CCA North American Board Meeting
September 15-17, 2014
Sacramento, California

In Attendance:
Karl Anderson  Sally Flis  Marta Krist  Jacob Redmon  Thom Weir
Amy Asmus  Jesse Grogan  Jeff Leonard  Bill Rohrer  Eric Welsh
John Bergeson  Tom Hall  Tara Little  Allan Romander  Norman Widman
Shawn Bossard  Mike Harper  Cecelia Lokai-Minnich  Quentin Rund  Dave Wilcox
Carl Cassidy  Carson Harmon  Paul Luetjen  Steve Schultz
Armando Campos  Mike Huffman  Dana Minihan  Luther Smith
Steve Cromley  Tom Kelley  Lisa Muirheid-Martin  Iain Sutherland
Mary-Jane Debreuil  Keith Kennedy  Rao Mylavarapu  Fred Vocasek
Charles Denver  Clare Kinlin  Joan O’Brien  David Wallace
Susan Fitzgerald  Andy Knepp  Roberta Parry  Mark Weihiung

Wednesday, September 17, 2014:
Meeting called to order by Alan Romander 8:00am.

Luther Smith, Andy Knepp, Amy Asmus presented information on Specialty Certifications. POWERPOINT
-Why? Adds Value, Creates a way to identify those that do have the knowledge and skills, not all CCAs are the same, If we don’t other groups will (negative consequences)
-Types:
  -IPM
  -Sustainability Specialist
  -Cover Crops Specialist (focus on upper mid-west, adapted to regions)
  -Soybean Management
  -4R Nutrient Management
-Rationale: Increase value of CCA certification and increase value of the program to CCAs

Motion: To allow the ICCA executive committee to look at specialty certifications as they are developed and review, yet, and approve them for addition to the Certified Crop Adviser program. Andy Knepp/Thom Seconded by T. Weir. Motion Passes.

Karl Anderson and Fred Vocasek gave the Policy Update. POWERPOINT
-Congressional visits day, brings together academics/researchers, grad students and CCAs in support of ag research
-Goals: research funding, educate lawmakers and staff, serve as a resource
-more details to be sent to all boards

Norm Widman gave the USDA-NRCS Update. POWERPOINT
-Adaptive Management something that a CCA does in their day-to-day lives, process of testing an idea, evaluate and adjust the application of a conservation practice over multiple seasons
-Learning experience between the producer (farmer) and the consultant
-Origin: concept came from the planning or problem solving process
-Conducting on-farm field trials: Planning, implementing, evaluate, adjust
-Producer Involvement, Data, and options for Farmer Interaction
-NRCS Assistance: Tech support and Financial Support via EQIP—Win-Win situation for both parties

Roberta Parry gave the US-EPA Update. POWERPOINT
- Clean Water Act
- EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers Water of the US—Proposal
  Goal: Protect our waters in the US
  Rationale: clarification was asked by numerous states, give property owners more certainty, use science to reduce amount of the ground work needed by the US Army Corps of Engineer to determine jurisdiction
- Proposal: what does it do for ag? Retains existing Clean Water Act Ag exemptions
  Return flowed, ag storm water discharges, normal farming, construction, etc.
- Proposal: what it does not do?
  Protect any new types of waters
  Broaden historical coverage of the Clean Water Ag
  Regulate land use or groundwater
  Expand regulation of ditches
  If it wasn’t a water before, it isn’t now.
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)
  Problem: prevalence and duration of harmful algal blooms in fresh water is rapidly expanding in the US
  Causes: Physical Factors, Chemical Factors, Sources—depends on the watershed
  Action: Great Lake Restoration Initiative, Research, Drinking Water Advisories, Public Education
- Advancing Nutrient Sensor Technology: developing challenges to accelerate development of affordable, accurate, reliable nutrient sensors for both water and soils/plants
  - This may be available early 2015
  - Farmer Heroes: EPA is publicizing producers who are using best mgmt. practices to protect water, currently 8 stories, working with the NACD to identify additional producers
  - Suggested that EPA uses CCAs to identify farmers and showcase both the CCA and the farmer. Roberta will get back to Luther if interested.

Marta Krist presented the CEU Application 2.0 Demo.

Dates of 2015 meeting will be determined at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.