

NOC Agriculture Advisory Board Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2018

Board members present were: Scott Blubaugh, Dr. Kurt Campbell, Bart Cardwell, Calvin Crumrine, Dale DeWitt, Dr. Cheryl Evans, Scott Harmon, Timothy Hubbard, Keith James, Jeremy Johns, Tricia Moore, and Dr. Pamela Stinson.

Dr. Cheryl Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Tricia Moore and Bart Cardwell provided a meeting overview.

An amount of \$300/acre is guaranteed for farmers and \$150 up front and \$150 when crop is delivered. There was a discussion of crop timelines. The first crop would need to be in the ground soon.

Possible research topics for NOC to conduct: soil, tests on factors such as PH, tilling practices, seeding notes, and irrigated vs non-irrigated, the use of herbicide, rain amounts, and yield data.

Economic research shows two crops per year in greenhouse production. GRO will help find a 40 X 80 teaching greenhouse, and heat detection security.

Dale DeWitt asked if we'd seen any contracts. Scott Blubaugh said contracts in the other industries are not farmer friendly. Scott wondered where manufacturing would be because of transportation costs. Dale didn't see any drawbacks with perceptions.

NOC could give farmers another option. Dale asked if it has to be a clean crop without nitrogen and asked about the challenges of not using herbicides. Greenhouse production might be first with field production next year. Jeremy Johns asked the length of the contract and Dr. Evans noted we want to specify terms for as long as the pilot lasts. Bart Cardwell said we don't know how long they will need. Higher education may regulate the length of a "pilot." Redlands has 3% from partners.

Dale asked if the greenhouse could be used to grow other things as well? Bart said they need fields planted by August 1st. Calvin Crumrine said that it looks good and to try it. Scott Blubaugh said we definitely need more options for farmers to make a living; there are unknowns, but that's what a pilot is for so he would be for it. Jeremy said he would be for it as long as it is in the best interest of the College. Dale said he for it as well, if we are comfortable with it; it is great to interest the students and help the local communities. Keith James agreed with Dale and added that we have to have enough cash to cover the expenses and staff that can handle it. Dr. Evans noted funds will help the AS program but not be exclusive as overhead costs will also be involved. Scott Blubaugh said the USDA may have grants to help with funding. Jeremy said he is not familiar with any equipment for hemp through John Deere.

Other questions and notes regarding the Contract included:

Can greenhouses grow other crops? Additional staff funding?

Length of contract? As long as pilot is in place.

Are market makers financially sound? 5% revenue return (27% of crops/land for research)

Copy of contract to farmer, including costs to farmers, and when they are paid.

Does the producer pay the \$500 fee? If liability, who pays and if a field has to be destroyed, whose loss?

Crop restrictions on neighbors?

Producers pay \$500 fees to the Department?

These additional questions will be mailed to GRO.

The meeting adjourned. The next Agriculture Advisory Board meeting will be held on August 28 at 5:30 p.m.