

Langdon Research Extension Center Advisory Council Meeting

July 20, 2017 7:30am

Attendance- Kent Schluchter, Dr. Anitha Chirumamilla, Kim Ruliffson, Tom Borgen, Rep. David Monson, Leon Hiltner, Shannon Duerr, Aaron Johnson, Randy Mehlhoff, JoAnn Rodenbiker, Janet Jacobson, Mike Beltz, Sara McGregor, and Rep. Chuck Damschen

Randy welcomed everyone to the Langdon Research Extension Center for the annual LREC and NCGA Field Day. Randy thanked Mike Beltz for his service to SBARE. Mike Beltz thanked Rep. David Monson for his service also.

Randy asked to have the meeting minutes from the December 2016 meeting approved. Janet Jacobson pointed out that they read Carol Hart instead of Carol Goodman. Sara McGregor has corrected. Kim Ruliffson motioned to approve and Dr. Anitha Chirumamilla second.

LREC Brief Update

Randy briefly discussed the 13.5% budget cuts that the LREC has implemented, and a breakdown of these cuts has been added to the LREC Advisory Council member binders. The cuts officially took place July 1, 2017. Even with the 13.5% cuts, the LREC is fully staffed. Our plan was to reduce the number of summer workers but we have been able to hire the full amount of summer workers because of grant projects. Randy commended the staff on the grant proposals. Lesley Lubenow is working on her PhD in Entomology and received a grant for a canola project thru the NCGA. Naeem Kalwar has also been quite successful in obtaining funds.

2017 Growing Season Update – Randy said last year was the most difficult growing season since he's been at the LREC. However, all the rain was beneficial for Dr. Venkat Chapara, LREC Plant Pathologist. So far, this year has been one of the best years in Randy's last 17 years here at the LREC. Langdon received 0.75" of rain yesterday which is the largest rainfall this year. Our Foundation SeedStocks program planted a lot of HRSW this year. This is the first year we're producing Foundation Soybeans (ND Henson and ND17009GT). ND17009GT will be \$30-\$40 cheaper per acre for farmers, there is no tech fee, and the producer can keep these soybeans and plant the following year. NDSU Soybean Breeder, Ted Helms, has received support from the ND Soybean Council to help research GT varieties and also early maturing varieties. This year the supply of the ND17009GT Soybeans was 2,500 bushels while 11,000 bushels were requested. The LREC planted two new varieties of Faba Beans (Laura & Fabelle) and a new Flax variety this year. This year we are also increasing a new variety of peas which we haven't done in the past. ND VitPro is the new NDSU HRSW variety. Carl Tollefson planted 75 acres of this. He's the only producer of ND VitPro in Cavalier County in 2017. The LREC's faba beans, field peas, and flax have been inspected by the NDSSD and all passed.

Faba Beans – Livestock feeders are buying them. Hoping for faba beans to become part of the food market. They grow in saline soils and like water. Aaron Johnson asked about chemical management of faba beans. We used Treflan and Spartan. The faba beans at the LREC are owned by Legume Logic. Richard Roland did a good presentation in Minot yesterday at their annual Field Day and Cody Roland is presenting today at the LREC.

Hemp Trial – No stop at the hemp trial for Field Day but if you'd like to see it, just let Randy Mehlhoff or Bryan Hanson know. Hemp looks good this year. One change is we're only testing Canadian varieties this year because they outperform other countries' varieties. The DEA did a random surprise inspection at the LREC this spring. It was quite thorough but we passed. We purchase hemp seed every year because the germination of brown bag seed isn't over 50% the following year. Mike Beltz informed

everyone that there are 3,000 acres of hemp planted in ND this year, approximately 40 farmers. David Monson has a hemp conference call today at 10:00. If you're interested in hemp, the group that David Monson is part of is looking for members. Please talk to David Monson. He is wanting to start an industrial hemp council. Randy Mehlhoff mentioned he should talk to Roger Gussiaas of Carrington, ND. Chuck Damschen informed us that medical marijuana plants can net up to \$43,000. Current administration is not looking favorably on the medical/recreational side. Randy suggested Carol Goodman for the industrial hemp council.

Tom Borgen asked about budget cuts. Will they be the same next year? David Monson doesn't foresee anymore cuts for the LREC or the county. Farm prices are helping, oil production is stable, oil price not fluctuating too much. North Dakota is number two in the nation with the most stable economy. Governor Burgum is ranked 5th in all the states.

Randy Mehlhoff stated he and Sara McGregor will look more closely at budget cuts after she returns from maternity leave. Randy commended Sara on not needing the Ag Budget Office's assistance while out on maternity leave. Sara plans to work 1-2 days per week thru maternity leave. David Monson commended Randy on a fantastic job with the budget cuts.

The NDSU Main Station had 25% cuts to their technician budgets. Therefore, they need to find that 25% elsewhere. This does affect the LREC because some of their duties are passed onto us. Ex) Uniform Scab Nursery – The info is critical. Dr. Venkat Chapara has been helping with this trial at no charge. There was mention how the REC's and Main Station work very well collaboratively.

Leon Hiltner asked about the status of the new Agronomy Lab. The lab is complete. Requested money for a new seed cleaning plant has taken a back burner. Mitch Otto is helping us update our old seed cleaning plant so that we're able to clean soybeans. David Monson said to keep the new seed cleaning plant on our list. Williston REC is working on raising half the funds for a new seed cleaning plant then will ask the legislature for the other half.

Leon Hiltner questioned what it'll take to turn the budget situation around? David Monson suggested higher crop prices and a bump in oil prices. Chuck Damschen said another factor is sales tax. Tom Borgen touched on ND property taxes increasing. There was a brief ND property tax discussion.

David Monson mentioned Senator Myrdal wasn't able to attend today.

Randy Mehlhoff contacted Tracy Boe to become a member of the LREC Advisory Council. He hasn't responded at this time. Randy is still working on filling the other open seat.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20am so council members could partake in the 2017 LREC/NCGA Annual Field Day.