

**South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC)
& South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA)
Joint Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Lohr Building/SDSU Alumni Center
Brookings, SD
August 8, 2023**

Pledge of Allegiance

SDCUC President Chad Blindauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order

SDCUC President Chad Blindauer called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. SDCGA President Dave Ellens called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

Roll Call

The following SDCUC members were present: Nicholas Fickbohm, Justin Minnaert, Doug Noem, Chris Nickeson, Grant Rix, Jay Esser, Reno Brueggeman, Chad Blindauer, Jim Ketelhut

SDCUC members absent: none

The following SDCGA members were present: Travis Mockler, Dave Ellens, Gary Duffy, Travis Strasser, Taylor Sumption, Mike Cronin, Jeff Burg, Scott Stahl, Trent Kubik, Kelsey Geraets, Rebecca Wellenstein

SDCGA members absent: Mark Gross, Jennifer Feistner

Others present: DaNita Murray, Abbey Bruner, Amanda Bechen, Margaret Pennock, Patrick Mahoney, Dr. Joseph Cassady, Michael Schelling, CPA (via Zoom), Former U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, Franki Roberts, Sam Nelson, Heather Covrig, Paul Thompson, Chance Hunley (via Zoom), Ryan Donnelly (via Zoom), Dr. Peter Kovacs, Andy Vickers, Steve Bly, Chris Lent

Agenda Approvals

Grant Rix moved to approve the SDCUC agenda, seconded by Nick Fickbohm, motion carried unanimously.

Gary Duffy moved to approve the SDCGA revised agenda, seconded by Travis Mockler, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Reno Brueggeman moved to approve the SDCUC June 21 and July 14, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Jim Ketelhut. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott Stahl moved to approve the SDCGA June 28, 2023, board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Trent Kubik. Motion passed unanimously.

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Approval of Financials

Michael Schelling, CPA of Dakota CPA presented the financials for the year ending 6/30/2023 via Zoom. He noted for the Council that checkoff revenue increased by \$275K since he sent the draft financials on August 1. This moved the Council Revenue into the positive for the year.

Jim Ketelhut moved to approve the SDCUC financials for the year ending 6/30/23. Seconded by Nick Fickbohm. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott Stahl moved to approve the SDCGA financials for the year ending 6/30/23. Seconded by Travis Strasser. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Joseph Cassady, SDSU College of Agriculture

He stopped by to say hello and thank SD Corn for their support.

Staff Updates

FY24 Advertising: Amanda Bechen shared an update regarding the FY24 SDCUC marketing budget and progress towards a new marketing and advertising contract.

FYI bank account authorized signers: Patrick Mahoney provided an update on the bank signers list for the Growers and Council accounts.

Corn Cob Open: Amanda Bechen noted the income raised but that we are still calculating expenses. The overall profit should be similar to last year.

SDCGA Conference: Amanda Bechen noted that the conference dates cannot change for 2024, but that mid-week dates may be available for 2025. Staff is going to investigate Wednesday/Thursday dates for 2025. Margaret Pennock shared about potential speaker Rob Sharkey and the board is okay with going forward with booking him.

Membership: Margaret Pennock presented on the updated membership options that she is going to seek the approval of NCGA (including a 10-year option, student, and household memberships). Dave Ellens asked for a motion to approve the new membership options. Travis Mockler moved to approve. Seconded by Scott Stahl. Motion passed unanimously.

NCGA Action Team Applications: Scott Stahl is interested in Risk Management; Jay Esser is interested in ethanol; Trent Kubik is interested in biotech; Gary Duffy, Chad Blindauer and Mike Cronin will reapply for their action teams. There was also a reminder that Dave Ellens is SDCGA's

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representative to go to the ACE annual meeting to be considered for a position on their board. Scott Stahl moved to approve sending Dave to the annual meeting. Seconded by Gary Duffy. Motion passed unanimously. Taylor Sumption and Travis Strasser will consider attending the USGC winter meeting in Guatemala. DaNita Murray will not attend that international trip.

Trailer: The Brown County fair may be interested in the corn trailer if the SDCGA decides to sell or donate it. Families Feeding Families is also interested in the same. The board would like any done to keep using it for education purposes. The SDCGA board will revisit the topic in December.

NRCS Grant: FYI – NRCS Huron has conveyed to staff that the grant has been approved for reimbursement by NRCS Washington, DC.

Cutoff for reduced payment/extended payments in MOUs, pledges and contracts: a motion was made to increase the checkoff revenue threshold from \$3 million to \$4.5 million to trigger a potential decrease, delay or non-payment by the Council. Jim Ketelhut moved to approve the increase to \$4.5 million. Seconded by Nick Fickbohm. Motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer for DEX Ribbon Cutting on 8/31: Potential to have Trent Kubik, Travis Strasser, Jeff Burg, Reno Brueggeman and Chad Blindauer attend.

Farm Bill Discussion

DaNita Murray presented on the current state of the farm bill. SDCGA and SDCGA President's will connect with NCGA board President and First Vice President. Final decisions regarding efforts on mandatory base acre update are TBD pending those conversations.

Epicosity Presentation

Heather Covrig and Paul Thompson presented on the updated numbers for the EthaKnow campaign.

Former U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS)

Senator Roberts spoke on the farm bill and other topics.

Sam Nelson

Attorney from Frieberg, Nelson & Ask, L.L.P. discussed the best time and format for a lunch or dinner in Pierre for legislators.

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Farm Bill Update

Chance Hunley (Policy Advisor for Rep. Dusty Johnson) and Ryan Donnelly (Legislative Assistant for Sen. John Thune) gave an update on the Farm Bill.

Bio-Based Fertilizers presentation, Dr. Peter Kovaks

Dr. Kovaks presented his research proposal on Bio-Based Fertilizers along with representatives from POET – Andy Vickers and Steve Bly.

Chris Lent, attorney at law, Woods Fuller

Chris gave on a presentation on South Dakota law.

Other Business – Lease Agreement

The Council and Growers agreed to forgo a lease agreement for FY24.

Sponsorships (lunch discussion)

The SDCUC agreed to be an Advertising Sponsor (\$2,500) for Gunning for our Heroes Clay Pigeon Shoot. Doug Noem moved to approve. Seconded by Reno Brueggeman. Motion passed unanimously.

The SDCUC agreed to be a Corporate Partner (\$1,500) for The Stockyards Ag Experience. Reno Brueggeman moved to approve. Seconded by Grant Rix. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

None.

Adjourn

SDCUC President Chad Blindauer adjourned the meeting at 3:34pm.

SDGCA President Dave Ellens adjourned the meeting at 3:34pm.

Patrick Mahoney, Recording Secretary

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Reno Brueggeman, Secretary/Treasurer, South Dakota Corn Utilization Council

Trent Kubik, Secretary/Treasurer, South Dakota Corn Growers Association

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