NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
July 9, 2026 MEETING MINUTES | Stark-Billings County Extension Office, Dickinson, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met for a regular meeting on **July 9, 2026**, at the Stark-Billings County Extension Office in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Present: Jim Bahm, Tom Bodine (for Commissioner Goehring), Mike Clemens, Aaron Galbreath, Vice Chair Pam Gulleson, Christie Jaeger, Sen. Jerry Klein, Greg Lardy, Brian McDonald, Chair John Nordgaard and Marshall Stewart. Absent: Rep. Austin Foss, Doug Goehring, Scott Huso and Scott Ouradnik.

Chair Nordgaard called the meeting to order at **1:06 p.m.** Mountain Daylight Time (MDT).

Approval of June 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes
MOTION: Jim Bahm made a motion to approve the June 9, 2026 minutes as presented. Mike Clemens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrative Update – Greg Lardy, Joe and Norma Peltier VP for Agriculture, Dean, Director, Director
Dr. Lardy provided a recap of recent travel with NDSU President Marshall Stewart and other NDSU representatives. Activities included: a tour of Bobcat in Gwinner, ND, attendance at the Central Grasslands Research Extension Center (CGREC) Field Day, meetings with North Dakota legislators, a tour of Grand River Honey Company and West River Health Services in Hettinger, Gooseneck Implement in Bowman, and a meeting with Governor Armstrong and his administration.

During the meeting with the Governor's office, Governor Armstrong discussed his budget priorities. He reiterated that requests for new buildings would not be supported and that priority should instead be placed on deferred maintenance.
Dr. Lardy reported that legislative appropriators were supportive; however, he emphasized the importance of continued legislative engagement due to turnover that will result from term limits. He noted the need to demonstrate return on investment (ROI), stakeholder engagement, accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Personnel updates included Dr. Guillermo Scaglia's appointment as Interim Associate Director of NDSU Extension and Dr. Eric Berg's appointment as Interim Head of the Department of Animal Sciences.

Dr. Lardy also provided updates on searches across the Research Extension Center (REC) network including three candidates being interviewed for the Langdon Research Extension Center position, one candidate being interviewed for the Agronomy Seed Farm Director position, and a permanent CGREC Director search expected to begin this fall.

In response to Board questions, Dr. Lardy noted that due to the impact of the budget reductions for the 2025-2027 biennium, the following positions would not be filled: Extension Sheep Specialist position in the Department of Animal Sciences formerly held by Travis Hoffman, and a 4-H Youth Development Specialist position formerly held by Meagan Hoffman. Regarding advisory structures, Dr. Lardy noted that, in response to the SBARE Strategic Plan, all RECs

and campus departments will have advisory boards or councils in place by the end of the calendar year.

Administrative Update – Guillermo Scaglia, Interim Associate Director NDSU Extension
Dr. Scaglia provided an update on the NSF Engine workforce. He reported that Jodi Bruns is chairing the search committee for the position of Director of Ag Workforce, Industry, and Innovation Center (AGWIIC), and that 15 applications have been received for it. Additional positions will report to the director. The Director for AGWIIC will report to Dr. Scaglia's office. Dr. Scaglia reported that NDSU Extension is working with the Center for Technology and Business (CTB) in the AI Ready America partnership. A proposal will be submitted by Christy Dauer (Director of CTB) to request funding.
Dr. Scaglia also acknowledged the 10% budget reduction for the upcoming fiscal year.

Administrative Update – Frank Casey, Associate Director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station
Dr. Casey highlighted a new report from NDSU's Agricultural Risk Policy Center (ARPC), examining long-term trends in farm income, agricultural production, productivity, and public agricultural research and development (R&D) investment in North Dakota. The report was authored by Junkan Li, William Nganje and Sandro Steinbach from NDSU. Reference: https://www.arpc-ndsu.com/news/new-arpc-report-examines-agricultural-productivity-and-research-investment-in-north-dakota

Comments from John Nordgaard, SBARE Chair
Chair Nordgaard thanked Pam Gulleson for her leadership during the stakeholder input process. He expressed appreciation for the Board's collaborative approach and noted that the Board exercised due diligence in developing priorities while remaining aware of the Governor's budget recommendations. The adjusted priorities included a restoration of the proposed 10% reduction, deferred maintenance, and operating funds.

Chair Nordgaard also referenced the handout distributed by Kayla Effertz Kleven at the June 9 Board meeting, and reiterated the importance of engaging newly elected legislators.

Dickinson Research Extension Center (DREC) Update – Chris Augustin, Director
Dr. Augustin provided an overview of activities at the Dickinson Research Extension Center including ongoing personnel searches, construction of a new machine storage shed anticipated to be completed by early August, development of a gazebo within public gardens, the tree project, equipment updates, and discussion of a potential land swap.

Stark-Billings County Extension update – Kurt Froelich, Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Kurt Froelich, County Coordinator, presented an update on Stark-Billings County Extension and introduced Marilyn Larson, Extension Agent, Family and Community Wellness. He highlighted several programs and activities, including the Diversity, Direction, and Dollars Ag Forum; Medora Beef Days; pesticide training programs; succession planning education; and local 4-H activities and programming.

West District Extension Update – Jim Gray, Extension District Director
Jim Gray provided an update on NDSU Extension's West District and discussed differences and unique needs among the counties represented within the district.

Campus Department Updates
Drs. Rich Horsley and John McEvoy provided updates on their respective departments: the Department of Plant Sciences and the Department of Plant Pathology, Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Remarks from NDSU President Marshall Stewart
President Stewart joined the meeting and commented on the value of his recent visits with stakeholders and legislators throughout North Dakota. He noted that these interactions have been productive and beneficial.

Agricultural Research Fund Update – Frank Casey
Dr. Casey presented an update on the Agricultural Research Fund (ARF). He reviewed SBARE's responsibility related to administration of the fund and discussed future considerations regarding funding levels and program administration. Keiara Lesmeister of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives will assist with related efforts. Dr. Casey reviewed historical ARF funding levels and uses, including a summary of research projects funded throughout the fund's history.

Adjournment
Chair John Nordgaard adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Janelle Quam