January 8, 2020

IAA Building, Bloomington, Illinois

Attending in Person:

Andy Baker

Megan Coy

Dean Dittmar

John Edgar

\*Warren Graeff

\*Doug Hanson

\*Russ Higgins

\*Karen Jones

\*Chris Kendall

Lucas Maxwell

\*Don Moffitt

\*Aimee Poskin

\*Karen Schieler

\*Kay Shipman

Haley Sergiej

Jay Solomonson

\*Tyler Strom

\*Dan Swanson

Jennifer Waters

\*Michael Woods

Susan Moore

Attending via Phone:

Jake Butcher \*Al Dietz Jesse Faber

\*Kim Haywood Steve Still \*Greg Webb

\*Kaitlin Weitekamp

\*ILCAE Member

The meeting was called to order at 12:42 p.m. by Chairman Doug Hanson. Introductions were made and Susan Moore, IAA Foundation Manager, gave a presentation about the Farm Bureau Family of Companies and her work with the IAA Foundation.

Public comment was offered and none was made.

Al Dietz requested correction to the minutes from November 28, 2019, he attended the meeting via phone and was not included on the roster. The corrected minutes were approved by Michael Woods and seconded by Don Moffitt.

**Old Business:**

Open Meetings Act Exemption: Jake Butcher reported that legislators he spoke with were not in favor of creating an exemption. Would only be an issue if ICAE business was being discussed at ILCAE meetings, which may not need to happen at every meeting, and those meetings should happen at the ISBE building to be in Open Meetings compliance.

Ag Ed Preservice Internship committee (Warren Graeff, Rodney Reich, Tami Craig Schilling) report: Allotting $80,000 to start up the program – specifically for ag ed students. Waiting on final rules/process approval and will not take effect until FY21.

Funding Priorities: FCAE had oversight over $500,000 for non-ag CTE groups, but that is changing in FY20. Curriculum development is on hold pending permission to use royalty funds. Is there something else out there that is a viable alternative to CAERT? Not in the opinion of the group. Any ideas for improvement should be funneled through ICAE, either directly or through Doug Hanson. Requested to recommend looking to the future for delivery and preparation, as well as looking to other groups who have already developed certain curriculum, to make sure we invest in areas that aren’t already available.

Ag Teacher Supply/Demand: Steve Still reported on progress on survey development of current teachers. Consider adding a question about how motivating some of the new reward programs are for teachers (IFB grant, Golden Owl). Dean Dittmar shared 699 ag ed graduates in 28 years. 417 chose to teach their first year (60%).

Legislative Report: Jesse Faber reported on a very positive meeting at the U of I with an admissions officer. Addressed the issue of students wanting to take ag classes but not being able to due to college entry requirements. U of I’s position is that if the high school considers a class a science, etc… then they allow it as well. Look at adding career education, specifically ag, electives to state statute to be able to approach NCAA about changing their policy.

Budget goal would be to ask for level funding this year.

Exploring an apprenticeship program for ag ed students, modeled after one just started in Iowa.

Asking for funds for community college grants that would benefit ag programs in general, not just ag ed.

Discussion about where a person in charge of curriculum coordination should be housed. Straw poll revealed ILCAE prefers such a role to be located within the FCAE system. Doug Hanson will share that opinion with ICAE at their next meeting.

**New Business:**

New Ag Ed annual report – These were printed earlier this year than in the past. Dean Dittmar shared some of the highlights. Discussion about some additional informational pieces that could be created with the data to share with targeted groups throughout the state. Dan Swanson recommended FCAE staff meet with legislators in their territory to share what’s going on and how the money is being used – not to advocate for funding, but providing information to make connections when those decisions need to be made.

Dan Swanson moved, Don Moffitt seconded a recommendation for FCAE to reach out to their state legislators to provide information and resources about current events in ag ed and FFA.

Doug Hanson will ask ICAE to let ISBE know about this recommendation and once that has been done, Dan Swanson will let his fellow legislators know to expect communications from FCAE staff. Motion passed.

Doug Hanson asked for feedback on the annual report at the next meeting. Annual reports are available electronically to share with any interested parties.

Doug Hanson will be presenting to ICAE on January 17. Please let him know about any issues that need to be shared prior to that date.

Ag Legislative Day – March 3

Seth Mitchell is the Bill Johnson intern and is working with Jake Butcher on coordinating the event, specifically the March 2 training event. Adult group leaders are needed to attend the March 2 event and be paired with FFA chapters for critical meetings on March 3. Several ILCAE members volunteered to assist and one or both events.

John Edgar reported on the 365 campaign – we are currently about 3 months behind on payments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. by Michael Woods and seconded by Dan Swanson.

The next ILCAE meeting will be March 13, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Farm Credit Illinois, Mahomet.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jones, ILCAE Secretary