

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes - October 6, 2006
Radisson Hotel - Bismarck, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck on October 6 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Members present were Ole Aarsvold, Bob Bahm, John Bollingberg, D.C. Coston, Jerry Effertz, Carol Goodman, Ken Grafton, Duane Hauck, Rodney Howe, Doyle Johannes, Roger Johnson, Larry Lee, and Doyle Lentz.

Chairman Jerry Effertz opened the meeting with an exercise for board members with a goal of stressing the value of SBARE member participation and also the importance of working together to share the same message.

Effertz read an email from Jerry Doan, former SBARE chair, thanking SBARE for honoring him during a recognition dinner in June. Doan's note challenged SBARE to take the time necessary to be well informed on ag issues and to stand up for agriculture, mentioning that SBARE is the producer's link to NDSU research and Extension.

Following introductions, Effertz reviewed the day's agenda and the minutes of the June 21, 2006 SBARE meeting were approved as distributed.

D.C. Coston reported as follows:

1. The North Dakota Stockmen's Convention was held in Fargo on September 28-30. NDSU participated in the event by hosting a "Cattleman's College" for convention registrants, offering visits/demonstrations/tours of NDSU ag programs.
2. Collegiate Farm Bureau recently sponsored a debate for North Dakota Ag Commissioner candidates, which provided a broad scope of information showcasing agriculture.
3. The Forum recently recognized Patricia Berglund, Northern Crops Institute Director, as one of the five most influential women in the area.
4. October 9-14 is NDSU Homecoming Week and SBARE members are invited and encouraged to participate in the events.

Ken Grafton informed the board that:

1. Three new meat scientists have been hired in the Animal and Range Sciences Department and two are associated with the Beef Systems Center for Excellence.
2. A dry bean breeder has been hired and will start work at NDSU in early January.
3. Principal investigators with the Oilseeds Center of Excellence met with Monsanto recently and representatives are very excited about the opportunities. In addition, discussions are ongoing with other partners.
4. There have been discussions the past few months about support for the NDAWN program and funds have now been designated through June 30.

Duane Hauck shared the following update:

1. Key vacancies currently or upcoming in NDSU Extension include: Pembina County Agent with death of Randy Melaas, Plant Pathologist Carl Bradley is moving to the University of Illinois, Extension Specialist Duane Berglund will retire in December, and Allan Dexter with retire in April of 2007.
2. The Rural Leadership North Dakota curriculum is placing a stronger focus on agriculture.

3. A "Grow 21" bullet sheet has been developed and will be used by Extension Offices.
4. The "Eat Smart-Play Hard" campaign has been launched across North Dakota with great success.

Rodney Howe noted the success of the nine summer drought workshops, sponsored by the Extension Service and attended by over 370 producers, indicating it is a great example of taking research to the producers.

Ole Aarsvold stated that although he applauds the efforts of the Eat Smart-Play Hard campaign, he has knowledge of at least three similar initiatives and would like to see better coordination towards the same goal.

Jerry Effertz reappointed SBARE subcommittees, stressing their importance.

Effertz asked board members who participated in visits/discussions with legislators what they heard during their discussions.

- Doyle Lentz said he answered questions about the prioritization process used by SBARE.
- John Bollingberg said that Vice President Coston did an excellent job, making the issues as clear as possible. He added that questions arose as to how the costs fit in the budget? What are the benefits to the state?
- Carol Goodman said legislators asked good questions about the entire list of priorities. She added that she sensed a high level of interest in capital projects.

Roger Johnson suggested it might be useful to include an economic analysis with the budget numbers. He also complimented ag administration for the way the budget presentation and booklet were put together, stating it does justice to the process.

Because of the current state revenue situation, Ole Aarsvold said he thinks his legislative colleagues would be supportive of one-time requests.

Patricia Berglund, director of the Northern Crops Institute, reviewed her agency budget request with SBARE. The request includes staff support for oilseeds specialist and funds for staff training. The NCI also includes a one-time request of \$95,000 to make space for more processing equipment.

Ken Grafton reviewed the capital improvement project requests with SBARE and emphasized the importance of continuing the momentum of Phase II for the greenhouse project, the number one ranked request. He compared the project to the Animal Nutrition and Physiology Center, stating that visiting researchers are amazed at the state-of-the-art equipment available at NDSU and stressed how important these types of facilities are. Grafton added that the "Nestle" mill is being sold to the North Dakota State Mill and Elevator and the \$150,000 proceeds will be directed to the greenhouse project.

Grafton stated that the number two ranked capital improvement project is the addition and renovation of headquarters buildings at the Carrington Research Extension Center, Hettinger Research Extension Center and North Central Research Extension Center, adding that the renovations are desperately needed.

Ken Grafton reviewed the third priority, a beef research facility at the main station, and noted the need to vacate the current facility within two years. Grafton reminded SBARE that in order to recruit and retain top quality scientists, we need top quality facilities.

Following a lunch break, Lori Capouch, administrator for the Agricultural Research Fund, distributed copies of proposed ARF committee lists for the coming year. Board members were asked to review the committees with approvals to be considered at a future meeting.

D.C. Coston briefly demonstrated how to access "Grow 21" documents on the web.

Ken Grafton and Duane Hauck reviewed the budget priorities line by line, addressing questions and/or concerns about each initiative.

Coston indicated he plans to visit with more legislators during the next months and hopes some members of SBARE will join him.

Rodney Howe reported to SBARE that \$3.7 million has been raised for the Beef Systems Center of Excellence. He noted that state requirements have been met and the \$800,000 provided by the state has been requested. He added that North Dakota Natural Beef has acquired a building, a portion of which will be used for NDSU teaching. Howe reminded the board that SBARE's role in the process was to ensure that a private partner was secured.

D.C. Coston asked SBARE member to look for additional meat processors to work with NDNB to confirm that this is a cooperative arrangement.

Jerry Effertz distributed copies of a Canola Education Program Proposal for information, adding it is good to be prepared if asked.

An SBARE retreat is being organized on November 17-18 in Fargo. Information will be distributed in the near future.

Rodney Howe suggested SBARE should establish a more permanent meeting schedule to allow for better planning. Effertz followed up by asking members to submit their suggestions for meeting dates to Margaret Olson.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson