



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.

June 21, 2022 ILCAE Meeting Minutes

Illinois Farm Bureau Building, Bloomington and via Zoom

In attendance:

ILCAE Members - 17

Allen Dietz	Brenda Dismore	Jeff Galle	Warren Graeff
Doug Hanson	Kim Haywood	Chris Kendall	Don Moffitt
Karen Schieler	Amy Shasteen	Kay Shipman	Haley Siergiej
Holly Spangler	Tyler Strom	Greg Webb	Wyatt Williamson
Michael Zecher			

Advisory Members – 6

Kevin Daugherty	Dean Dittmar	Jesse Faber	Andrew Klein
Jessica Nardulli	Rylan Rusk		

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Greg Webb at 11:10 am. Greg thanked everyone for attending and declared a quorum present.

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of ILCAE member Dave Cattron’s recent passing.

Meeting host Kevin Daugherty, IL Farm Bureau’s (IFB) Ag-In-The-Classroom (AITC) coordinator welcomed the group to the IFB Building and was thanked for providing today’s lunch. Kevin provided an update to the group regarding AITC’s recent efforts, the impact COVID had on program delivery, and efforts underway to resume normal outreach to classroom students. Prior to COVID, AITC worked with 40,000 teachers to reach 660,000 students annually. They are diligently striving to regain this reach following the pandemic. AITC conducts programs in 100% of IL counties and each county in the state receives at least \$15,000 to disseminate AITC materials to classrooms. Due to this effort, IL AITC is considered as the nation’s leader in AITC delivery. This year theme focuses on Integrating STEM while next year’s theme will focus on IL Soils. The group is actively using an agricultural themed message to connect with students learning science, literature, and social studies. It was mentioned that IL AITC has developed many of the materials needed to deliver its message to classrooms, but needs additional volunteers to assist in the delivery effort. A couple websites that may be of interest to ILCAE members include www.agintheclassroom.org and www.il.stateaghistory.org.

A motion to approve the March 25, 2022, ILCAE meeting minutes was made by Jeff Galle. Second by Chris Kendall. Motion Passed.

There were no Public Comments.

Old Business

1. Regarding nomination of ILCAE Members for ICAE membership, no further information has been received from the governor's office regarding the following nominations:
 - Becky Ropp – recommended replacement is Karen Schieler
Nomination paperwork was submitted to Governor in Sept 2020
 - Kim Haywood – term expired 3-13-21 and is willing to continue
 - Aimee Shasteen – term expired 3-12-21 and is willing to continue
 - Doug Hanson – term expired 3/13/22 and has reached his term limit
 - Allyn Buhrow – term expired 3/12/22 and is willing to continue
 - Erika Allen – term expires 7/26/22 and is willing to continue

The Governor's office has indicated that if existing ICAE members wish to continue in their role, they are welcome to do so until formal appointments have been made. It was noted that ICAE is experiencing difficulty in meeting quorum due to the number of unfilled vacancies.
2. Riley Duckworth reported that he Ag Ed 365 Advocacy Fund has experienced strong donations and is currently paid through October 2022. ILCAE members were encouraged to support this program at this website - <http://iavat.weebly.com/advocacy.html>
3. ICAE Meeting Schedule – ICAE cancelled their virtual meeting on May 8 due to lack of quorum. All meetings are scheduled to be virtual, however provisions will be made to allow in-person public comment. Future meetings are scheduled for Jul 8, Sep 9, and Nov 4, 2022. It was noted that the group will be electing a new chairperson at the July meeting.

New Business

1. Future ILCAE Meeting Dates

Options for upcoming ILCAE meeting dates were discussed. Our next preferred meeting date is either August 23 or 30 at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Science (CHAS). Preferred dates for our annual meeting late this year are Nov 22 or Dec 9 with a preferred location of Lincolnland College in Springfield (first choice) or Heartland College in Normal (second choice). The group will leave it up to Dean and the Executive Committee to work out dates with the preferred host locations.

2. ILCAE Membership

A motion was made by Jeff Galle and seconded by Al Dietz to accept the resignation of current ILCAE members Russ Higgins and Kaitlin Weitekamp. Both members were thanked for their contributions in support of IL Ag Education during their time on our team. Several people were identified as potential members of our committee. Members will reach out personally to these individuals to determine their interest and availability to join ILCAE. A discussion to identify potential ag industries for representation on ILCAE identified the following: Chicago McDonalds, Site One Landscaping, International Food Technologies, Griffith Foods, DOT Foods, VS Foods, Kohl Wholesale, and the carbon market industry.

3. State Legislative and Governor's Office Update

Jessica Nardulli and Jesse Faber combined to provide an update on key ag education related legislation. Jessica reported that HB 5003 concerning royalty accounts was passed and signed into law, and that the funds currently held in our account can now be utilized. Legislation to increase the Ag Education Line Item to \$7,050,000 within the IL State Budget was successfully signed into law and that an additional \$500,000 was added within the IDOA budget. Jessica

thanked ILCAE members for their active support of both of these items. A fall legislative veto session has been scheduled for Nov 15-17 and Nov 29-Dec 1, however to date, no vetos have been issued by the Governor.

Jesse Faber encouraged ILCAE participation in the IL Ag Education Legislative Day and recognized IL Representative Noreen Hammond as the primary driving force behind IL adoption of a special Ag Education auto license plate. Due to the additional funding in the IDOA budget for the upcoming year, FFA membership dues will be paid for all Ag Ed students within the state. Twelve new ag programs are planned to open in the upcoming school year. Jesse also provided his thoughts regarding the current proposals to eliminate the term "section" in favor of "region" for both FFA and IAVAT. He also extended an invitation for ILCAE members to join the IL Ag Ed Legislative email list by sending him an email at - jfaber@pontiac90.org.

4. ISBE Update

Andrew Klein was welcomed back from his extended deployment with the Illinois National Guard prior to his providing an update from the Illinois State Board of Education. A candid discussion was held regarding the joint letter asking for expanded funding for urban ag programs sent to Dr Ayala, ISBE State Superintendent, by the ILCAE Executive Committee and IAVAT and the subsequent ISBE response received. The ILCAE Executive Committee expressed sincere interest in personally visiting with Dr Ayala at a time of her convenience. Andrew announced that two of the three RFP award winners have been announced. FCAE/Parkland College were awarded the Local Program Support (LPS) grant while the IL FFA Center was awarded the Work Based Learning (WBL) grant. The Curriculum Resource Management (CRM) grant is currently in the final evaluation stages. Andrew provided additional clarity regarding ISBE's RFP "reading" and scoring process and stated that the objective was to not adjust the overall award grants during the three-year grant duration. He reported that the Ag Ed royalty account previously held at Parkland College has been moved to a Special Purpose Trust Fund in the IL State Treasury, and that these funds can now be used for the revision and development of new curriculum.

5. Urban Ag Education Initiatives

Dean Dittmar reported that due to FY22 ISBE extension of FCAE funding through the end of August, \$120,000 saved from FY22 could potentially be used to fund an urban ag ed initiative in the upcoming year. One potential idea could be to hold a day long roundtable discussion with urban school administrators and urban legislators to show potential benefit AFNR programs could bring to their local school districts. The key to any program is to get ag career information into student hands in a format that is most relevant to them.

6. AFNR Talent Pipeline Update

Tyler Strom reported early key messages received from IL Ag & Food Alliance survey of 10 IL urban/suburban schools with higher minority populations. According to input received, students and teachers in these schools do not fully understand the breadth of the ag industry but want to hear from actual industry professionals. Teachers remain the primary trusted source of career information. Additional data is currently being analyzed and will be presented at a future ILCAE meeting.

Tyler also reported on NEPRIS, an online platform already in existence that is used to connect classrooms with industry. The system uses push notifications to industry representatives from classrooms about their desire for specific career information. Employers also have the ability to

post career information specific to their company. An effort is underway to investigate the development of state specific content within NEPRIS.

Finally, it was reported that Nutrients For Life Foundation (www.nutrientsforlife.org) has some targeted online ag career information available for students, educators and parents.

7. Illinois Ag Education Plan Revision

Discussion was held regarding updating the Illinois Ag Education Plan – which was last revised in 2016 – and how it sets the tone for Ag Education from Pre-K through adult. FCAE’s Jennifer Waters will take the lead in coordinating the revision project, which may begin in the summer of 2022. Chris Kendall, Al Dietz, Haley Siergiej, and Jeff Galle volunteers to participate on the revision committee. Discussion was held noting that lately there have been several changes and projects come at us that have not been derived from the current plan, but rather from other state agencies. Prior to plan revision, efforts should be made to clarify the scope and boundaries of our plan to ensure relevancy in guiding future ag education efforts within the state.

A motion to adjourn was made by Don Moffitt. Second by Aimee Shasteen. Motion Passed. Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Zecher

ILCAE Secretary