

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education

February 10, 2016

MINUTES

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met for a special meeting via conference call on February 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM, originating in Morrill Hall Room 306. Board members in attendance were Mike Beltz, Mark Birdsall, Tracy Boe, Chris Boerboom, Ken Grafton, Lance Gulleeson, Jerry Klein, Brian Leier, Keith Peltier, JoAnn Rodenbiker, Dick Roland, Lyle Warner, Dean Wehri, and Jessie Pfaff representing Doug Goehring. Members absent were Judge Barth and Dean Bresciani. Attendance was taken upon call check-in.

Chairman Beltz called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) allotment plan

Dr. Ken Grafton explained the AES allotment plan in response to the 4.05% General Fund reduction. Expenditures will be examined closely, and reductions in operating expenses will be implemented across departments and stations. This enables AES to reach the necessary levels to meet the allotment. Members inquired about the decrease in land leases noted for one Research Extension Center, expressing concern that this could lower seed sales capacity. Dr. Grafton explained this was due to no longer needing to lease land because that center now owns acreage to replace what was formerly leased, so there is no actual reduction in acreage, only a savings in lease expense. Members noted that the plan also indicates fertilizer reduction could be considered; members commented they were supportive of conservative use of applications so long as yields were not undermined.

Extension Service (EXT) allotment plan

Dr. Chris Boerboom explained the EXT allotment plan. Extension will use salary savings from realignment in administration and delays in filling other vacant positions. Operating expenses and equipment purchases may be reduced or delayed. The State Soil Conservation Committee's grant program will be reduced. In responding to how this allotment will affect Extension programming, Dr. Boerboom indicated the goal is to maintain current programming as close to normal as possible. If budget cuts are extended, the effect on Extension programs and staff will be more difficult to manage.

A motion was made by Dean Wehri to approve the Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service plans for meeting the 4.05% allotment, and was seconded by Lyle Warner. Chairman Beltz asked if there was any discussion and hearing none, called for a vote. Motion was carried by majority, with one 'no' vote.

Chairman Beltz adjourned the meeting at 10:14 AM.

Minutes submitted by Lorie Herbel.