



Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education

Promote education in and about agriculture.

Address the changing needs of agricultural education to strengthen its viability and competitiveness to serve industry.

Develop investment opportunities involving human and financial capital for the benefit of all groups having interest in agricultural education.

ILCAE Meeting Wednesday, July 1, 2020 - Zoom virtual

In Attendance(35) - *ILCAE member(18)

Luke Allen
Casey Bolin
*Allyn Buhrow
*Dave Cattron
Megan Coy
*Al Dietz
Dean Dittmar
Doug Falk
*Jeff Galle
*Doug Hanson
*Ken Hartman
*Kim Haywood

John Heiser
*Karen Jones
*Chris Kendall
Emma Kuhns
*Mindy McDermott
*Don Moffitt
Lexi Mueller
Jordi Oliver
Ann Piotrowski
*Aimee Shasteen
Molly Schempp
*Karen Schieler

*Haley Siergiej
Jay Solomonson
Steven Still
*Tyler Strom
*Dan Swanson
Erica Thieman
Margaret Vaessen
Jennifer Waters
*Greg Webb
*Michael Woods
*Mike Zecher

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Chairman Hanson. Introductions were made.

Minutes from the March 13 meeting were reviewed and approved by Mike Zecher, seconded by Al Dietz.

Old Business:

ICAE membership legislation changes: No major changes as legislature is focused on more pressing issues. Seems to be on track and hope to share update at our next meeting. Proposed changes may come up in a bill in a veto session this fall or more likely early 2021.

Ag Legislative Day and Follow-up Conference Call with IL House Ag Committee Chair Sonya Harper: Greg Webb reported on a virtual meeting(June 12, 2020) among himself, Dean Dittmar, Luke Allen, and Rep. Harper. She displayed enthusiasm for bringing ag to more urban districts. Luke and Dean are working with her on some ideas and looking forward to developing a stronger relationship with her. Trying to set up a virtual meeting in late July/August to discuss benefits of AFNR programs with various school administrators.

Affiliate Reports: Sent via email earlier this week for review.



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Highlights:

Research study – Jay Solomonson reported the survey ended June 30. Had 228 responses of which 208 completed the whole thing. Looks like there will be some good data and talking points to share at the next meeting.

FFA – The newly elected state officer team joined the call and introduced themselves: Lexi Mueller, President, Valmeyer FFA; Molly Schempp, Vice President, Olympia FFA; Margaret Vaessen, Reporter, Amboy FFA; Jordi Oliver, Secretary, Vienna FFA; and Emma Kuhns, Treasurer, Altamont FFA.

ISBE –FY 21 grant applications are coming out soon. Erica Thieman is waiting on guidance for back to school protocols to share with CTE teachers to use in hands on learning situations.

Illinois College – New Ag Ed degree program licensing ag teachers. 5 students enrolled.

FCAE – John Heiser started as District 1 field staff today.

New Business:

Ag Ed Curriculum Updates: Doug Falk with Cutting Edge Curriculum, the non-profit who owns CAERT, gave an update. Over the last 60 days his team has been talking with retired teachers and community colleges staff, as well as educators in other states, to gather information about updating the agribusiness curriculum library and creating new resources. He is currently working with ISBE to hammer out some small differences and the curriculum should be ready to go soon.

Discussion around other resources that could be tapped into for creating other curriculum topics, specifically safety.

Chairman Hanson asked for a committee to explore further ideas and resources. Don Moffitt, Michael Woods, and Jeff Galle volunteered to serve with Hanson and will set up a meeting soon.

ILCAE membership/ICAE: Currently waiting to see what happens with legislation. Becky Ropp resigned from ILCAE/ICAE, leaving a spot to be filled.

Karen Schieler is willing to be considered for ICAE and will remain on ILCAE. A motion to recommend her for ICAE was made by Jeff Galle and seconded by Kenny Hartman. Motion carried. Holly Spangler, Farm Progress, has agreed to join ILCAE beginning with our next meeting. Our next meeting will be the selection of new officers. Dave Cattron is working on a slate to present to the group at that time. We are looking for a new chair and secretary. Anyone interested in self-nominating or who would like to recommend a fellow ILCAE member should reach out to Cattron or Doug Hanson.

FY 21 Ag Ed Line Item Budget: Dean Dittmar discussed each item in the budget. Since the FY 20 budget was extended to June 30, 2021, some of the numbers are not yet finalized. Some activities



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were not able to occur due to COVID-19, leaving some extra funds available to use. Dean also explained that two multi-year contract subscriptions with AET and CEC(CAERT) are coming due in spring 2021. Funding for these contracts were paid in FY18 with unobligated funding from the first year of the 3 Circle FFA and SAE grant.

John Heiser shared his thoughts as a recent former teacher on using AET (our SAE record keeping program) in the classroom. There has been considerable time invested in teacher training and implementation of the system throughout the state. AET is currently creating a special report/application for Illinois students. Being an online system, it allows all students the opportunity to input their information from anywhere and for teachers to continue working with students remotely on their SAE projects. Reports can be generated with data about dollar value of SAE projects, hours students invest, community service activities, and more that can be fed into the Perkins Grant application, as well as a tool to share with administrators and school boards about the value of the ag program locally. There would be a real impact on chapters if they had to subscribe individually instead of being part of a statewide subscription.

A recommendation was made to ICAE to use funds from the Ag Ed Line Item that reside at ISBE(\$3,920,000) to cover the costs of future multi-year contracts with AET(Ag Experience Tracker) and CEC(Cutting Edge Curriculum or CAERT) to give every student in Illinois access to the program instead of each school district paying for the subscriptions individually. The motion to recommend was made by Jeff Galle and seconded by Dave Catron. Mindy McDermott abstained from voting. Motion passed.

ISBE State Board Meetings: Lawmakers are currently drafting new legislation, so it's a good time to share any ideas with legislators. House Ag Committee scheduled to start meeting again next spring but the Chair may call a special committee meeting to review legislation that may come up.

Future meetings: Two-hour block on Zoom seemed to work well for most people.

Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 2-4 p.m. via Zoom. September based on current recommendations and availability.

Thursday, November 12, 2020, annual meeting will hopefully be in person. Location to be determined.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Don Moffitt and seconded by Michael Woods. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Jones, Secretary