



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.

March 25, 2022 ILCAE Meeting Minutes via Zoom

In attendance:

ILCAE Members - 15

Allyn Buhrow	Allen Dietz	Jeff Galle	Warren Graeff
Ken Hartman	Doug Hanson	William Kling	Don Moffitt
Amy Shasteen	Holly Spangler	Tyler Strom	Dan Swanson
Greg Webb	Wyatt Williamson	Michael Zecher	

Advisory Members – 13

Patrick Barry	Dean Dittmar	Riley Duckworth	Jesse Faber
Asia Gentry	John Heiser	Lucas Maxwell	Theresa Meers
Jessica Nardulli	Jess Smithers	Steve Still	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allyn Buhrow at 9:00 am. Allyn thanked everyone for attending and declared a quorum present.

A motion to approve the Feb 25, 2022 ILCAE meeting minutes was made by Al Dietz. Second by Warren Graeff. 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 expires 3-13-21 and is willing to continue

Aimee Shasteen – term expires 3-12-21 and is willing to continue

Doug Hanson – term expires 3/13/22 and has reached his term limit

Allyn Buhrow – term expires 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 summer. ILCAE members were encouraged to support this program.

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

3. ICAE Meeting Schedule – ICAE met virtually on March 11. All meetings are scheduled to be virtual, however provisions will be made to allow in-person public comment. Allyn Buhrow reviewed key items of note from the past meeting. Future meetings are scheduled for May 13, Jul 8, Sep 9, and Nov 4, 2022.

New Business

1. **ILCAE Constitution Amendment**

Bill Kling moved to amend our constitution as distributed to members immediately following our last meeting (as required by our current constitution). Motion was seconded by Al Dietz. A roll call vote followed with the following members voting in support of the motion: Burhow, Dietz, Galle, Graeff, Hanson, Kling, Moffitt, Shasteen, Spangler, Strom, Swanson, Webb, Williamson, Zecher. No members voted in opposition to the motion. Hartman abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

A copy of the new ILCAE Constitution, as amended, will be distributed to all members and posted on the IL Ag Education website immediately following this meeting.

2. **Future ILCAE Meeting Dates**

Jun 21, 2022 Bloomington Potential location: Il Farm Bureau offices
ILCAE will meet from 11 am until 4 pm (a virtual attendance option will be available), then adjourn so we can join IAVAT members at 5 pm for dinner and a reception at the DoubleTree Hotel in recognition of their 100th Anniversary.

Other future meeting dates have not yet been determined.

3. **Pre-Service Grant Program Update**

Jess Smithers provided an update on the ag teacher preservice grant program currently being administered by Richland Community College. This program is new this year and is awarding 8 applicants with a summer internship worth 3 credit hours. Following a individualized needs assessment, the 9 week experience will begin in June and will be customized to provide future teachers with hands-on practical experience in an area they would like to improve their skills. The goal is to better prepare these individuals for teaching an area where they may not be comfortable teaching with their current skills. Awardees will be granted a \$7,500 stipend and be eligible for travel expense reimbursement. Total cost of the program is projected to be \$120,320.

4. **AFNR Talent Pipeline Update**

Tyler Strom reported on a new initiative to solicit student and teacher feedback from a target set of 10 IL urban/suburban schools with higher minority populations on a series of ag career opportunity videos covering the 7 key ag career areas. Surveys from students and teachers have been collected (70 surveys completed from 9 schools with very good minority representation). The data is currently being analyzed and will be presented at a future ILCAE meeting.

5. **State Legislative and Governor's Office Update**

Patrick Barry, Asia Gentry, Jessica Nardulli and Jesse Faber combined to provide an update on key ag education related legislation. All bills moving forward have switched state house chambers. HB 5003 is currently in Senate committee and concerns about the bill language

expressed at our last meeting have been heard. So far, very positive feedback has been received regarding the increase in the Ag Education line item in the IL State budget. Positive feedback was also received regarding the IL Ag Ed Legislative day events held this past week. The reception had very good legislator attendance which is notable since committee meetings were still in session at the time of the event. The team also reported that they were very pleased with testimony provided before the House Appropriations Committee. The Committee was definitely interested in expanding ag opportunities within urban and suburban portions of our state. It was noted by FCAE staff that they would like to try to get ag programs started within Appropriation Committee member districts to provide them with local first hand insight into what ag programs have to offer.

6. Urban Ag Education Initiatives

Dean Dittmar reported that he and two other FCAE staff members are currently attending the national MANRRS conference in FL, along with representatives from the University of Illinois, which is giving ag education in IL some new exposure. He also reported that the Junior MANRRS conference will be held in Chicago on April 22. 50-75 students are expected to attend. Hopes are to establish additional chapters within the state.

7. ISBE Ag Education Project Proposal Update

Since no ISBE liaisons were able to attend today's meeting, Dean Dittmar provided an update regarding ISBE's proposal solicitation process. RFP's for the Local Program Support (LPS) and the Work Based Learning (WBL) portions of the project are currently out. The Curriculum Resource Management (CRM) RFP has not yet been made available through ISBE. All three projects are currently scheduled to begin July 1. The LPS RFP has a submission deadline of April 4. We currently expect three different agencies to submit their proposal. ISBE will appoint 3 reviewers to score the various proposals and select the winner of the project. Concern was expressed that the current scoring matrix does not include any information regarding how the project dollars will actually be used by the applying agencies. ILCAE Executive Committee is currently trying to schedule a meeting with our ISBE liaisons to discuss the proposal review process and the overall complexity of the proposal submission process. Concern was also expressed that as a part of each winning proposal, applicants will need to subcontract with an external agency for the project evaluation portion of the project, which will take dollars away from the project itself.

8. 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. Jennifer Waters will take the lead in coordinating the revision project, which may begin in the summer of 2022. Dean Dittmar and Doug Hanson have had discussions regarding potential ILCAE members to ask to participate in the project. Other persons will have an opportunity to contribute as well. 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.

9. New Members

ILCAE members were encouraged to think of potential new members for our committee.

10. FCAE Update

John Heiser discussed HB 3296. This bill is currently in the Senate and would mandate a career pathway endorsement for all schools that have CTE programs. The intent is to develop a career

plan for all students, which may be revised as the student progresses through their education. The current bill does not provide any additional funding, and in many ways would be a duplication of work for ag education teachers. Doubt was also expressed as to if the final program completion “certificate” will have any significant meaning for potential employers. It was also noted that several key friends of IL Ag Education in the House voted in opposition to the bill. Dean and Allyn will ask our legislative lobbying team for additional information about this bill and its implications for IL Ag Ed.

The IL FFA Foundation had a very successful campaign, and as of Mar 14 is only \$529 short of reaching their \$325,000 goal

The IL State FFA Convention will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield on June 14-16. ILCAE members are invited and encouraged to attend.

A motion to adjourn was made by Don Moffitt. Second by Warren Graeff. Motion Passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Zecher

ILCAE Secretary