State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes – January 6, 2012
Carrington, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met at the Carrington Research Extension Center in Carrington, ND beginning at 9 a.m. on January 6. Members present were Mike Beltz, Chris Boerboom, Jerry Effertz, Doug Goehring, Ken Grafton, Rodney Howe, Doyle Johannes, Paul Langseth, and Doyle Lentz.

Chairman Howe called the meeting to order, made introductions, and asked for changes/additions to the agenda. Howe thanked Blaine Schatz, Carrington Research Extension Center Director, for hosting the board. Minutes of the December 8-9, 2011, meeting were approved as distributed.

Howe announced that Doyle Johannes has indicated that he will resign from SBARE after his recent election as president of the North Dakota Farm Bureau. Johannes told board members that it has been a pleasure to serve on SBARE and it is an honor to promote agriculture.

Howe reported that the search committee for the Extension Director is making progress and will be interviewing two candidates during the coming weeks.

Ken Grafton announced that the search for director at the Williston Research Extension Center has been completed and Jerry Bergman has been named.

Chris Boerboom reported that the Extension Service has several searches in progress, with the biggest area being soil health.

Ryan Homelvig, representing the North Dakota Buffalo Association, talked with SBARE and asked for support for bison research. He noted that the industry is growing and help is needed to support that growth.

NDSU professors Bill Wilson and Rich Horsley presented a GMO briefing. The information they shared initiated extensive discussions.

SBARE member Paul Langseth presented materials and information that he has collected relative to the proposed seed cleaning facilities being discussed by SBARE. He told board members that he is waiting for additional information from a consultant and will send more information when he receives it. The board will continue discussions at the February meeting.

Ken Grafton distributed a USDA budget summary, noting areas of concern.

Chris Boerboom distributed the first draft of Extension initiatives and summarized the information, stressing that the draft was simply a preliminary collection of the input that was received. He urged board members to share comments.

Following a lunch break, the board continued to discuss the Extension input summary and Boerboom again reminded SBARE members that the information is packaged for discussion and has not been prioritized.

Ken Grafton distributed a report on NDAWN, prepared by NDSU assistant professor Adnan Akyuz.

Jerry Bergman, director at the Williston Research Extension Center, reported to SBARE that the oil impact in the Williston area is unreal and has created a real problem for recruitment and retention of staff at the center. He indicated with housing short and salaries for oil workers much higher than salaries offered to state staff, it is very difficult to compete.

Doug Goehring suggested getting a group together to talk about the employment issues in western North Dakota and work on a plan to adjust wages in identified areas of the state. Chris Boerboom indicated that the Extension Service is working with the NDSU Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics to create data that may be helpful in identifying affected areas of the state.

Ken Grafton presented the AES draft initiative listing and summarized the input list for board members. Grafton also reviewed the list of potential capital improvement projects for board consideration.

Prior to adjourning, SBARE discussed ways to proceed with the information shared by ag administrators. It was concluded that a ranking sheet will be prepared with a 1-3 scale and board members will be asked to complete it and submit by January 25. The surveys will be tallied by the Agriculture Budget Office and results will be available for discussion at the February 3 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson