

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes – April 24, 2007
Kelly Inn – Bismarck, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met at the Kelly Inn in Bismarck, North Dakota, on April 14 beginning at 10 a.m. Members present were John Bollingberg, D.C. Coston, Jerry Effertz, Ken Grafton, Duane Hauck, Rod Howe, Doyle Johannes, Paul Langseth, Larry Lee, Doyle Lentz, and Jeff Weispfenning (for Roger Johnson).

Chairman Effertz called the meeting order. Minutes of the January 14, 2007, SBARE meeting were approved as distributed.

Duane Hauck and Ken Grafton distributed budget information and provided a summary of HB1020.

D.C. Coston discussed the process relating to salary increases for state agencies, North Dakota higher education, and NDSU agriculture and Extension, indicating that there was some educational work that needed to be done to create equality.

Jerry Effertz said that SBARE has not been involved with employee salaries in the past, but added that he felt it was important to encourage fairness among state agencies.

Effertz called on commodity representatives in attendance, asking how their organization was affected by actions of the legislative session.

Barry Coleman, executive director of the Northern Canola Growers, indicated that the renewable fuels sector expected a lot coming into the legislative session and has been pleased with the support received. He said he is very appreciative of the additional funding provided for research and Extension and is hopeful that it will help the oilseed industry.

Steve Edwardson, executive administrator of the North Dakota Barley Council, said support for the scab/NDAWN initiative is very important as scab has been an issue plaguing growers for along time. He noted that the NDAWN system in North Dakota is second to none nationwide, adding that research at all levels is critical to wheat and barley growers. Edwardson said that market development is more private sector driven than legislative driven.

Eric Bartsch, administrator for the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council, stated that legislators really commented about SBARE's effort to provide a priority list, adding that good communication and education is key.

Bartsch told SBARE members that he followed the session closely to help walk bills through and received very positive feedback from the pulse crop industry. He said he is pleased with the great team that has been built to work with pulse crops and is anxiously looking forward to building the program.

Wade Moser, executive vice president of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, said that the livestock industry came out well in the legislative session.

Moser stated that the beef check-off has been an issue and there is frustration with NDSU. The contracts have not moved along and Moser said that he has visited with several legislators who have indicated they would contact President Chapman if need be.

Moser also told SBARE members that SBARE needs to maintain control of the research property around NDSU, stating that when and if the property becomes commercial, agriculture should see the benefit.

Rod Howe asked Moser if he thought there was a way to find financial support for a new beef research facility and Moser responded that he was not sure what would be available.

Jerry Effertz asked Wade Moser what more researchers can do to help the Stockmen's Association. He also asked if the needs of North Dakota producers are being met.

Moser responded that a lot of North Dakota producers get information outside of the state, using national publications and websites. He added that there is a need to do a better job of getting information out and it is important to cooperate.

Moser closed his remarks by telling SBARE that they need to stick with priorities during session.

D.C. Coston said that it is clear that state government pays attention to SBARE and that is why it is important to have discussions in the coming months. It is necessary to talk about how SBARE serves agriculture producers, noting that SBARE owes it to the citizens to move ahead in a thoughtful, positive manner.

Chair Jerry Effertz stated that HB 1020 was an extraordinary bill and the ability to stay somewhat flexible with the priority list allowed SBARE to secure some funding for nearly half of the requested priorities.

Following a lunch break at noon the group reconvened at 12:45 p.m. and Effertz shared copies of a pamphlet for SBARE members to use in educating constituents about SBARE's purpose.

Board members discussed a June 26 session to continue discussions regarding where SBARE should go and how to plan for the future. Coston shared his proposed process for SBARE planning in a three-part series as follows:

- Session 1. Discuss in-depth future of ND agriculture, agribusiness, and rural communities
- Session 2. Complete discussing broad concepts for future and general direction for SBARE
- Session 3. Based on outcomes of sessions 1 and 2, SBARE develops process for receiving input and prioritizing

Paul Langseth, Jerry Effertz and Rodney Howe indicated support for the proposal, but questioned whether the process would address concerns with how Extension fits with SBARE's mission. Duane Hauck indicated that he thought the concerns would/could be addressed by working through this process.

Jerry Doan reminded the board that if they propose any language changes to the Century Code it will be important to get legislative buy-in and support.

Coston told SBARE members about President Chapman's plans to attend field days at the Research Extension Centers this summer and added that there are plans to incorporate special events to include local alumni at some of the field days. Coston encouraged SBARE members to check the dates and attend any programs they could.

Coston also invited SBARE members to participate in a day-long bioopportunities workshop that will be held at the NDSU Memorial Union ballroom on May 17.

Coston explained to members of the board that federal formula funding has continued to erode over the past years and there have been serious discussions nationally about some new approaches for funding distribution. Coston talked about proposals and told SBARE that a proposal called "CREATE-21" is the best for NDSU research and Extension. Duane Hauck agreed and suggested that SBARE members communicate with the federal delegation regarding their support.

Following discussion and clarification, Larry Lee made a motion that SBARE submit a letter in support of CREATE-21 to the federal delegation (letter to be drafted by ag administrators). Doyle Lentz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jerry Effertz indicated that Rodney Howe and Doyle Johannes (terms expire June 30, 2007) have both been recommended to the State Board of Higher Education for continuation with SBARE.

Coston informed SBARE members that things are progressing with the Beef Systems Center of Excellence and North Dakota Natural Beef is beginning work on building renovations at the Great Northern Drive site in Fargo, expecting completion by the end of 2007. He added that processing is currently taking place at the New Rockford plant and Hornbacher's Grocery plans to stock the beef with their specialty meats.

Larry Lee stated that he has received a lot of comments and remarks from people in his area about NDSU's plan to move the agribusiness and applied economics department to the Pioneer Building with the College of Business Administration.

D.C. Coston and Ken Grafton provided an overview of the plans for the new buildings, providing SBARE members with correct information.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson