

**State Board of Agricultural Research and Education**

**May 17, 2016**

**MINUTES**

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*The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met for a special meeting by conference call on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 8:00 AM. Board members in attendance were Judge Barth, Mike Beltz, Mark Birdsall, Chris Boerboom, Dean Bresciani, Jessie Pfaff for Doug Goehring, Ken Grafton, Lance Gulleason, Jerry Klein, Brian Leier, Keith Peltier, JoAnn Rodenbiker, Richard Roland, Lyle Warner and Dean Wehri. Member Absent: Tracy Boe. Attendance was taken upon call check-in.*

Chairman Beltz called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM and welcomed everyone.

Discussion focused on the Governor's recommendation of a 90% budget for the next legislative session, specifically at 90% of the approved 2015-2017 biennium budget funding level. The board discussed the impacts of a 10% cut on the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station (\$8 million) and NDSU Extension Service (\$3 million) budgets for the 2017-2019 biennium. The last time this occurred was in 2002; the cuts resulted in position eliminations and program changes. At that time, SBARE sought a restoration of a 100% budget.

Members discussed concerns, noting the reductions made to reach the 4.05% allotment were one-time adjustments but a 90% budget for 2017-2019 would necessitate a different approach. Currently there is no specific guidance issued regarding how institutions might be urged to prioritize reductions. Discussion over potential adjustments to the current SBARE priority lists brought general agreement that the items identified therein are all critical needs for the stakeholders in North Dakota agriculture.

A motion was made by Keith Peltier to make SBARE's first priority a request to restore the 2015-2017 (current base) budget to 100% funding level, followed by other needs-based items as ranked and prioritized by SBARE. JoAnn Rodenbiker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Beltz adjourned the meeting at 8:25 AM.

*Minutes submitted by Lorie Herbel.*