughout the state. The Virtual Summit Series is occurring over the next several months. The coalition would like additional funds to continue work on their website and build an interactive feature for the action plan. We helped fund a good portion of the original website.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $5,000 to build upon the Illinois Monarch Project’s website to include an interactive feature of the action plan. (Goal 4.1.F.)**

*Goal 5: Increase corn, DDGS, and other corn co-products exports to 3.5 billion bushels by 2020.*  
  
Grand and Feed Assn of IL: Collin Watters mentioned the upcoming Illinois Grain and Feed Association meeting.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $3,000 for attendance and support of the Grain and Feed Association Conference. (Goal 5.1.B.2.)**

*Goal 6: Increase corn and corn co-product usage by the domestic and international livestock sector by 25 percent by 2022.*

Lindsay Mitchell talked about how we continue to support the Pork Power program and the logistics behind how the food donations work. Even though things can’t be done in person there are still virtual options for donation opportunities. We partner with Illinois Pork Association for this project.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commits up to $75,000 to the Pork Power program.**

**(Goal 6.1.E.1.)**

**The motion carried.**

Illinois Pork Association is asking to continue partnerships with regional grocers to promote pork though digital spaces and the entire campaign.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $50,000 to support the Illinois Pork Association to engage in the digital campaign highlighting pork with local grocers. (Goal 6.1.E.2.)**

Illinois Beef Association is asking for an assortment of funding opportunities like director travel, summer beef conference money, young leadership and youth development and other programs throughout the organization. They would also like to take the model ICMB took with their anthem and make a beef anthem campaign. They also combined their ask for support their annual meeting.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $95,000 to Illinois Beef Association to support their various programs including a digital advertising campaign. The funding also includes support for the annual meeting. (Goal 6.1.E.3.)**

Even though Pork Expo is cancelled, IL Pork would like to do a four-week virtual series in partnership with IL Corn and IL Soy.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commits 5,000 to go towards moving the Pork Expo into an online virtual format and support of their annual meeting. (Goal 6.1.E.5.)**

**It was moved by Mark Wilson and seconded by Jon Rosenstiel**

**THAT the report of the Exports Committee be approved including all committee recommendations with a total budget impact of $353,000.**

**The motion carried.**

The board heard funding presentations from Greg Tyler and Shelby Watson from USAPEEC and John Hinners and Dan Halstrom from USMEF.

**It was moved by Pat Dumoulin and seconded by Tim Lenz**

**THAT we commit $265,000 to USAPEEC from the FY21 budget.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Mark Wilson and seconded by Jon Rosenstiel**

**THAT we commit $330,000 to USMEF from the FY21 budget.**

**The motion carried.**

The committee discussed NCGA funding for FY21.

**It was moved by Tim Lenz and seconded by Pat Dumoulin**

**THAT we commit $643,000 to NCGA for FY21 base funding.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Jon Rosenstiel and seconded by Tim Thompson**

**THAT we commit $205,000 to NCGA for FY21 portfolio funding.**

**The motion carried.**

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Tim Lenz reported for the committee.

Collin Watters presented an outline of existing Industrial Committee goals and began discussions to strategically update goals to be more effective.

*Goal 1: Expand cornstarch to ethanol usage to 6.5 billion bushels by 2022.*

The ethanol industry is doing fairly well right now. There is somewhat of an supply and demand equilibrium right now and are experiencing decent margins.

USEPA has not announced 2021 RVO numbers to date. They may wait until after the election.

Dave Loos gave an update on the USDA HBIP program. Illinois ended up with around $3,877,684 of the E15/E85 funding available through the program. This funding went to 305 pumps at thirty-seven Illinois stations.

Jim Reed gave an update on the NCGA Ethanol Action Team and discussed the long-term direction of NCGA committee objectives that differ from those of Illinois.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit up to $50,000 to support NCGA’s Ethanol Committee in the third quarter upon completion of a project to evaluate and assess proposed federal fuel policies’ impact to corn grind and farmer profitability, including current RFS policy, post 2022 RFS policy, the LCFS, and a high octane standard. (Goal 1, II)**

The committee discussed NCGA’s sponsorship of Crappie Masters. The committee is interested in getting some additional information about the exposure of the program.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit up to $25,000 to support NCGA’s sponsorship of Crappie Masters. (Goal 1, II)**

*Goal 2: By 2021, increase from 1,224 million bushels to 1,600 million bushels of corn processed for food, feed, bioproducts and fuel in the state.*

Dave Loos gave an update on doctoral research at the National Corn to Ethanol Research Center. Our funding gives NCERC the research support they need to work with industry and startup companies on projects and go after grant funding with USDA. NCERC just signed a $1.1M continuation contract with DuPont to complete programs at the center in the next couple of months.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit up to $100,000 to provide doctoral research support to the National Corn to Ethanol Research Center. (Goal 2C)**

**The motion carried.**

The committee discussed Clear Flame technology in which diesel engines can operate utilizing ethanol. John Deere is considering a testing program to develop this technology.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit up to $150,000 to support a test program with John Deere using the Clear Flame Technology utilizing ethanol. (Goal 2F1)**

**The motion carried.**

Dave informed the group that we are still working closely with the Boyden Gray team on alternate ways to get high octane low carbon fuel into USEPA’s rules and regulations as an alternate pathway to legislation. We propose that EPA move ahead with implementing a high-octane motor fuels standard that the autos can design around as it is within their authority.

The Ag Auto Ethanol working group’s annual forum is happening virtually this week. Items of discussion include the r-factor, f-factor, FFV credits, etc.

*Goal 4: Amplify IL Corn’s goals and the efforts of partner organizations’ consumer outreach programing as it relates to building confidence and trust in corn farmers and corn farming methodologies through sponsorships, programs, and training.*

Lindsay Mitchell reviewed highlights of the Illinois Runs on Homegrown Corn campaign on the specific uses of corn. Advertising costs grew dramatically in October and November, likely due to pressure from political ads in that timeframe.

Lindsay gave an update on FY20 highlights of the Illinois Farm Families program. The most recent feature was Jeff Jarboe’s carbon sequestration video that got 57,000 views in October. There was also a pork video that IFF pulled due to high advertising costs. They plan to begin pushing this video again in the spring. Sarah Hastings and Eric Snodgrass worked on a video on climate and weather patterns and how farmers combat extreme weather events. This video will be released in March. Biofuels and bioplastics videos will continue running next year.

We expect that sustainability will be an increasingly important topic when COVID-19 winds down.

Lindsay gave an update on the NCGA Corn Reputation project. Illinois farmer, Krista Swanson, is featured in this campaign.

*Goal 5: By 2020 demonstrate a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of corn starch ethanol compared to 2005 base gasoline.*

Dave reviewed a proposal from American Lung and Steffan Mueller to do an assessment on the health benefits of higher blends of ethanol in urban areas around the nation. We think this study will be very useful as we support the cap on aeromatics in the proposed high-octane standard. This will also be useful in Illinois as a part the governor’s clean transportation energy initiative. We think we can also garner support with urban Representatives as this information would benefit their constituents.

**It was moved by the committee**

**That ICMB commit $75,000 for a study to determine the health benefits of higher blends of ethanol in urban populations nationwide. (Goal 5I)**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Tim Lenz and seconded by Jim Reed**

**THAT the report of the Industrial Committee be approved including all committee recommendations with a total budget impact of $400,000.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Jim Reed and seconded by Tim Thompson**

**THAT we adjourn the meeting.**

**The motion carried.**

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Jon Rosenstiel, Secretary