**ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of a Meeting**

**Held May 31, 2019**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Corn Growers Association was held at the Illinois Corn office in Bloomington, Illinois on May 31, 2019.

Directors present were:

Bill Leigh Aron Carlson

Sarah Hastings Ted Mottaz

Terry Smith Dave Rylander

Marty Marr Don Guinnip

Kate Danner Keith Sanders

Matt Rush Joe Murphy

Randy DeSutter Justin Durdan

Also present were:

Rodney Weinzierl Jim Tarmann

Phil Thornton Lindsay Mitchell

Laura Gentry Kayla Veeder

Dave Loos Suzie Rogers

The Board meeting was called to order by President, Ted Mottaz at 7:00 am.

Brooke Appleton, Vice President of Public Policy at NCGA, called to give an update on federal policy issues including MFP and USMCA.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Dave Rylander presented the minutes of the February 26 Executive Committee meeting.

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

**THAT the minutes of the February 26, 2019 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Corn Growers Association be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

Dave Rylander presented the minutes of the February 26 full board meeting.

**It was moved by Keith Sanders and seconded by Bill Leigh**

**THAT the minutes of the February 26, 2019 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Corn Growers Association be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

TREASURERS REPORT

Matt Rush reviewed the financial statements for the period ending April 30, 2019.

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

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

**The motion carried.**

Dr. Gary Schnitkey called in and updated the board on prevent plant options/scenarios.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Rod discussed planting progress and planting conditions around the state. He reported that the Gulf is not getting enough corn to fill orders right now.

Jon Doggett visited the IL Corn office recently. He committed to visiting himself or sending an NCGA Vice President to visit each state office every year. The conversations went very well and Jon listened to issues specific to our state.

The HOLC mailing that we sent out was very well received. We have a Water Transportation piece going out soon as well.

Governor Pritzker is focusing on his priorities and intends to get them passed in the next few days. We will be hearing more about tax issues in Illinois soon.

Rod gave an update on SB1407, which addresses the union labor issue during ethanol site construction. This bill would negatively impact growth in the ethanol industry and would disincentivize ethanol plants from building in-state.

Suzie reviewed the proposed FY20 budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Kayla Veeder reviewed the registration and housing process for Commodity Classic.

Kayla notified the board that election notices were mailed out in Districts 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13.

Mike Homerding declared his intent to run in District 1. Bill Leigh declared his intent to run in District 4, Marty Marr declared his intent to run in District 10. Matt Rush declared his intent to run in District 13. Dave Rylander declared his intent to run as an At-Large director. Kate Danner declared her intent to run as an At-Large director.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ted Mottaz reported for the committee.

***NCGA Corn Congress***

Rod reminded the committee that NCGA will be hosting Trade School right before the July Action Team meetings this year. Interested directors should register ASAP.

Our caucus will be Wednesday morning at 6:30am, as it is usually scheduled.

***Proposed FY20 Meeting Dates***

The board reviewed the proposed FY20 meeting dates and discussed moving the June board meeting back a week. NCGA is proposing a change to two Action Team meetings a year instead of three. We may need to evaluate the dates of our January board meeting if they decide to make this change.

***Illinois State Fair***

The Ag Day brunch will be on August 13 this year.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT we commit $500 to sponsor the Ag Day brunch at the state fair on August 13.**

***Proposed Budget Discussion***

The committee reviewed the proposed FY20 budget. ICMB did not decide on an income number at their board meeting. The board reviewed the proposed budget.

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

**THAT we approve the proposed FY20 budget.**

**The motion carried.**

***Past Director Event***

Past directors have found the educational part of this event to be valuable. We are evaluating ways to raise money at the event, such as a silent auction.

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

**THAT we approve the Executive Committee Report including all committee recommendations for a total budget impact of $500.**

**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.*

Jim shared an update on Congressional appropriation of funds for building new locks and dams in the coming year. We have interesting support coming from Senator Durbin.

Jim also talked about additional funding projects to prevent the migration of Asian Carp, of which Illinois would be responsible for in-part.

The Unlocking Potential tabloid will be coming out in FarmWeek on July 1. This was funded by ICMB.

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

Phil discussed USMCA updates and the expected progress we will make. We expect this to be the item of discussion in July in DC.

Lindsay shared a presentation that she saw at the USMEF meeting about trade with the committee.

Phil discussed recent trade teams we’ve hosted in Illinois as well as upcoming opportunities to host international visitors.

Lindsay reviewed the summary of NCGA’s survey of farmers on trade and policy.

*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 some details of the African Swine Fever epidemic, learned from the USMEF summer meeting in Kansas City.

Lindsay reviewed the details of an upcoming contentious livestock hearing in Marshall County.

Lindsay provided the committee with details of the IBA summer meeting in Effingham on June 12.

**It was moved by Marty Marr and seconded by Aron Carlson**

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

**The motion carried.**

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill Leigh reported for the committee.

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

Dave Loos reviewed current ethanol production numbers on an annualized basis. The committee then reviewed USEPA proposed Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) numbers for 2020.

USEPA sent the proposed RFS reset rule to the OMB office on May 20. The reset rule will set the stage for how USEPA adjusts the RFS in 2023.

Dave did an update on small refinery exemptions. There are thirty-nine pending exemption petitions from 2018 that USEPA must rule on. Some of the exemptions are expected to be announced right after the RVP waiver announcement. NCGA and the ethanol industry estimate that exemptions have resulted in a 2.6-billion-gallon loss in renewable fuel blending.

We expect an announcement on the RVP waiver for higher blends of ethanol today. Illinois growers submitted over five hundred comments to USEPA by the April 29 deadline. Region V reached out to Illinois Farm Bureau to schedule an event in Illinois as part of the announcement. The official announcement will be in Iowa. This is a huge accomplishment for us.

*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.*

We filed legislation for our sales tax exemption again this year. If they do pass an increase on the motor fuels tax, there is a possibility that they can take the sales tax incentive and include it there.

The Lung Association will be with us at the Farm Progress Show again. We’re trying to figure out our strategy for them while they are there.

The committee reviewed the proposed legislative outline for the Low Carbon High Octane Standard. The standard proposes a 98 RON standard by MY24. The octane must have 30% less carbon than baseline gasoline. It would allow for an RVP waiver for all blends above E10. It would establish an R-factor of 1. The standard states that all dispensers would be warranted for at least 30% blends. It would also reestablish credits for FFVs. We are hoping to have a bill drafted before Corn Congress so we can lobby on it on the Hill.

**It was moved by Randy DeSutter and seconded by Keith Sanders**

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

**The motion carried.**

GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Aron Carlson 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.*

The committee got an update on Farm Progress Show.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we commit $5,000 for Farm Progress Show promotions. (Goal 1)**

**The motion carried.**

Jim Tarmann distributed the Cornbelters schedule for this year. Directors are invited to use the suite.

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

The Greater Ethanol Golf outing will be on June 28 this year.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT** **we commit up to $3,000 to hold the ICGA Greater Ethanol Open golf outing. (Goal 2)**

**The motion carried.**

The PAC committee met recently and approved the contribution strategy for this year.

The Congressional Staff Tour will be on August 6-8 in the Peoria/Morton area this year.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT we renew our subscription with Heartland GIS at a cost up to $5,000. (Goal 2)**

**The motion carried.**

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

The committee reviewed an NCGA membership report.

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

Dr. Laura Gentry gave an update on the Precision Conservation Management program. PCM held a training for their team last week. We now have four years of data in PCM. Farmdoc did two articles on PCM findings around tillage and nitrogen management findings. Laura, Travis and Lindsay just completed a PCM booklet that will be included in Prairie Farmer in a couple of weeks. The insert includes a high-level analysis of PCM data. This summer we will be rolling out more detailed analyses of the data that will be posted on our website. Details will show how practices are affecting financials.

Laura gave an overview of the NASA harvest project idea that was recently approved. The funding is focused on a project related to food security. The project would create a farmer data cooperative that PCM farmers could buy into with their data. The project would utilize their data to develop technologies that could help farmers.

Ashley Deal gave an update on the reduced-cost cover crop program and the cover crop coupon program. The cover crop coupon is available to all ICGA members.

We engaged with Nick Gaiser to facilitate conversations between IFB, Farmland Trust, and the Nature Conservancy to arrive on a common policy around voluntary use of BMPs to deal with the nutrient loss reduction strategy.

Field to Market has a new 3.0 version of their calculator.

**It was moved by Aron Carlson and seconded by Justin Durdan**

**THAT the report of the Grassroots Committee be placed on file including all committee recommendations for a total budget impact of $13,000.**

**The motion carried.**

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

**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

**The motion carried.**

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

Dave Rylander, Secretary