

Langdon Research Extension Center Advisory Council Meeting

December 7, 2018 10:00am

Attendance- Randy Mehlhoff, Sara McGregor, Shannon Duerr, Leon Hiltner, Aaron Johnson, Dr. Greg Lardy, Paul Berntson, Kent Schluchter, Senator Janne Myrdal, Rep David Monson, Rep Chuck Damschen, Scott Nelson, Lesley Lubenow, Naeem Kalwar, Bryan Hanson, Janet Jacobson, and Julie Zikmund

Randy opened the meeting thanking the three legislators for attending. Due to LREC employees leaving for vacation, we began with LREC updates: Naeem Kalwar provided an update on his soil program. He's helping farmers turn marginal areas into crops and educating on reducing the loss of topsoil. The LREC purchased a Giddings soil probe and now he's able to probe four to five feet deep. Taking these soil samples to remedy marginal/non-productive land has created other business opportunities such as hauling gypsum with a side dump trailer and spreading gypsum. Naeem helped 39 landowners at 130 sites in 2018. Randy described how the Ag Experiment Station is research and NDSU Extension is outreach. Naeem's position is 100% extension, but he works approximately 90% extension, 10% research. Naeem doing research is a learning opportunity for him. Naeem also talked about inter-seeding crops, such as soybeans planted into live cereal rye. He shared his findings on his groundwater management project at the LREC. Rep Dave Monson commented on how much he has learned from Naeem. He asked Naeem to testify to his committee in January. Naeem will help the legislators see the difference between extension and research but also how they work together creating a larger benefit and the effect Extension has on ND.

Janne Myrdal stressed the importance of Extension "telling your story." Bryan Hanson's position, LREC Research Agronomist, is 100% research but he has an extension component. Researcher's HATCH projects now contain an extension requirement. Bryan provided an update on his agronomy program. He does variety testing, contract variety testing (public entries), private company trials, and grant trials. At this time, he is no longer conducting off-station barley trials because there hasn't been much change, latest variety released in 2010. Bryan is still testing hemp. David Monson met with Doug Goehring. Hemp fees are decreasing, there is going to be a makeover of the ND hemp laws, call it hemp rather than industrial hemp, still need to be licensed to grow hemp, they are planning to not limit acres, must get THC checks, and price has decreased. We don't want to overproduce hemp. Roger Gussiaas processes hemp seed but paid less this year for the crop.

Lesley provided an update on her extension and research programs. She highlighted working on soybean aphid pyrethroid resistance and the integrated pest management program. Lesley informed the group about her aphid project. They found that the aphids didn't overwinter. They think they died. She also pushed, don't use insecticides unless necessary – waste of money and harming the ecosystem. The NDSU integrated pest management webpage is not live data like pest web from Montana. We'll need additional staff and dollars for that. She has a demo project with Lindy Berg, Towner County Extension Agent, and is doing flea beetle research. Lesley touched on hemp not doing well in a drought year. She was a collaborator with NDDA for a hemp project in 2018 in Northeast North Dakota. There was white mold, weed issues, and lower yields. Not to mention the price was down too. \$1.00/lb vs \$0.50/lb this year. Many applicants for the hemp program didn't follow thru. The growers in Pembina want the border open to transport the product to Canada. Fiber plants in North Dakota would be helpful. Roger Gussiaas takes hemp seed but not large enough for all the production. Lesley discussed her future plans.

Randy provided Venkat Chapara's update because he and his family are in India. Venkat had 35 research trials in 2018, including seven different crops. Clubroot in Cavalier County increased more than anticipated. At the LREC we do not plan to grow canola commercially on station for the time being. We are preserving our research land. Bryan's private trials will use clubroot resistant varieties. He is planning to purchase a new tiller strictly for off-station use. Resistant varieties reduce the spore load but

don't eradicate it. NDSU now has the ability to count spores. At the LREC, land was found containing 400-500 clubroot spores/gram. Need 80,000 spores to show symptoms. Clubroot resistant varieties do propagate clubroot. Lesley provided a detailed explanation on how clubroot spreads. After two years there is a 50% decrease in spores, another two years another 50% decrease, etc. Venkat acknowledged his funding sources and thanked NDSU employees that assisted him throughout the year.

Foundation Seed Stocks Update - ND17009GT and ND18008GT soybeans are available at the LREC. We purchased conveyors, three bins, new screens for seed cleaning, etc for soybean production. Carrington's new seed cleaning plant has been running for approximately three months. NCREC is still working on their plant. At the Williston REC Jerry Bergman, director, is fundraising for a seed cleaning plant. These stations plant 1500-1700 acres of foundation seed compared to our 350 acres. Therefore, we would be satisfied with a mobile mill. We have put approximately \$50,000 into our seed cleaning plant. It's operating great. We don't plan to ask for any money for a seed cleaning plant nor do we plan to change anything. Handout showing SBARE priorities for NDAES and Extension were shared with the group.

Greg Lardy, Interim Extension Director and acting AES Director, provided an update. Duane Hauck has come on to assist him because of the administrative changes. The main station cut 30 employees, RECs 10 employees, and Extension 12 employees. They are in the process of hiring for six critical programs. The NDSSD and FSS is partnering, with Steve Sebesta at the lead. He has implemented key cost cutting measures, and FSS is now running in the black. Extension went thru a comprehensive review recently. The group gave 30 recommendations which Extension is working to implement, including: change in the funding model for Extension agents, reorganized administrative structure, created F&CW, carefully evaluating vacancies, etc. There was a decrease in enrollment at NDSU meaning less tuition income and less state funding. NDSU is offering another round of voluntary separations and evaluating positions and programs. Dr. Lardy was asked about the decrease in enrollment. Is it a one-year thing or a trend? They're not sure at this time. They have become more aggressive over the last four to five months on recruiting. Julie Zikmund was at a meeting recently and shared a statistic: for a class with 10 students, one will go on to get his/her master's degree, two for their bachelor's degree, and the other 7 seven a two-year degree or no degree. There was group discussion regarding this statistic. Senator Myrdal mentioned Governor Burgum said 70% of the jobs don't require a four-year degree. The discussion ended for lunch break.

Approval of the July 2018 meeting minutes were motioned by Shannon Duerr and second by Kent Schluchter. Advisory board member terms expiring at the end of this month: Tom Borgen, Paul Berntson, and Shannon Duerr. Randy will contact the Cavalier County Extension agent and Walsh County Extension agent for recommendations on individuals to replace Tom and Paul. He then explained how the JDA plays an important role in what we do at the LREC. Randy suggested we always have a JDA member on the board. The bylaws will be updated and presented at the next meeting – July 2019. Motion made by Leon Hiltner and second by Aaron Johnson.

Next, Randy provided an email showing what Governor Burgum proposed on December 5th.

Highlights of Budget Additions

Extension: One-time funding of \$345,000 added to develop a web strategy and reimagine content.

Main: One-time funding from SIIF added for \$1,440,465 for deferred maintenance.

It is important to note that the Governor's Budget does include a compensation package for state employees. The details are listed below.

- 4% year one (2019) increase
- 2% year two (2020) increase with potential for additional 2% if long-term salary savings are identified
- Adds a premium to existing health plan; employees would contribute \$28/month
- Adds 1% employee and 1% state contribution to NDPERS (We are checking to see if this impacts TIAA-CREF.)

When one considers the budget enhancements, including the compensation package and proposed cuts, in total, the overall changes in the budgets are:

- NDSU Extension +2.7%
- Main Station, ND EXP -2.3%
- Branch Stations -2.1%

Randy mentioned if we had to endure another 10-13% cut at the LREC, we would have had to cut 1.5 positions from the agronomy and/or pathology programs. Senator Myrdal focused on the importance of “tell your story.” She also mentioned Governor Burgum is concerned about protecting our intellectual property and being compensated for sharing it.

Representative Chuck Damschen was asked his thoughts: ag commodity prices are tough, interesting discussion at today’s meeting, and touched on oil prices/production.

Representative Dave Monson’s thoughts on the upcoming session: it’s going to be a tough session, increase in oil revenue – higher than we anticipated. We’re pumping more oil with fewer rigs and producing 1.3 million barrels per day. He reiterated we need to “tell our story.” Sixty to 65% of legislators are urban. What is helpful though is the house appropriation chairs are rural. Leon Hiltner suggested town hall meetings before the legislators meet. Senator Myrdal said there is not enough time before session.

Randy thanked Paul Berntson and Tom Borgen for each serving two terms on the LREC Advisory Council. He thanked the legislators and others for attending. Everyone is welcome to email the legislators with concerns and suggestions. The meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.