

**66TH ANNUAL MEETING
EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA SOIL AND WATER RESEARCH FARM, INC.**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: USDA ARS NORTH CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH LAB, BROOKINGS, SD

Directors Present: Anita Vos, Clark CD; Frank James, Day CD; Danny Limmer, Hamlin CD; Erland Weerts, Kingsbury CD; David Gillespie, Lincoln CD; George Leitheiser, McCook CD; Gordon Heber, Minnehaha CD; Marvin Kizer, Miner CD; Andy Lacey, Moody CD; Ordell Oswald, Turner CD, Josh Renkly, Brookings CD, Trevor Frensko, Deuel, CD and Roger Albertson, Lake CD. Dennis Fagerland, Marshall CD via zoom.

Directors Absent: Ken Bunde, Codington CD;

Others Present: Deanna Kunkel- ESDSWRF General Secretary; Attending from the USDA ARS NCARL: Sharon Schneider, Dhurba Neupane, Shannon Osborne, Karl Roeder, Chuntao Yin, Michael Lehman, Apurba Sutradhar and Darrell McKeown. Others who were in attendance, John Finnagin, Brookings CD, Jerry Aberde, Deuel, CD, Tanya Flagel, Kingsbury CD and Jeff Meadow, Lake CD.

Welcome – Dr. Sharon Schneider, USDA – ARS North Central Agricultural Research Laboratory welcomed the group to the meeting.

USDA ARS Update – Kim Lohmeyer, Acting Associate Area Director for REE ARS Plains Area Office, provided updates via conference screen.

Comments from Plains Area leadership; USDA ARS Plains Area Office, Ft. Collins, CO – Dr. Chandler and discussion.

Comments from research partners:

NCARL research presentation– Chuntao Yin

2025 activities of the Eastern South Dakota Soil and Water Research Farm

2025 Research Farm, Inc. Farm Field Day report

Customer Focus Group Update – Sharon Schneider updated the group on the CFG meeting held in January.

Lobby Activities – Erland Weerts, Kingsbury County and Gordon Heber, Minnehaha County, traveled to Washington DC in early April 2025. They met with several legislative staff members from SD, MN, ND and IA to discuss continued funding for NCARL.

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order

President Erland Weerts called the 66th annual meeting of the Eastern South Dakota Soil and Water Research Farm, Inc. to order at 2:38 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Amend agenda to add camelina research field day, April 20th at research farm location to new business. James, Day County moved to approve the amended agenda, second by Leitheiser, McCook County. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

James, Day County moved, second by Gillespie, Lincoln County, to approve the minutes of the March 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Gordon Heber, Minnehaha County presented the treasurer’s report. Oswald, Turner County moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented. Second by James, Day County. Motion carried.

Bills Presented for Payment

- General Secretary Compensation for Deanna 2024-25 - \$922.50 plus mileage \$150.80

James, Day County moved to approve and pay the bills presented for payment. Second by Vos, Clark County. Motion carried.

Field Day

Albertson, Lake County motioned to budget \$4,500 for the 2026 research farm field day to be held, July 8, 2026, 9:30-noon. Second by Gillespie, Lincoln County. Motion carried.

History of the Eastern SD Soil and Water Research Farm, Inc. – Gordon Heber provided a very interesting and educational power point presentation on the history of the E Eastern SD Soil and Water Research Farm, Inc.

Election of Directors

The following people were nominated by their respective districts to fill the director’s expiring terms:

<u>EXPIRING TERM</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>NOMINATION</u>
Josh Renkly	Brookings County	Josh Renkly
Danny Limmer	Hamlin County	Danny Limmer
Gordon Heber	Minnehaha County	Gordon Heber
Andy Lacey	Moody County	Andy Lacey
Ordell Oswald	Turner County	Ordell Oswald

James, Day County moved, second by Lacey, Moody County, to accept the director nominations from their respective counties. Motion carried.

Motion by James, Day County with a second by Lacey, Moody County that nominations cease. Motion carried.

Motion James, Day County with a second by Lacey, Moody County to cast a unanimous ballot for director nominations as shown. Motion passed.

Election of Officers

James, Day County, moved to keep the same slate of officers and executive committee members. Second by Lacey, Moody County. Motion carried. Erland Weerts, President; Roger Albertson, Vice-President; and Gordon Heber, Treasurer. Motion by James, Day County with a second by Lacey, Moody County to cast a unanimous ballot for officer nominations as shown. Motion passed.

Executive Committee Appointments – According to the by-laws, the Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and two (2) appointed directors – currently serving: Frank James, Day County and Anita Vos, Clark County. Frank, Day County, moved, seconded by Lacey, Moody, County, to re-appoint James and Vos to serve on the executive committee. Motion carried.

New Business:

Resolution in support of the USDA, ARS North Central Agricultural Research Laboratory

James, Day County and Gillespie, Lincoln County, moved to have the executive committee draw up a letter of support. Motion carried.

Director Compensation: Motion by Gillespie, Lincoln County with a second by Frank, Day County to increase the treasurers reimbursement to \$1000 per year. Motion carried.

Farm Least with ARS needs to be redone Motion by James, Day county to charge rent for 2027 at \$28,800 on a one year lease term first half payment due March 1, 2027 and second payment due September 1, 2027 , second by Gillespie, Lincoln County. Motion carried.

Replacement of the sign at the farm – tabled to 2027 meeting

Website Development: Motion by James, to budget \$500 to start a webpage for the farm, second by Albertson, Lake County. Motion carried.

Camelina Research Field Day - Vos, Clark County made a motion to approve doing a field Day for the camelina research, second by James, Day County. Motion carried.

Other Business:

2026 Washington DC Lobby Activities – Heber and Weerts will be going to Washington April 2026

Secretary change – Motion by Lacey, Moody County to remove Deanna Kunkel as secretary, due to retirement, effective March 18, 2026. Second by Gillespie, Lincoln County. Motion carried. Motion by Gillespie, Lincoln County to appoint Tanya Flagel, Kingsbury CD, as the new ESDSWRF General Secretary, second by Albertson, Lake County. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 17, 2027

Adjourn – Being no further business to come before the meeting, Limmer, Hamlin County, moved, to adjourn the meeting @ 4:18. Motion carried.


Deanna Kunkel, Recording Secretary

3-18-26

