

**State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes – July 12-13, 2011
Hettinger and Dickinson, ND**

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met at the Hettinger Research Extension Center on July 12, 2011, beginning at 1 p.m. Members present were Bob Bahm, Mike Beltz, John Bollingberg, Tom Borgen, Dean Bresciani, Bob Christman (representing Doug Goehring), Ken Grafton, Duane Hauck, Rodney Howe, Doyle Johannes, Paul Langseth, Doyle Lentz, Phil Mueller, and JoAnn Rodenbiker.

Chairman Howe called the meeting to order and reviewed plans for the two-day meeting and the election of SBARE officers was moved to Tuesday's agenda.

Chris Schauer, director of the Hettinger Research Extension Center, gave a brief update on the center's activities and mission. Schauer shared that as of today Dr. Ben Geaumont is employed as a research assistant professor for the Hettinger REC. Geaumont was previously a post doc. Graduate students introduced themselves and indicated their research program areas.

Schauer introduced Eric Eriksmoen, HREC research agronomist. Eriksmoen talked about his program, noting key areas as variety development, new crop introduction/development, sawfly research, and weed control. He noted critical needs to be an agronomy lab and a weed scientist.

Dan Nudell, who serves as ag economist for the HREC, was introduced. His program addresses land ownership/tenure and economics outreach, including risk marketing and management. Nudell also serves as the information technology resource for the center and plans to work on geographic information systems with Ben Geaumont.

Ben Geaumont talked about his multiple land use research and grazing work. He indicated that as a wildlife scientist he works on cropping and wildlife, and the effects on producers and outsiders, as well as how to cash flow the land while maintaining wildlife.

President Bresciani asked Geaumont about hunting lodges in southwestern North Dakota. Board members discussed recreational hunting, but most agreed that North Dakotans don't necessarily want outsiders to hunt birds in the state.

Tim Faller, AES assistant director, introduced Martin Harris, a visiting Australian scientist working on herbicide resistance at the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in Mandan. Faller also introduced Dan Tanaka, research soil scientist at the NGPRL, who works on diversifying crop sequence.

Prior to adjourning the meeting for the facilities tour, Rodney Howe thanked Chris Schauer and his staff for hosting SBARE.

SBARE members participated in a driving tour of the Hettinger Research Extension Center facilities while Director Chris Schauer talked about relevant programs and research conducted.

Following the tour, SBARE reconvened. Minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed. Minutes of the April 21, 2011 conference call were approved with the addition of Doyle Johannes as a participant.

Chairman Howe talked about the legislative session and noted the following:

- 1. SBARE made their annual report to the State Board of Higher Education in Minot on June 16.**
- 2. Respect for SBARE was noted many times during the legislative session.**
- 3. Reminded many times about the importance of following the SBARE process.**
- 4. Thanks for support from NDSU faculty, staff, and administrators, commodity groups and President Bresciani.**
- 5. Need to be committed, not divided, and support SBARE priority list.**
- 6. Need to be forward thinking and consider “innovative stewardship of land, livestock and people.”**

President Bresciani reported that the Wall Street Journal is doing a feature story on the state of North Dakota, its universities, and the state’s economy. The article will bring attention to the state and allow for expansion of agriculture opportunities. Bresciani noted the success is a result of everyone working together.

Ken Grafton began his update by thanking Dave Ruhland, Agriculture Budget Director, indicating he stepped into a big job and has worked very hard over the past months. Grafton also reported:

- 1. NDSU Animal and Range Sciences faculty member, Dave Berryhill, died unexpectedly June 26. Berryhill served NDSU for over forty years.**
- 2. Plant Pathology assistant professor, Tika Adhikari, has resigned from the department.**
- 3. Associate Dean Jim Venette retired July 1 and Marion Harris will serve during the time a national search is conducted.**
- 4. Cole Gustafson has been named chair of the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics effective July 16.**
- 5. Department head/chair searches are ongoing in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences, and Plant Sciences.**
- 6. Over 125 people attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at the NDSU Beef Research Facility on June 29. Special thanks to Greg Lardy for leading the effort.**
- 7. Bids for the final phase of the NDSU Greenhouse Complex came in high during the June 28 bid opening. Architects are working to determine why.**

Dave Ruhland, Agriculture Budget Director, reported that his office has filled two vacant positions and is now operating at full strength following the resignations of Bruce Bollinger and Cindy Rott.

Grafton reported that he recently provided a wheat improvement team update to the North Dakota Wheat Commission. That report noted that positive discussions continue with Monsanto, BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Dow, Limagrain, and Syngenta and all are interested in wheat breeding, utilizing new technologies, and access to premiere quality HRSW germplasm.

Duane Hauck reported:

- 1. The Extension Service is very engaged with flood issues across the state and in addition to weekly conference calls with state specialists and Extension staff, has participated in a series of calls with the ND Ag Department and FSA to assess the situation and economic impacts.**
- 2. Buildings at the Washburn 4-H camp have not been flooded, but for the safety of all, camps have been relocated to other areas across the state. Seventy percent of the scheduled camps will be held this summer.**
- 3. The Extension Service recently sponsored a workshop to provide flood recovery information and nearly 1,100 people attended.**
- 4. Several searches are in progress throughout the NDSU Extension Service and over 120 years of experience will be lost to retirements by the end of July.**

5. Although Extension recently lost a considerable amount of federal funding for family nutrition programs, many counties were willing to help support positions and some workloads were shuffled to meet needs.
6. President Bresciani, accompanied by Duane Hauck, spent several days in mid-June visiting with staff and constituents at county Extension offices in northeast North Dakota.

Following discussion regarding renewal of the Agricultural Research Fund (ARF) contract, Doyle Lentz made a motion to approve the proposal. John Bollingberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Rodney Howe relinquished the chair to Paul Langseth. Langseth called for nominations for SBARE chair and John Bollingberg made a motion to nominate Rodney Howe, seconded by Doyle Lentz. Lentz then moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast in support of Rodney Howe. Phil Mueller seconded that motion and all board members voted in favor.

Howe called for nominations for vice chair. Mike Beltz made a motion to nominate Paul Langseth, seconded by Dean Bresciani. John Bollingberg moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Langseth. Doyle Lentz seconded that motion which passed with all board members in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. and board members were encouraged to participate in the annual Hettinger Field Day events that followed.

Board members gathered at the Dickinson Research Extension Center on July 13 at 8:30 a.m. to tour the Dickinson and Manning research Extension center facilities. Following the tour, SBARE reconvened in the headquarters building.

Bob Bahm asked about positions funded in the soil health initiative and indicated he hopes SBARE will have input as the positions are filled. He noted salinity issues are obviously important, but there are other areas that also need attention. Duane Hauck reminded board members that the soil conservation community has been engaged in soil health initiative discussions. He also indicated that the intent is to establish a planning/steering committee or advisory board to work with researchers on the soil health programs.

Ken Grafton stressed that soil salinity is important, but not the only focus of the initiative, adding other issues have been identified and will be expanded on. Grafton talked about search committee make-up and suggested including an SBARE member.

Following the discussions, Paul Langseth made a motion that Chair Rodney Howe work with ag administrators to make certain there is input from SBARE while working to fill the soil health positions. Mike Beltz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

In conclusion, Rodney Howe reviewed the series of events related to the wine and grape committee's request to be included in the SBARE priorities during the last legislative session. He added that SBARE has representation on the wine and grape committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson