

Research and Extension Committee 2/8/18

Chairman Troy Coons called the meeting to order. Minutes were read and Doug Miller moved to accept the Treasurers report and Gonzalo Rojas seconded the motion. Motion carried. Blaine Schatz gave a report concerning the seed cleaning plants in Carrington and Minot. Some of the things in Carrington that still need to be done are; Need to do the main electrical; Need to get the dust control system in and the optical sorter needs to be installed. They have let bids on the main electrical. They hope to bid the dust control system soon and start the plant late this fall. He wanted to thank the Crop Improvement Association for their help. The Minot Research Center had to demolish the old plant. They are hoping to get going with the new plant this spring. They are still in the organizational stage. They should be ready to clean the 2018 crop.

Legislative Updates

Departments experienced a 13.5% cut and Carrington experienced a 16.3% cut. We are looking at another difficult session. Some think we will do well to hold our own. We must fill the capitol with farmers and ranchers. Separating the Research budget from the NDSU budget will be extremely difficult. We need to hear support for local Extension Agents. Agriculture should not be shy about asking for what is appropriate. Our message needs to be simple. We need to restore funding and it is important to main street ND. We also need to get young producers involved.

Joel Ransom talked about varietal testing. We have a lot of spring wheat varieties to be tested. We are most likely looking at hybrid wheat in our future. ND VitPro compares well to many varieties. NDSU Wheat varieties are facing stiff competition from private ones. ND soybean lines are under appreciated by farmers. ND Stutsman is a top yielder when compared to private varieties.

Williston Research Center is trying to get a seed cleaning plant. They need money form the legislature. They have been authorized to fund raise.

Gonzalo moved to adjourn and John Schatz seconded the motion. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted

Brad Brummond