State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
December 15, 2015
MINUTES

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met for a regular meeting at the Northern Great Plains Research Lab USDA-ARS in Mandan, ND on December 15, 2015 at 8:15 AM. Board members in attendance Mike Beltz, Mark Birdsall, Tracy Boe, Chris Boerboom, Ken Grafton, Lance Gulleson, Jerry Klein, Brian Leier, Keith Peltier, JoAnn Rodenbiker, Richard Roland, Lyle Warner, Dean Wehri and Jessie Pfaff representing Doug Goehring. Members Absent: Judge Barth and Dean Bresciani.

Chairman Beltz called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM. He welcomed members and guests and invited everyone to make introductions. Motion to approve the November 12 and 13, 2015 minutes was made by Richard Roland and seconded by Mark Birdsall. Motion carried.

Administrative Report from Dr. Grafton

Dr. Grafton stated that he was planning to report to Budget Section on December 16, the FTE adjustments in the Agricultural Experiment Station. This stems from the updated century code from the last legislative session which requires FTE changes be reported to Budget Section. In addition, an update will be given on the work in the Souris River reclamation area.

A search is underway identifying internal candidates for an interim director for the North Central Research Extension Center.

Due to the budget shortfall in North Dakota an allotment is expected; this could be a 2.5% adjustment and would result in an AES budget reduction of approximately $2 million. Because this adjustment goes back to the beginning of the current biennium, immediate changes would have to be made including a soft freeze in hiring. If other hard cuts are needed long term, those will be examined as necessary.

Administrative Report from Dr. Boerboom

Dr. Boerboom also reported that the NDSU Extension Service is giving an update to Budget Section on December 16 in Bismarck on the FTE adjustments in the Extension Service. For current biennium projected cuts, FTE realignments being made help to achieve a 2.5% reduction of about $750,000. Additional staffing and operating changes are being considered.

The following individuals, in order of appearance, talked about programs and initiatives important to them as part of the stakeholder and constituent input process:
North Dakota Lamb & Wool Producers – Brad Gilbertson
North Dakota Beef Commission – Nancy Jo Bateman
AARP of North Dakota – Janice Cheney
North Dakota Wheat Commission – Neal Fisher, David Tuft
North Harvest Bean Growers – Justin Ritterath
North Dakota Corn Growers - Dale Ihry
North Dakota Stockmen's Association - Julie Schaff Ellingson
Support for Extension in North Dakota - Angie Benz
Farm Safety Education needs in North Dakota - Dave Miller
Oakes Irrigation Research site, North Dakota Irrigation Assn - Jerry Schaak
Children & Family Services of North Dakota - Shari Doe
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association - Scott Rising
Farm Safety Education needs in North Dakota - Jeff Topp
North Dakota Department of Health / Division of Water Quality - Karl Rockeman
Carrington Research Extension Center - Blaine Schatz, Director
Central Grasslands Research Extension Center - Bryan Neville, Director
Dickinson Research Extension Center - Kris Ringwall, Director

Hettinger Research Extension Center - Christopher Schauer, Director
Langdon Research Extension Center - Randy Mehlhoff, Director
North Central Research Extension Center - Jay Fisher, Director
Williston Research Extension Center - Jerald Bergman, Director
Oakes Irrigation site – Tom Rodine
North Dakota Pork Council – Tamra Heins

Chairman Beltz noted a meeting will be scheduled for early January to discuss line items and vote. Later, the board will determine the cut line for Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension priority lists. JoAnn Rodenbiker will chair an Extension subcommittee which plans to meet January 15 to look over the I-3 initiative and discuss how the line items may fit into initiatives.

Discussion followed regarding the handling of potential capital project requests and the separations and overlaps between University facilities and AES facilities, as well as factors involved in how they are funded and supported. Chairman Beltz stated that all capital requests will be listed and examined more closely later in the process. An April 2016 deadline for submitting the priority recommendations was discussed. Initial focus for the board will be on ranking the other line items so that initiatives can be formed over the coming months. There was a discussion of the history of the seed cleaning capital requests.

Keith Peltier stressed the importance of SBARE continuing this process of listening to grassroots support and input.

Chairman Beltz adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Lorie Herbel.