

**CCA North American Board Meeting
September 14-15, 2015
Kansas City, Missouri**

In Attendance:

Karl Anderson	Mauri Ann Domer	Carson Harmon	Marta McCoy	Kristine Standish
Steve Beckley	Susan Fitzgerald	Peyton Harper	Eric Mowen	Fred Vocasek
John Bergeson	Wayne Flanary	Michael Huffman	Lisa Muirheid Martin	Mark Weihing
Lee Briese	Sally Flis	Thomas Kelley	Joan O'Brien	Thom Weir
Traci Bultemeier	Miranda Fox	Clare Kinlin	Allan Romander	Eric Welsh
Armando Campos	Jennifer Gallus	Andy Knepp	Quentin Rund	Norm Widman
Jonathan Croft	Chuck Gatzemeier	Jeff Leonard	Steven Schultz	Judy Wright
Steven Cromley	Dawn Gibas	Cecelia Lokai-Minnich	Luther Smith	
Mary-Jane Debreuil	Jesse Grogan	Paul Luetjen	Denise Spanbauer	

Tuesday, September 15, 2015:

Meeting called to order at 8:00am by Steve Cromley.

Steve Cromley, Budget Review (see budget pages)

For 2015

- exam fees are up
- renewal fees are on track
- printing, supplies and services up due to increase in exams

For 2016

- increase in International exam in 2016
- slightly less in renewals due to dropping of leniency policy and unsure of the impact
- national exam scoring is a bit higher, switched to new psychometrician
- Steve motion to pass, Romander seconded, motion passed

Dawn, update on Exams, POWERPOINT

-Review of goals

- consistency and standardization across all exams
- compliance with accepted standards
- operate and maintain an exam program that is legally defensible

Update on past year

- ICCA exam updated
- 29 Local Board exams
- 1 specialty exam (4R)—sustainability coming in Feb 2016, IPM in committee, Mexico exam
- India (suspended) and 2 CSSE exams
- a little more than half of the boards have talked to Dawn about updating exam
- ICCA is meant to be 'base' exam, local board is specific to your region/province/state
- all working towards consistency with every exam

Performance Objectives

- POs are free to download from CCA website
- Major sections are divided into competency areas, with objectives within each competency area
- this structure is important to understand with respect to the exam software, AuthorWise

Working together with local boards—stressing a partnership, first step is to assess where it needs to go and how to get there

Workflow from Exams

- Update POs
- Perform Job Task Analysis (JTA)
- determine exam partitionings

- update exam
- perform an Angoff analysis to set a cut score (work with 8-10 people from local board who are certified)
- work with/learn item stats
- training in Authorize—going to AuthorWise

Legally Defensible Exams

- use the Angoff analysis to set cut score

Procedures/Options as we move forward

- Major Local Exam committee Functions include PO process, exam development and writing, review item analysis, approve/set cut scores, etc. Much to do
- Issues: lack of resources, exam committees, consistency
- Options: fee based option to have staff maintain exams, local board/exam committee still involved, staff facilitates everything getting done
- Update on Computer-based Testing
 - working on details with psychometrician
 - building a test driver for Authorwise that will allow us to export exams for computer delivery and administration
 - maybe use community colleges, libraries, etc. in order to have the exam on computers
- Business from the EPC to be brought to NA Board for discussion/approval: Once either or both of the ICCA and Local Board Exam are taken and passed, the length of time a person must wait prior to retesting is 3 years
- Discussion between boards. Didn't find this necessary but boards wanted to monitor into future and not accept was EPC proposed.
- Motion to table discussion by M. Weihing, seconded by M. Huffman, motion to table, passed.

Eric Welsh, Marketing Update. POWERPOINT

- marketing and promotions committee: regular planning calls, review/prioritize plan of work, approve/deny larger marketing initiatives
- Marketing objectives: increase value, support marketing efforts of local board, connect future agronomy professionals to our program, and work at national level to increase exposure to industry
- cost share, ambassador program, CCA CND (college students), Greenfield Scholars, Joint Communities
- How have your results been locally for your board's marketing over the past few years?
 - student initiative
- marketing efforts through boards kept by Eric Welsh
- communications taken over by Marta McCoy
- marketing packet to go out to all CCAs over the 2015-16 season
- still going to 4 trade shows for employers, ag media, college and grower focus
- annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN has many opportunities with CEUs, career accelerator roundtable, crops contest judges needed

Norm Widman, update on NRCS. POWERPOINT

- CNMP Revision (policy and format)
 - Signature page, Map and Record of Decisions for the Farmstead, map and record of decisions for the cropland, NM Plan
- Nitrogen Emissions: USDA GHG Mitigation Strategy for Nitrogen, reduce 7 million tons by 2025 get 64 million acres of pastureland/cropland, utilize 4Rs for NM
- Science Tool Portal: repurpose the NRCS Planning tool, hope to release in 2016 for NRCS, TSPs, General Public
- VegSpec: tool for soil, climate, practice, purpose
 - GIS Based
 - will produce a Planting Plan
- Increase acres of NM Planning:
 - allow more TSPs to use industry software
 - get more NM TSPs
 - Partner with Agri-Business
 - Regional Conservation Partnerships

- NRSC National NMS is now Dana Ashford-Kornburger
- Soil Health Division and Efforts: staff of 20 nationwide (NE, SE, Central and West teams)
- Erosion Prediction Tools and Integration:
 - current erosion prediction technology: RUSLE2 standalone, WEPS standalone
 - future erosion prediction technology: combine wind and water into one interface (web based), will also have standalone for wind or water,
- Gypsum Standard (Code 333): using gypsum products to change the physical/chemical properties of soil
 - purpose: improve soil health, improve water health

Steve Cromley opening the floor for any questions, comments, concerns...

- NR questioning people leaving early from CEU sessions, IL suggests to give QR code at the end of session, FL suggests to remind all of Code of Ethics—can we put it as a reminder on the app? (check with Ian)
- use marketing money in order to promote the ICCA program
- need people for task force, RRT, congressional visit day
- specialty certifications—what will we do for the exams? What are the solutions?
- format of meeting—go to electronic? Have meeting as is?

Award given to Allan Romander for service on North American Board
Meeting adjourned