

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes - November 17-18, 2006
Cass County Extension Office - Fargo, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met at the Cass County Extension Office in Fargo on November 17 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Members present were Ole Aarsvold, Bob Bahm, Tom Borgen, D.C. Coston, Jerry Effertz, Ken Grafton, Duane Hauck, Rodney Howe, Paul Langseth, Larry Lee, and Doyle Lentz.

Chairman Jerry Effertz called the meeting to order and expressed appreciation to the Cass County Extension Office staff for hosting the meeting.

The minutes of the October 6 SBARE meeting were approved as distributed.

Effertz distributed copies of the 2007 Agricultural Research Fund Legislative Report, prepared by ARF administrator Lori Capouch.

Effertz reported that he and NDSU ag administrators met with Office of Management and Budget staff on October 21 to discuss the "Grow 21 Proposal." He noted that there were some questions about the greenhouse project, but added that there was also cautious optimism.

Jerry Effertz talked about meetings with legislators across the state, indicating the meetings were positive and legislators were supportive.

Effertz encouraged SBARE members to participate in upcoming activities related to the legislative session.

Ole Aarsvold told board members that they are on the right track by working with local legislators and to continue the discussions.

Jerry Effertz told SBARE that he would like to work on renewal of relationships with grower and commodity groups and distributed an SBARE assignment list. Hauck noted that Extension specialists have ongoing liaisons with grower/commodity groups.

Ken Grafton agreed relationship building is important, but he suggested that SBARE consider the board member travel and per diem expenses associated with participation at all the meetings and events proposed.

Following discussion, Rodney Howe made a motion that the SBARE executive committee study the expense issue and prepare a set of SBARE per diem and travel expense guidelines. Larry Lee seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Bob Bahm questioned how SBARE members would be introduced to the organizations and suggested some type of letter from NDSU ag administrators may be appropriate.

Coston told SBARE members about the advantages of having the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics located with the College of Business in the planned NDSU downtown complex.

Following a lunch break, the group reconvened and D.C. Coston presented an overview of the ag operations, noting that research and Extension are constantly changing to best serve citizens.

Duane Hauck provided an overview of the Extension Service, reviewing program efforts and funding.

Ken Grafton reviewed the mission of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

In an effort to give SBARE members a better understanding of the research and Extension operations, members were encouraged to ask questions about NDSU agriculture missions, funding and operations.

Jerry Effertz reminded ag administration that they should be prepared to respond to legislators when asked about vacant positions, as this seems to be an ongoing issue and questions arise.

Ole Aarsvold expressed concern about credibility of the information provided considering all the issues related to Peoplesoft.

Rodney Howe noted that a lot of money is being spent with Peoplesoft and asked if anything is being done to resolve related issues. Aarsvold responded that the program will continue to be used as other opportunities are explored.

Upon the completion of the business meeting, Sharon Query presented an overview of the Cass County Parenting Resources Center and provided a tour.

Board members went on to the NDSU campus where they toured greenhouses, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the High Throughput Genotyping Laboratory, and the Animal Nutrition Physiology Center, concluding with an evening dinner.

SBARE members gathered at the NDSU Alumni Center on Saturday morning, November 18, at 8:00 a.m., and participated in a retreat, facilitated by Mel Nelson, Executive Management Systems. The purpose of the retreat was to discuss role clarity and opportunities for development of a shared vision by board members. Nelson agreed to provide a summary and follow-up for further discussion at a future meeting

The session adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson