

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
December 14, 2017
MINUTES

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met for a regular meeting at the Dickinson Research Extension Center in Dickinson, ND on December 14, 2017, starting at 8:00 AM. Board members in attendance were Mike Beltz, Mark Birdsall, Tracy Boe, Chris Boerboom, Ken Grafton, Lance Gulleason, Jerry Klein, Brian Leier, Keith Peltier, JoAnn Rodenbiker, Richard Roland, Dean Wehri and Tom Bodine representing Doug Goehring. Members Absent: Larry Hoffmann and Dean Bresciani.

Chairman Keith Peltier called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. He welcomed members and guests and invited everyone to make introductions. Jerry Klein made a motion to approve the November 30, 2017 minutes and JoAnn Rodenbiker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrative Update for the ND Agricultural Experiment Station (AES):

Dr. Ken Grafton stated that the AES faculty/staff list has been reduced by 30.7 FTEs in total. Hiring needs will be reassessed after January 1, 2018. The last hire made was Dr. Andrew Green, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Sciences in Hard Red Spring Wheat breeding, who arrived in June 2016. After recent discussions with the Corn Council regarding the future of the open corn breeding position, there was consensus to go in another direction with this FTE. Grafton shared an alphabetized list of all past capital improvement project requests each of which were discussed in past prioritization processes.

Beltz noted that Extension is going through a name change process, and suggested it may be an opportune time for the NDAES to consider a name change as well. Grafton agreed there is sometimes confusion regarding the Ag research work done here and an updated name for NDAES could be an option.

Administrative Update for the NDSU Extension Service (EXT):

Dr. Chris Boerboom announced two upcoming retirements. Andy Swenson, Extension Farm Business Management specialist, will be retiring December 31, but he will work part time for six months to help with the transition. Dr. Rich Zollinger, Extension weed specialist, will retire December 31. Since the SBARE Review of Extension spent time discussing Extension marketing, Boerboom shared a recent trade magazine that described the public impact of Extension.

Stakeholder Input:

The following individuals, in order of appearance, talked about programs and initiatives important to them as part of the stakeholder and constituent input process:

Dickinson Research Extension Center - Dr. Kris Ringwall
North Dakota Pork Producers - Tamra Heins
Support for Extension - Terri Theil
Support for Extension & 4-H - Jessica & Emma Fleming
Support for Oliver County 4-H - Deb Clarys
Oliver County Extension Service – Rick Schmidt
North Dakota County Commissioners Association – Reinhard Hauck
North Dakota Stockmen’s Association – Julie Ellingson
Central Grasslands Research Extension Center - Dr. Kevin Sedivec
North Central Research Extension Center - Dr. Shana Forster
Williston Research Extension Center - Dr. Jerry Bergman
Williston Advisory Board – Tom Wheeler
NDSU Animal Sciences – Dr. Greg Lardy
Sheridan County Extension – Sandra Felchle
North Dakota Beef Commission – Nancy Jo Bateman
Senator Rich Wardner
Slope County Commissioners

Slope County Fair Association – Scott Bachmeier
Rancher, retired NRA field rep and shooting sports instructor – Clayton Pederson
Slope County 4-H – Mitch Stuber, Dana Stuber
Slope County Extension – Colleen Germann
North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association – Curt Stanley
Milk Producers Association of North Dakota – Lilah Krebs
Stark County Commission – Russ Hoff

At the conclusion of the stakeholder input session, Peltier asked if board members had any comments or questions. Boerboom provided additional information on the number of Extension agents in counties that a few stakeholders had brought up during their testimony, especially with regard to the higher number of agents in Cass County as compared to other counties. Their comments do not take into account that some staff positions are entirely grant funded, with no support from the state, thus they do not affect the Extension budget.

Peltier reminded the board that the next meeting would be January 12, 2018 at the Northern Great Plains Research Lab in Mandan, ND. The morning input session will be followed by afternoon board discussion; members will discuss stakeholder input and revisit the Extension Review.

Peltier adjourned the meeting at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lorie Herbel.