



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.

November 19, 2019

Brandt World Headquarters, Springfield, Illinois

In Attendance:

Luke Allen
Casey Bolin
Gay Bowlin
Allyn Buhrow
Mindy Bunselmeyer
Jake Butcher
Dave Cattron
Megan Coy
Dean Dittmar
Frank Dry
Doug Falk
Jeff Galle

Warren Graeff
Doug Hanson
Kim Haywood
Mary Hosier
Karen Jones
Melissa Lamczyk
Brodee McCormick
Don Moffitt
Susan Moore
Aimee Poskin
Rodney Reich
Ron Reische

Karen Schieler
Rodney Schilling
Tami Craig Schilling
Susie Scott
Kay Shipman
Haley Siergiej
Jay Solomonson
Steve Still
Rod Stoll
Tyler Strom
Dan Swanson
Jennifer Waters

Chairman Doug Hanson called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Rodney Reich, Marketing Director at Brandt welcomed the group to the facility and share some company history and information. He also introduced Evelyn Brandt Thomas, one of the company founders, for remarks.

Mindy Bunselmeyer and Brodee McCormick gave an FFA update. Illinois was very successful at National Convention this year. Chapter visits are going on right now. Mindy encouraged all of us in the room to consider helping judge or otherwise participate in FFA events as professionals to help show students the opportunities available in agriculture.

The August minutes were reviewed and approved by Dave Cattron, and seconded by Aimee Poskin.

The floor was open for public comment, but none was brought forward.

Action Items:

Public Act 84-1452. Creation of ILCAE by ICAE.

Recently the governor has taken a strong interest in ICAE appointments. Abiding by the Open Meetings Act means there can be no more than 4 members of ICAE discussing ICAE business outside of an official ICAE meeting— meaning only three or fewer ICAE members are allowed at any ILCAE meeting. Jake Butcher and Doug Hanson outlined several potential options.

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



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- Instead of taking 6 members directly from ILCAE, have them be recommended by ILCAE but not also members of ILCAE.
- Give up three ILCAE spots on ICAE to stay below the threshold.
- Have a compliance officer attend and/or have meetings in approved public facilities (Springfield or Chicago).
- Request an exception to the Open Meetings Act.

Jeff Galle moved, Warren Graeff seconded exploring the Open Meeting Act exemption. Motion passed.

Jake Butcher will keep us informed of where things are going and make sure we are aware of discussions so we can participate.

Ag Ed Pre Service Internship

Some ag teachers aren't coming out of school feeling prepared for teaching in certain areas, such as welding and other mechanical areas. An internship program was proposed to allow teachers to intern with various agribusinesses to build up their skills, using line item funding earmarked for retention and recruitment.

The IAVAT legislative committee is already looking into this.

A committee was formed, consisting of Warren Graeff, Rodney Reich, and (I thought it was Tami Craig Schilling, but not sure) to work with IAVAT on this issue.

Lunch was served with an invocation by Section 14 FFA President Emily Curry. Section 14 FFA members joined us for lunch and the awards program following.

Awards were presented to the following individuals:

- Bill Johnson Excellence in Education: Jane Quinlan, ISBE Board Member
- Excellence in Agribusiness: Rod Stoll, Farm Credit Illinois; and Tami Craig Schilling, Bayer Crop Science.
- Excellence in Media: Steve Bridge, WFMB Radio
- Jim Gullinger Legislative Award: State Senator Andy Manar, 48th District; State Senator Dave Syverson, 35th District; Representative Nathan Reitz, 116th District; and Representative Norine Hammond, 93rd District
- Perry Schneider Special Recognition: Melissa Lamczyk, Franklin County Ag in the Classroom

Congratulations to all the award recipients!



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Ag Ed Line Item funding

A website was shared where ILCAE members can provide comments prior to the final ISBE budget hearing. Three have been held to date and one more is upcoming – comments are due November 21.

Discussion around how to prioritize funds in order to ensure the full budgeted amount is spent. As each priority item is filled, keep moving down the list to fill the next item. Good ideas that may not have funding now can become reasons to ask for more in the future.

FCAE field staff asked to bring ideas forward based on their interactions with teachers and what they are requesting/needing. The application process should also be reviewed to see how that could be made simpler or clearer.

Grant recipients should be encouraged specifically to reach out to their legislators to show appreciation. Legislators appreciate hearing firsthand how the funds are being used to benefit ag education.

Supply/Demand of Ag Teachers

Dean Dittmar shared the most recent stats about ag programs and projected ag ed graduates.

Discussion about where urban ag teachers are receiving their teaching degrees – many are teaching with a provisional certificate. Luke Allen shared that he is working with several urban schools to potentially begin offering ag ed majors.

Warren Graeff inquired about setting up a research project into why people choose to stay in ag education. Steve Still and Aimee Poskin were added to a committee to look into this idea, possibly utilizing FCAE field staff to gather information from the teachers they are visiting regularly.

Tyler Strom and Luke Allen will work together to explore urban ag teacher program opportunities.

Next Meeting:

January 8, Farm Credit Illinois office in Mahomet.

March 13, location TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. by Warren Graeff and seconded by Allyn Buhrow.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Jones, Secretary