**ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of a Meeting**

**Held June 2-3, 2020**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Corn Growers Association was held virtually on June 2-3, 2020. Prior to this meeting, Illinois Corn hosted program updates in an effort to focus on action items during this board meeting.

Directors present were:

Bill Leigh Randy DeSutter

Sarah Hastings Ted Mottaz

Mike Homerding Dave Rylander

Marty Marr Garrett Hawkins

Kate Danner Keith Sanders

Matt Rush Joe Murphy

Mike Homerding Justin Durdan

Mark Bunselmeyer Don Guinnip

Also present were:

Steve Fourez Rodney Weinzierl

Lindsay Mitchell Dan Obert

Kayla Veeder Megan Dwyer

Dave Loos Suzie Rogers

Ashley Deal Collin Watters

Laura Gentry Travis Deppe

Jim Tarmann Jacqueline Muhammad

The Board meeting was called to order by President, Bill Leigh at 7:00 am and the board reviewed the agenda.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Keith Sanders presented the minutes of the February Executive Committee meeting.

**It was moved by Keith Sanders and seconded by Marty Marr**

**THAT the minutes of the February 25, 2020 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Corn Growers Association be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

Keith Sanders presented the minutes of the February full board meeting.

**It was moved by Keith Sanders and seconded by Dave Rylander**

**THAT the minutes of the February 25, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Corn Growers Association be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

Keith Sanders presented the minutes of the March full board meeting.

**It was moved by Keith Sanders and seconded by Ted Mottaz**

**THAT the minutes of the March 8, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Corn Growers Association be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

Keith Sanders presented the minutes of the March and April ICGA Committee meetings.

**It was moved by Keith Sanders and seconded by Ted Mottaz**

**THAT the minutes of the March 31 and April 2, 2020 ICGA Committee meetings be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Matt Rush reported that the committee completed a review of expenses and vouchers.

TREASURERS REPORT

Matt Rush reviewed the financial statements for the period ending April 30, 2020.

**It was moved by Matt Rush and seconded by Dave Rylander**

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

**The motion carried.**

Matt Rush and Suzie Rogers reviewed the proposed FY21 budget.

**It was moved by Matt Rush and seconded by Keith Sanders**

**THAT we approve the FY21 budget as presented.**

Roll Call:

Mike Homerding: Yes

Aron Carlson: Absent for Vote

Randy DeSutter: Yes

Bill Leigh: Yes

Justin Durdan: Yes

Sarah Hastings: Yes

Mark Bunselmeyer: Yes

Ted Mottaz: Yes

Terry Smith: Absent for Vote

Marty Marr: Yes

Keith Sanders: Yes

Don Guinnip: Yes

Matt Rush: Yes

Garrett Hawkins: Yes

Joe Murphy: Yes

Dave Rylander: Yes

Kate Danner: Yes

**The motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Rod Weinzierl gave a brief legislative update.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ted Mottaz reported for the committee.

***NCGA Corn Congress***

NCGA Corn Congress will be held virtually this year. We will arrange an opportunity for Illinois delegates to interact with NCGA Corn Board candidates prior to the election. Candidates will be asked to complete the Illinois Corn member priority survey as well as state any conflicts of interest.

***FY21 Proposed Meeting Dates***

The committee reviewed the proposed FY21 meeting dates. This schedule is subject to change as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.

**It was recommended by the committee**

**THAT we approve the meeting dates for FY21 as presented.**

***Illinois State Fair Update***

We expect a complete cancellation or significant attendee restrictions at the Illinois State Fair this year. We should know more later this month.

***Naperville Settlement Request***

We received a request from the Naperville Settlement for the use of our name to support their request for funding to update and develop buildings through the State of Illinois. The committee agreed to allow the Naperville Settlement to use our name in support of the request.

***Past Directors Event***

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the past directors event will be cancelled for this year.

***ICGA Board Elections***

The ICGA Bylaws state that At-Large candidates in the ICGA election must appear in person at a state board meeting no later than the August meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meeting this requirement will be challenging. The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of suspending this requirement for the 2020 election year.

**It was moved by Randy DeSutter and seconded by Marty Marr**

**THAT we suspend the requirement in Article V, Section 4 of the ICGA Bylaws as stated: “appear in person at a state board meeting no later than the August meeting” for the 2020 election cycle.**

Roll Call:

Mike Homerding: Yes

Aron Carlson: Absent for Vote

Randy DeSutter: Yes

Bill Leigh: Yes

Justin Durdan: Yes

Sarah Hastings: Yes

Mark Bunselmeyer: Yes

Ted Mottaz: Yes

Terry Smith: Absent for Vote

Marty Marr: Yes

Keith Sanders: Yes

Don Guinnip: Yes

Matt Rush: Yes

Garrett Hawkins: Yes

Joe Murphy: Yes

Dave Rylander: Yes

Kate Danner: Yes

**The motion carried.**

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

**THAT we allow ICGA candidates to declare their intent to run for election by submitting a written notice to the IL Corn office or by attending a virtual or in-person ICGA board meeting in August.**

Roll Call:

Mike Homerding: Yes

Aron Carlson: Absent for Vote

Randy DeSutter: Yes

Bill Leigh: Yes

Justin Durdan: Yes

Sarah Hastings: Yes

Mark Bunselmeyer: Yes

Ted Mottaz: Yes

Terry Smith: Absent for Vote

Marty Marr: Yes

Keith Sanders: Yes

Don Guinnip: Yes

Matt Rush: Yes

Garrett Hawkins: Yes

Joe Murphy: Yes

Dave Rylander: Yes

Kate Danner: Yes

**The motion carried.**

***Strategic Plan***

Working groups continue to make progress on the strategic planning process. There will be some high-level discussions that need to happen at our next in-person meeting.

***Depopulation Funding***

The state of Illinois has budgeted funds for additional state vets. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois Pork and Illinois Beef are supportive of utilizing this funding for depopulation assistance.

***New Hire***

Jacqueline Muhhamad will be joining the IL Corn team as the Director of Biofuels Programs and Public Policy.

**It was moved by Bill Leigh and seconded by Marty Marr**

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

**The motion carried.**

EXPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mike Homerding reported for the committee.

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

Jim Tarmann talked about his visit to DC in March to work on legislation that provides a funding mechanism for new locks and dams/WRDA. They discussed changing the percentages for funding for locks and dams. All 18 IL Congresspeople signed the letter to change the percentages.   
  
Waterways Council Inc. discussed keeping the water system open and what will happen with the river from LaGrange to Peoria.

There is trouble with Asian Carp in Kentucky Lake, so they are testing new ways to control the species there.

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

Collin Watters talked in general about global ethanol production and it is forecast to be down and overall ethanol forecasts across the globe.

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

Rod Weinzierl talked about livestock updates throughout the state of Illinois in relation to the disruption caused by COVID-19.  
  
General updates on USAPEEC and the poultry industry were given and how to expand into even more global markets.

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

Megan Dwyer talked about anhydrous updates and new regulations throughout the industry.

*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.*

ICGA partnered with ICMB on a water testing program. This program allowed those who participated to donate $5 to FFA. The program was well received.   
  
Megan Dwyer, Dave Rylander, and Kenny Hartman gave an update on the NCGA Stewardship Action Team.

**It was moved by Mike Homderding and seconded by Keith Sanders**

**THAT we approve the Exports Committee report and place it on file.**

**The motion carried.**

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Marty Marr 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 gave an update on the status of USDA’s Higher Blend Infrastructure Program and the board discussed leveraging USDA funds with our own to help deploy more infrastructure in Illinois.

Dave Loos gave an update on RVO numbers.

*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.*

Dave Loos presented a proposal to support work on moving to higher blends of ethanol.

**It was moved by the committee**

**THAT ICGA commit up to $84,000 to support work on moving to high octane fuels using higher blends of ethanol to increase corn demand.** (Goal 2C)

**The motion carried.**

Roll Call:

Mike Homerding: Yes

Aron Carlson: Absent for Vote

Randy DeSutter: Yes

Bill Leigh: Yes

Justin Durdan: Yes

Sarah Hastings: Yes

Mark Bunselmeyer: Yes

Ted Mottaz: Yes

Terry Smith: Absent for Vote

Marty Marr: Yes

Keith Sanders: Yes

Don Guinnip: Yes

Matt Rush: Absent for Vote

Garrett Hawkins: Yes

Joe Murphy: Yes

Dave Rylander: Yes

Kate Danner: Yes

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Marty Marr and seconded by Mark Bunselmeyer**

**THAT the report of the Industrial Committee be approved and placed on file, including all committee recommendations with a total budget impact of $84,000.**

**The motion carried.**

GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ted Mottaz 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.*

Illinois Farm Families has worked hard to be responsive to consumer audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.  Consumers had a lot of questions about food safety, food availability, and impacts of COVID for farmers and IFF was well positioned to answer the questions.  IFF basically scrapped the social media plan and pivoted to provide opportunities for consumers to dialogue with experts about the food chain, lots of recipes focusing on people cooking more at home and using what was in their pantry, talked about pork power and gave non-farmers the chance to "buy a pig", and connected ethanol with clean air and lessening impacts of COVID.

The ICGA annual report was published in the April 13 FARMWEEK and the April 17 AGriNews.

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

Due to COVID-19 complications and out of state teams, the Cornbelters baseball season was canceled – however some tournaments and events held at the CornCrib remain scheduled. They plan to keep a 30-game schedule this year and will release more information soon. ICMB sent a letter to the CornBelters telling them that as funders, we encourage the safest decisions for fans, players, community as a whole.

July Corn Congress will be held virtually. Due to this, we will postpone the summer FFA trip to DC as well. We are hoping to reschedule it to a later date, hopefully after the election.

The Congressional staff tour is canceled for 2020. We plan to pick it back up in 2021.

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

Our prospective membership mailing yielded 247 responses. 40% of these were brand new members. The vast majority were 3-yr members. There were also two lifetime members. As an incentive for joining, for every new/renewed 3-yr membership, $25 was donated to Illinois FFA associations of the members choosing. As of 5/31 the membership drive raised $5,450 for the FFA.

Ashley Deal showed a new “join us” pamphlet which will be printed in the coming weeks. This will be a good tool for board members/county corn grower associations to share as they talk with potential members. It highlights what the ICGA does and has a punch-out postcard to return to the office to be invoiced for membership.

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

We received a CBMP grant to create more awareness for the crop lease addendum campaign. We will be spending the money on advertisements in print, social, and radio, as well as advertising in farm manager offices.

NCRS awarded PCM with a $2.5million grant for a 5-yr program for cover crops as a conservation tool. It will depict soil health analysis data overlaid with our economic analysis. We currently have room for eighty farms to participate in this program. Additionally, we submitted a $450,000 grant proposal to the Illinois Soybean Association, suggesting we partner on opening a new PCM service region in southern IL.

The cover crop companion tool development is still in progress. We want the industry partners to take ownership in hopes that it can stay current.

*Goal 5: Improve the loss ratio of crop insurance for corn farmers in Illinois to at least a loss ratio of .8.*

Rod Weinzierl addressed the CFAP program sign-up.

We’re beginning to hear a lot about interest rates and CRP/other set-aside programs with the potential size of this year’s crop. We expect this to be a big topic in the winter-meting season. We are considering having analysis done to provide insight at what a larger set-aside program would do to our farm economy.

We anticipate additional program payments on the 2019 crop. 2020 crop is questionable. This may mean that additional CCC authority may be granted to USDA. Additional funding would likely cover the shortage of CFAP 1.0

Expect robust discussions this winter about the future farm bill.

**It was moved by Ted Mottaz and seconded by Sarah Hastings**

**THAT the report of the Grassroots Committee be approved and placed on file.**

**The motion carried.**

**It was moved by Ted Mottaz and seconded by Joe Murphy**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

**The motion carried.**

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Keith Sanders, Secretary