



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.

January 27, 2023 ILCAE Meeting Minutes Held via Zoom

In attendance:

ILCAE Members - 21

Jared Brown	Allyn Burrow	Allen Dietz	Jeff Galle
Warren Graeff	Doug Hanson	Kim Haywood	Chris Kendall
William Kling	Don Moffitt	Karen Schieler	Kay Shipman
Haley Siergeij	Holly Spangler	Tyler Strom	Dan Swanson
Ryan Tate	Cynthia Tucker	Greg Webb	Wyatt Williamson
Michael Zecher			

Advisory Members – 17

Lucas Allen	Patrick Barry	Casey Bolin	Megan Coy
Dean Dittmar	John Edgar	Jesse Faber	John Heiser
Donna Kaufman	Andrew Klein	Charlie Mitsdarfer	Jessica Nardulli
Matt Nordstrom	Shanell Rainey	Susie Scott	Jennifer Waters
Karen Wilkes			

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allyn Buhrow at 9:03 am. Allyn thanked everyone for attending and declared a quorum present. John Heiser read the names of everyone in attendance.

A motion to approve the December 9, 2022, ILCAE meeting minutes was made by Wyatt Williamson. A second was received and the 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 as “ILCAE Agriculturalist”. Karen’s nomination paperwork was submitted to Governor in Sept 2020. She has an interview scheduled for this coming Monday.

Kim Haywood – term expired 3-13-21 and will be completing the application

Aimee Shasteen – resigned resulting in an open seat

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 as ILCAE Representative

Erika Allen – term expires 7/26/22 and is willing to continue as ILCAE Representative

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

It was noted that ICAE is experiencing difficulty in meeting quorum due to the number of unfilled vacancies. It was reported that many state committees have been experiencing significant delays in member replacement. Karen Schieler and Don Moffitt have completed the application paperwork. Two other seats on ICAE have come open due to the resignations of Sue Schafer (Taylorville Ag Teacher) and Kaizad Irani (Parkland College University of Illinois). Dean Dittmar reported that the Governor's office reported having 4 individuals identified for ICAE membership but the names were not revealed. Dan Swanson will reach out to the Governor's office to urge prompt action.

Future ICAE meetings are scheduled for March 10, May 12, July 14, Sept 8 and Nov 9.

2. It was reported that the Ag Ed 365 Advocacy Fund has experienced strong donations and is currently funded through March. 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>.

New Business

1. Future ILCAE Meeting Dates

Our next meeting will be held virtually on Mar 31, 2023 from 9 am to 12 pm. The June meeting is currently being targeted for the week of June 26. The August meeting will be held Aug 31 in Decatur in conjunction with the farm Progress Show.

2. Legislative Update

Jesse Faber reported that the IAVAT Legislative Committee met in early January and will meet again on Feb 9. He requested that any ILCAE member who would like to be receive regular updates about IL AG Ed Legislative activity should send an email to jfaber@pontiac90.org. Jesse also reported that the committee is seeking an amendment to the IL School Code to allow 4-H or FFA members who show projects at the state fair to have their absences considered as "excused". Details are currently being drafted. This is currently being allowed in 7 states.

Jessica Nardulli and Patrick Barry reported that there was no legislation impacting Ag Ed in either the Veto or Lame Duck Legislative sessions. The Republican party has new leadership in place in both the House and Senate. There are 28 new General Assembly members who will need to be educated about the importance of Ag Education. Committee memberships should be announced in the next couple of weeks. The Governor's Budget and State of the State address are scheduled for Feb 15. It was suggested that ILCAE members engage in providing "witness slips" when needed and engage local and state elected leaders whenever possible to share the importance of Ag Ed programs. ILCAE should utilize support of: Mary Flowers, Sonya Harper, Will Davis, and Bradley Fritts. Governor's budget address will be on February 15th.

3. ILCAE Membership

Michael Zecher reported that the following member terms expired in December 2022: Erika Allen, Jeff Galle, Warren Graeff, Doug Hanson, Ken Hartman, and Rod Reich. Doug Hanson and Rod Reich have requested to leave the committee. Jared Brown was introduced as someone interested in joining ILCAE. Karen Shieler moved and Don Moffitt seconded to elect Jared Brown, Erika Allen, Jeff Galle, Warren Graeff, and Ken Hartman to new 3 year terms on ILCAE (expiring Dec 2025).

4. Update from IL Ag Roundtable

Dean Dittmar, Greg Webb, Michael Zecher, Chris Kendall, Ryan Tate, John Edgar and Don Moffitt represented IL Ag Education at the IL Ag Roundtable held at the Illinois Farm Bureau office in Bloomington on Jan 24. The purpose of the meeting was to allow all ag related organizations within the state to share their thoughts and priorities for the upcoming Legislative year. It was noted that IL Director of Ag Jerry Costello pointed out that on a clear day, 67% of the state’s population can see the Sears Tower in Chicago. Work is continuing to implement the new Ag Education license plates. The IL Ag Legislative Reception will be held on Mar 28 with participants gathering at the IL State Capitol on Mar 29.

5. FCAE Update

District FCAE Program Coordinators reported on current Ag Teacher vacancies and planned new programs in each of their respective areas of the state.

Dean Dittmar made comments about his planned retirement on June 30, and introduced Donna Kaufman from the Regional Office of Education #9 who shared the plan currently in place to find Dean’s replacement. Greg Webb will represent ILCAE on the 5 member candidate interview and selection team. Candidate interviews will occur on Jan 31 and it is hopeful that a replacement for Dean will be announced in the very near future.

Dean Dittmar shared the current Local Program Support (LPS) grant performance report. The report includes 12 specific performance measures and includes target goals and current performance against those goals. This performance report will be shared with ILCAE at each meeting.

A discussion was held regarding curriculum and curriculum development spending over the past several years. The units with the oldest “date of last review” are:

Animals, Plants and Soils	last reviewed in 2008
Biological Sciences	2007
Biotechnology	2010
Natural Resources	2012
Physical Science in Ag	2007

6. ISBE Update

Andrew Klein stated that curriculum review will be a major focus of the Curriculum Resource Management (CRM) grant. The CRM project will have a scorecard similar to the LPS scorecard we viewed earlier. Andrew also introduced Matt Nordstrom who reviewed current CRM Performance Measures. Since the grant was just awarded this past December, there was not much actual performance data available, however Matt did share goals for the project.

The request for proposal to develop Urban and Community Ag curriculum has been posted and will remain open for applications until Mar 14. It is expected to take up to 36 months for full implementation of the new curriculum. General discussion was held regarding the role ILCAE could/should play in overall ag curriculum development. A suggestion for a future agenda topic is if ILCAE should reactive our curriculum committee.

7. AFNR Talent Pipeline Discussion

Tyler Strom of the IL Agri-Food Alliance reported that they continue to work with Pathful and are anticipating a launch sometime in February. Tyler introduced Shanell Rainey, who has now been on the job as the new Agri-Food Career Coordinator for approximately 4 weeks and allowed her to share her background and key goals with the committee. Tyler and Shanell introduced the Agnitor digital platform – another resource for linking students and teachers with industry.

8. 3 Circle Grant Discussion

Dan Swanson noted that as the number of ag programs and ag teachers continues to increase throughout the state, the sum of money available for 3 Circle Grants decreases on a per individual basis. In FY 2023, a total of \$3.4 million was requested for 3 Circle Grants, but only \$3.27 million was available for allocation. In FY24, it is expected that up to \$3.9 million may be requested. Currently \$700,000 has been moved to fill this increased need from the Incentive Funding Grant program. The Pre-Service Internship program has been scaled back to allow the same participation level as this past year (16 participants). A full report of expected 3 Circle participation is expected in early May.

9. Miscellaneous

John Edgar shared a brief FFA Center update with a link in the agenda.

During a discussion of potential issues to take to ICAE, Ryan Tate moved and Bill Kling seconded the following action items as recommendations to ICAE:

1 - ICAE encourage active communication with the Governor’s office and ISBE to fill vacant positions on ICAE.

Warren Graeff moved to amend the motion, and Al Dietz seconded to insert a second point
2 - Encourage active communication between FCAE CRM grant personnel, ISBE and business/industry partners regarding ag curriculum development. The amendment passed. The motion as amended passed.

Dean Dittmar shared his thoughts regarding the appointment of a new State Superintendent of Education due to the retirement of Dr Ayala. Andrew Klein stated that he expected an interim superintendent to be named soon with a permanent appointment to be made in the next couple of months. An invitation to attend ILCAE meetings will be made to both the interim and permanent superintendent.

Allyn Buhrow volunteered to email these two items to Andrew Klein and Kevin Daugherty for ICAE agenda items at the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Kling. Warren Graeff seconded and the motion was adopted. Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Zecher

ILCAE Secretary