



# 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.*

## August 30, 2022 ILCAE Meeting Minutes

### Held at Chicago High School for the Agricultural Sciences and via Zoom\*

In attendance:

#### ILCAE Members - 15

Erika Allen	Allyn Burrow	Allen Dietz	Brenda Dismore
Warren Graeff*	Doug Hanson	Michael Hmurovich	Don Moffitt*
Karen Schieler	Kay Shipman	Tyler Strom	Dan Swanson
Ryan Tate	Wyatt Williamson*	Michael Zecher	

#### Advisory Members – 15

Lucas Allen	Casey Bolin	Mindy Bunselmeyer*	Megan Coy
Dean Dittmar	Jesse Faber*	Michelle Galloway	John Heiser
Andrew Klein	Katrina Milton	Sheila Rowe	Susie Scott
Jess Smithers*	Jennifer Waters	Ebony Weber*	

Meeting host Ms. Noelle Coronado, the Lead Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at CHAS, was introduced to the group and welcomed everyone to their facility. She then introduced the students who would be leading our tour of their facility.

During our lunch, Ms. Coronado introduced us to the entire staff of ag teachers and answered questions about the school. The school’s principal, Mr. Bill Hook also formally welcomed ILCAE to the school and was available to answer questions. It was noted that the majority of the ag teachers employed by the school were graduates of CHAS and came to teaching through industry. They also shared how students are selected for enrollment and how CHAS operates within the Chicago Public School system.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allyn Buhrow at 9:33 am. Allyn thanked everyone for attending and declared a quorum present.

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of ILCAE founding member Harold Reetz’s recent passing.

A motion to approve the June 21, 2022, ILCAE meeting minutes was made by Doug Hanson. Second by Dan Swanson. 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:

***To secure the future of agriculture in Illinois through the continual advancement of quality agriculture education***

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 occasionally experiencing difficulty in meeting quorum due to the number of unfilled vacancies.

2. It was reported that the Ag Ed 365 Advocacy Fund has experienced strong donations and is currently paid through October 2022. A total of \$60,000 per year is used to support legislative lobbying efforts on behalf of Ag Education. ILCAE members were encouraged to support this program by contributing through this website: <http://iavat.weebly.com/advocacy.html> .
3. ICAE Meeting Schedule – ICAE met on July 8 and elected IL Farm Bureau’s Kevin Daugherty, Ag In The Classroom representative, as their new Chairman. All meetings are scheduled to be virtual, with provisions for virtual public comment also. Future meetings are scheduled for September 9th and November 4th, 2022 and may be in person.

## **New Business**

### **1. Future ILCAE Meeting Dates**

Our next meeting, which will serve as our annual awards presentation, will be December 9, 2022, at Lincoln Land Community College’s new Ag Center from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Future meeting dates will be January 27, 2023 (virtual) and March 31, 2023 (virtual). No specific date or location was set for our June 2023 meeting.

### **2. ILCAE Membership**

Michael Hmurovich and Ryan Tate, Illinois Farm Bureau, were introduced to the group and offered comments about their background and desire to join ILCAE. A motion was made by Brenda Dismore and seconded by Karen Schieler to accept Michael Hmurovich and Ryan Tate as ILCAE members for a three year term. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A suggestion was made to include an “area of focus” for each ILCAE member to the membership roster, possibly utilizing the 8 ag curriculum pathways. The Executive Committee will investigate the best way to implement the suggestion.

Michael Zecher presented proposed membership term expiration dates for all ILCAE members in accordance with our newly revised constitution. Following explanation and discussion, Allen Dietz moved and Ryan Tate seconded adopting the proposal as presented. The motion passed. The adopted member term expiration dates are listed below.

	<b>First Elected</b>	<b>Term Expires December</b>
Allen, Erika	2019	2022
Buhrow, Allyn	2018	2024
Dietz, Allen	2006	2024
Dismore, Brenda	2022	2025
Galle, Jeff	2019	2022
Graeff, Warren	2016	2022
Hanson, Doug	2010	2022
Hartman, Ken	2016	2022
Haywood, Kim	2019	2023
Hmurovich, Michael	2022	2025
Kendall, Chris	2014	2023
Kling, William	2022	2025
McDermott, Mindy	2015	2024
Moffitt, Don	2017	2023
Riech, Rod	2019	2022
Schieler, Karen	2017	2023
Shasteen, Aimee	2018	2024
Shipman, Kay	2009	2024
Siergiej, Haley	2020	2023
Spangler, Holly	2021	2024
Strom, Tyler	2019	2024
Swanson, Dan	2017	2023
Tate, Ryan	2022	2025
Tucker, Cynthia	2021	2024
Webb, Greg	2017	2023
Williamson, Wyatt	2021	2024
Zecher, Michael	2019	2023

### 3. ILCAE Officer Elections

Following group discussion, Doug Hanson moved and Dan Swanson seconded reelecting all current ILCAE officers to a new one year term. The motion was adopted. Officers for the upcoming year will be: Allyn Buhrow – Chairman, Greg Webb – Vice Chairman, Michael Zecher – Secretary, and Dean Dittmar – Executive Officer.

### 4. ISBE Update

Andrew Klein and Sheila Rowe provided an update regarding the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). They provided an overview of the budgeting process and discussed the current ISBE FY23 Ag Education Budget Book. All dollars received through the Ag Education Line Item of the IL State Budget are distributed through grants. Once the grant has been awarded, the amount is fixed for the three year duration of the grant. They also reviewed the three new grants Local Program Support (LPS) grant while the IL FFA Center was awarded the Work Based Learning (WBL) grant. After scoring Curriculum Resource Management (CRM) grant

applications, it was noted that no application received the required minimum score, so the grant requirements were revised and a new RFP is currently open for new submissions. Andrew also noted that all grantees will be required to report specific performance measures relating to their grants to ILCAE and ICAE.

#### **5. FFA Center Update**

Mindy Bunselmeyer provided an update on State FFA Officer activities and noted that chapter visits will begin in a couple weeks utilizing “Electrify” as this year’s theme. Summer activities including a trip to Washington DC and IL FFA Leadership Camp were back to normal. Last year IL FFA recorded record membership at over 23,000 members and due to the grant received through the IL Dept of Ag that pays FFA membership dues for all students enrolled in ag classes, the state will experience record FFA membership again this year as a “fully affiliated state”. Congratulations and best wishes were offered to the numerous national award finalist members and chapters representing our state. Mindy also reported that the WBL grant budget has been approved and that they want to learn more about industry needs as they seek to incorporate these needs into WBL programs.

#### **6. National Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) update**

Ms. Ebony Weber, the CEO for the national MANRRS organization, provided an overview of the organization’s scope and purposes. MANRRS began as a networking group and has grown into a national organization with approximately 2050 current members in 20 state programs. While MANRRS is focused on college level participants, Jr MANRRS chapters have been established to provide agricultural exposure and awareness to high school aged members. IL currently has approximately 270 Jr MANRRS members in 7 chapters. It was noted that Jr MANRRS chapters could be community based programs as there is no requirement for them to be affiliated with any high school. The organization is in the process of planning their March 2024 national conference were Chicago is a possible site though not confirmed. The IL MANRRS Leadership Institute will be held at the U of I in Champaign on March 23-24, 2023. ILCAE members were encouraged to continue their interactions with and support of MANRRS programs.

#### **7. Urban Ag Education Initiatives**

Dean Dittmar led a discussion as to how ILCAE could assist in the expansion of ag programs into more urban areas and how to train more ag teachers who are willing to teach within urban ag programs. Andrew Klein noted that any significant proposal requiring ISBE funding would most likely require a new RFP grant as dollars already allocated to existing grants could not be reduced during the 3 year duration of the grant by “shuffling” funds into new programs.

#### **8. Cook County Ag in the Classroom (AITC) Overview**

Katrina Milton, the Cook County AITC Coordinator provided an overview of local activities with grade school students throughout the county.

#### **9. AFNR Talent Pipeline Update**

Tyler Strom quickly reported that the IL Ag & Food Alliance is currently investigating a new digital platform called “Pathful” to provide awareness information to students about state specific agriculture career opportunities. They are currently seeking pilot schools and industry partner volunteers. More details will be provided to ILCAE in the future

## **10. Illinois Ag Education Plan Revision**

Al Dietz distributed the recent revision committee meeting notes. Due to lack of time today, this will be discussed in more depth at our next meeting.

Committee suggestions:

- New cover with image
- New ISBE Superintendent Letter
- Continue with these (7) Branches of Agricultural Education in Illinois
  - I. PreK-8 Agricultural Literacy
  - II. 7-12 Agricultural Education Programs
  - III. Community College Agricultural Education Programs
  - IV. University Education in Agriculture
  - V. Teacher Education Programs in Agriculture
  - VI. Agricultural Workforce Knowledge, Skill, and Talent Development
  - VII. Public and Consumer Agriculture Awareness and Advocacy

-Instead of duplicating the quality indicators of each branch, addendums would be included within each branch with links. Example - 7-12 Ag Ed Programs - Quality Indicators is a separate already developed doc that would be linked in the Plan.

-Vision, Rationale, and Goals would be included and revised for each branch, so the total number of pages would be reduced to 10-15 or so.

-Introduction, partners, historical data would be included also.

Timeline

September, 2022 - February, 2023 - Committee work, review with stakeholders of each branch.

March, 2023 - Draft presented to ILCAE members.

June, 2023 - Final Ag Ed Plan approved by ILCAE members.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Strom. Second by Dan Swanson. Motion Passed. Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael Zecher**

ILCAE Secretary