**ILLINOIS CORN MARKETING BOARD**

**Minutes of a Meeting**

**Held January 21, 2021**

A meeting of the directors of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board was held virtually on January 21, 2021.

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 Lucas McPherson

Dan Obert

Dirk Rice, chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and the board reviewed the agenda.

Kevin Daugherty and Susan Moore, Illinois Agricultural Association, presented a funding request for the Ag in the Classroom program to the full board.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Jon Rosenstiel reviewed the minutes of the November Executive Committee meeting.

**It was moved by Jon Rosenstiel and seconded by Jeff Scates**

**THAT the minutes of the November 16, 2020 Executive Committee meeting be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

Jon Rosenstiel reviewed the minutes of the November full board meeting.

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

**THAT the minutes of the November 23, 2020 full board meeting be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

Jon Rosenstiel reviewed the minutes of the December full board meeting.

**It was moved by Jon Rosenstiel and seconded by Roger Sy**

**THAT the minutes of the December 30, 2020 full board meeting be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

TREASURERS REPORT

Jim Reed reported that the office is training new accounting staff and is undergoing a software conversion. We expect to have up to date financials at the next board meeting.

Lucas McPherson, Illinois Corn Accounting Manager, informed the board that the Whistleblower and Conflict of Interest policy has been mailed out and should be returned to the office.

Adam Funk, partner at Dunbar, Breitweiser & Company, LLP presented the FY20 audit.

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

**THAT we place the FY20 audit on file.**

**The motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rodney Weinzierl gave a legislative update. Rod gave an update on President Biden’s appointees that will be confirmed in the next few weeks and gave an update on pending elections.

Rod reported that Chris Welch will be the new Illinois Speaker of the House.

Illinois SB1407 did not make it through the last legislative session but we expect to see it come up again in the next session.

The board discussed some of President Biden’s first executive orders and their potential implications on WOTUS, ethanol, and agriculture.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Roger Sy reported for the committee.

***Petition Availability***

Rodney Weinzierl met with Illinois Soybeans to discuss commodity elections for 2021. The committee discussed options for completing petitions in this election cycle. The committee discussed electronic platforms to collect signatures. Rod will continue to work with other commodity groups and develop a plan that will work for everyone.

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

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT we commit $2,000 for the 2021 State Fair.**

The Gateway Food for Thought program focuses on increasing awareness around food and agriculture in the St. Louis area.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT we commit $1,000 for the Gateway Food for Thought program.**

The committee discussed the Captain Cornelius costume. The committee typically approves funds for shipping and maintenance of the costume.

**It was recommended by the committee**

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

**-Captain Cornelius $1,000**

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

**THAT we approve $90,000 for the Ag in the Classroom program.**

**The motion carried.**

***NCGA Priorities & Emerging Issues Report***

Mark Wilson gave an update on the topics of discussion during the recent priorities meeting with NCGA. Ethanol, trade, and infrastructure were some of the top priorities coming out of the meeting.

***Corn Congress Virtual Meeting Overview***

The deadline to submit resolutions to NCGA is February 11. Caucuses are set the last week of February. Rod reviewed a rough schedule for Commodity Classic/Corn Congress. Pending the guidelines set by the governor, we intend to schedule our policy meeting the last week of January.

***Business Services Committee Report***

The Business Services Committee met to review the Executive Director Performance report and analysis, completed by Newport Group.

***Strategic Plan Update***

All committees have a set of draft goals to review at our board meetings next week. Collin Watters will be participating in committee meetings to facilitate these discussions.

**It was moved by Roger Sy and seconded by Jon Rosenstiel**

**THAT we approve the report of the Executive Committee with a total budget impact of $4,000.**

**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.*

Jim Tarmann reported that Asian carp have been an issue because mitigation is in competition with funding for locks and dams. Michigan and Illinois have signed an understanding for funding towards keeping the Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes.

Jim reported that WRDA passed in the overall omnibus bill on December 27th. They changed the cost share from 50/50 to 65/35, a benefit that helps funding move quicker. Lock 25 on the Mississippi River is towards the top on the list for the next lock updates.  
  
Rod Weinzierl reported that Texas and Pennsylvania have started their own discussions around the Farm Bill.

*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.*

Megan Dwyer updated the committee on life cycle analysis work being done by NCGA and the University of Arkansas. The research has issues and they are working on finding a solution. The University of Arkansas is using a grad student to better research this topic.   
  
Travis Deppe updated there is new NRCS funding and the RCPP has been renewed. Between all the grants, they have brought in $12 million dollars of federal funding back to farmers for conservation. Illinois Soybean Association funding is essentially doubling the size of the PCM program. Laura updated on the nutrient losses in the most recent report.

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

FarmDocDaily does a lot of webinars and research and publishes articles which we use for our own publications. They do a lot of economic and conservation articles and articles surrounding farm policy which will be important for the next farm bill.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $25,000 to support FarmDocDaily and their work publishing research and other articles in regards to farm policy. (Goal 3.1.B.)**

Rod Weinzierl touched upon how Ag needs to position itself as a solution to climate change and other environmental issues and we need to keep up that position.   
  
Megan Dwyer updated the group on Dicamba’s re-reregistration. The EPA’s updated endangered species map is out.  
  
The virtual anhydrous training is up and running. We have been working with the Illinois Department of Ag and Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association to avoid regulations across the state but also satisfy the state politicians and addressing the safety need around anhydrous ammonia.

*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 updated the group on the field lab. There is no one locked in there for the 2021 growing season. This is a result of two grant projects we thought were certain deals fell through on us. Mark Wilson reiterated that we’ve invested too much money to give it away.   
  
Megan Dwyer gave an update on the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership. Illinois Soybeans will be joining. ISAP has been working on the Fall Covers and Spring Savings Program and covers 50,000 acres.   
  
The water testing strips program is going to take place again this year and strips will be mailed out. The program was successful last year and raised about $635 for FFA chapters across the state.  
  
ICC is applying for grants to be able to do their own water quality testing in house. They are excited to have the new equipment we moved from ISU and look forward to getting data this year.

Dan Perkins continues to do work to reduce the nitrogen runoff in the Lower Rock River Watershed.  
  
The Monarch Butterfly was put on the endangered species list as a low priority. There is no immediate change to farming practices. The decision will be reviewed yearly.

*Goal 5: Increase corn, DDGS, and other corn co-products exports to 3.5 billion bushels by 2020.*  
  
Collin Watters reported we still need to pay dues to be a part of the Illinois Grain and Feed Association.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit up to 1,000 for dues to the Grain and Feed Association (Goal 5.1.B.2.)**

Collin gave an update on the US Grains Council starch evaluation project.   
  
Collin reported that US Grains Council is not having trade teams and until COVID is under control. However, the option to meet virtually has opened up new opportunities for different people to connect.

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

Marty Marr is now the president of the Illinois Livestock Development Group and has proposed an advertising campaign about how farmers “have Illinoisan’s backs” when it comes to food production.

The Illinois Milk Producers Association Illinois Dairy Summit is held for dairy farmers to gather virtually this year and learn about different topics.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $3,000 to the Illinois Dairy Summit and Illinois Milk Producers Association.(Goal 6.1.E.6.)**

**It was moved by Jon Rosenstiel and seconded by Pat Dumoulin**

**THAT the report of the Exports Committee be approved including all committee recommendations with a total budget impact of $29,000.**

**The motion carried.**

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Tim Lenz reported for the committee.

Collin Watters presented an outline of existing Industrial Committee goals and continued discussions to strategically update committee goals.

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

USEPA did not end up granting a large number of SRE waivers as we expected. The American Petroleum Institute sent a letter to USEPA asking them not to approve additional SREs. We’re not sure how much this impacted EPA’s decision.

USEPA did revisit GAP waivers on three small refineries in the 10th circuit unexpectedly.

USEPA announced their anti-backsliding study report on Friday. They are not going to take any action based on the findings in this study related to RVO numbers in the future (2021). There are some big concerns about environmental impacts cited in the study, both around land use change and nox emissions associated with higher blends of ethanol.

USEPA also released a proposed rule around E15 labeling at the pump. The proposed rule would eliminate the “warning” look of E15 stickers and would make them look like other informational stickers on the pump.

The Lung Association is working with the recipients of the latest USDA infrastructure program.

Jim Reed gave an update on the NCGA Ethanol Action Team.

Brian West, of West Energy and Environment Associates joined the meeting to provide an update on the California E15 Test Program and an Assessment of ClearFlame Engines’ Patent and Proposal.

Brian reviewed the ClearFlame project and confirmed that the approach is technically sound. Their goal is to achieve true mixing-controlled compression ignition with low cetane oxygenated fuel (ethanol). Lean MMCI has been successful in their Cummins demonstration. The John Deere proposal mirrors the Cummins effort and identifies several important deliverables.

*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.*

Steffan Mueller continues to work on running the MOVES model around the Midwest to demonstrate the health impacts of higher blends of ethanol. He is contracting this work out to run to moves model to assess health impacts in Midwest cities.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit up to $25,000 to support running the MOVES Model for large cities in the Midwest to assess health impacts. (Goal 2B)**

NCERC is currently involved in putting together a large proposal to DCEO to expand their fermentation suite. Their ask is for $1.4 million and will require a 1:1 match. We would like to consider funding toward this project to show our support.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit up to $50,000 to NCERC for matching funds to expand their wet lab capabilities. (Goal 2D2)**

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

We expect EPA to change the SAFE rule sometime in the next six months. We may have an opportunity related to sub sim on the RVP waiver. USEPA will also be responding to comments about R-factor and CO2 penalty. We would like to have some funds available to respond to these announcements.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit up to $100,000 to support the development of the necessary fuel specs related to aromatics, octane, sub-sim, and others to enable higher blends of ethanol. (Goal 2F2)**

**The motion carried.**

*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 gave an update on Illinois Farm Families. The program developed a new pamphlet that highlights stories from our recent docuseries videos. These programs are designed around how agriculture can help be a solution to global problems. ICGA will be sending these pamphlets to the Illinois General Assembly.

Lindsay reviewed an update on the BTN sponsorship and reviewed the best performing social pieces. This program highlights Unleaded 88 (E15).

Lindsay gave an update on FFA. We offered a scholarship opportunity to former FFA students who participated in our July Washington, DC experience. A student who secured an internship with Senator Grassley was awarded one of these scholarship opportunities.

We received a request from Lincoln Land Community College. They built a new agricultural center and are looking for sponsors to provide naming rights for the center. IL Pork and IL Beef have supported the project but don’t have the funds to contribute now. IL Soybeans are also interested but will only participate if IL Corn participates as well. The committee requested that staff develop some guidelines for similar requests and come back to this opportunity later.

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

Ken Copenhaver continues to work on land use change issues. Land use change issues are going to enter into USEPA’s decisions on whether or not the RFS has caused environmental damage and may impact future RVO numbers. Ken will work on summarizing the November Land Use Change Workshop that will be shared with stakeholders.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $15,000 to complete the summary of the Land Use Change Workshop Discussions and Presentations organized by Corn Growers and hosted by National Academy of Science with support from USEPA and USDA. (Goal 5A)**

The committee discussed the U of I plant breeding fellowship program. We will request a more formal update from these students on their work and will share with the committee.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICMB commit $180,000 to the University of Illinois C/U Plant Breeding Program to support corn breeding graduates in their advanced degrees conducting corn breeding research toward the benefit of corn growers. (Goal 5E)**

**The motion carried.**

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

**THAT the report of the Industrial Committee be approved including all committee recommendations with a total budget impact of $370,000.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Jim Reed and seconded by Jon Rosenstiel**

**THAT we go into executive session to discuss our Executive Director performance review.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Pat Dumoulin and seconded by Jeff Scates**

**THAT we exit executive session.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Jim Reed and seconded by Jeff Scates**

**THAT we adjourn the meeting.**

**The motion carried.**

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Jon Rosenstiel, Secretary