



International Certified Crop Adviser Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Minutes Thursday March 14, 2024, 1:00-3:00pm (Eastern)

Chair Sandy Endicott opened the meeting. Attendees included:

ICCA Executive Committee:

Sandy Endicott, Chair

Isaac Wolford, Past Chair

Karl Wyant, Vice Chair

Andy Knepp, ICCA Board Rep on ASA Board

Staff:

Jim Cudahy, CEO

Dawn Gibas, Certifications Director

Lacey Edwardson, Support Center Lead

Michele Lovejoy, Lead Exam Operations Rep.

Grace Moran, Certification & Exam Specialist

Luther Smith, Chief Administrative Officer

Sara Uttech, Governance Director

Board Members/Admins:

Isaac Anderson

Glenn Beard

Markus Braaten

Aaron Breimer

Walter Brown

Erin Burton

Traci Bultemeier

John Christianson

Sterling Clifton

Karen Corrigan

Jessica D'Entremont

Miranda Driver

Nathan Eck

Susan Fitzgerald

Bob Flynn

Justin George

Ben Gleason

Glen Harris

Terry Helms

Jeremy Kichler

Peter Kyveryga

Chuck Lippstreu

Paul Luetjen

Lisa Martin

Brian Marcinkiewicz

Jeanette Marvin

Mike Mulvaney

Peter Naumann

Errin Nelson

Kevin Otte

Rahul Patel

Michael Plumblee

Brandon Poole

Jennifer Reed Harry

Andrea Rice

Lidia Sánchez

Tim Schaub

Connie Schroeder

Mershon Tobin

Stephen Vasquez

Jason Voogt

Ben Wicker

A092.4 International CCA Board of Directors

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. March 14, 2024 ICCA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
2. Dec. 14, 2023 ICCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Certification Program

Certifications Director Dawn Gibas provided an update on Certifications, including the results of the recent certification exam administration which showed an increase in exam numbers.

1. Exam Highlights:

- Total exams: 694 registered
 - ICCA Exams: 337 registered, 314 sat for exams
 - Local Boards: Sent to local boards last week
- Next exam windows: March/April and July/August
- Hoping to offer Section Testing starting for the July/August window
- Plans to bring in Mexico with remote proctoring for the July/August window

- We are using a mix of Proctor Services:
 - Examinty 71.1% of exams - have been our proctoring service since starting remote proctoring, have been complaints about strong accents that are difficult to understand.
 - MonitorEDU 28.9% of exams - new for 2024, has side view (extra camera), Spanish proctors, and the proctors are more likely to not have strong accents.
 - We will be moving more toward MonitorEDU in the future.
 - Survey: Compared to 2020 and 2021 surveys, data shows increased satisfaction in all aspects of the exam process – registration through taking the exam. Overall comments were also discussed, and they were similar to past comments with concerns including the ability to understand proctors (Examinty), proctor disruptions during exams, lack of study materials for exams, wanting actual scores and to know which questions they missed.
- 2. Staff changes: Zoe Brindley left the ICCA program.
- 3. Marketing: Support Center Lead Lacey Edwardson will organize quarterly ICCA Marketing Meetings for marketing brainstorming sessions brainstorm and improve the CCA program's marketing efforts. Anyone can join the ICCA Marketing Discussion Group, ideally one representative from each board, email ledwardson@sciencesocieties.org to join.

A092.22 CCA Science Policy Committee

Chief Administrative Officer Luther Smith reported on policy and government relations:

1. The Farm Bill is currently in limbo, likely looking at a one-year extension.
2. ASA-CSSA-SSSA held Congressional Visits Day in Washington, DC March 4-5 with 46 attendees including CCAs, members, and students. They visited 80 Congressional offices to advocate for ag research funding, the Farm Bill, and an expansion of the Technical Service Program with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
 - Related to TSP, the ICCA program does have a Memorandum of Understanding signed with USDA-NRCS that does recognize a CCA to enter the TSP system, but we want to streamline the process, especially some of the continuing education requirements which may be redundant with our CEU requirements.
 - Regarding the TSP payment rate, Luther confirmed that the program does contain information that CCAs should be paid at the current market rate.
3. Board members are encouraged to join the CCA Policy Committee and/or our newly formed Rapid Response Teams, which are being developed based on the four CCA competency areas, email lsmith@sciencesocieties.org to learn more.

FFA Task Force

Past Chair Isaac Wolford and Traci Bultemeier provided an update on FFA work, highlighting the success of the national agronomy career development event and potential opportunities for collaboration between local CCA boards and state FFA boards:

- Now that the exam based on ICCA Performance Objectives has been given for two years, look at expanding the FFA Apprenticeship program to the state level. Looking to do this on a trial basis in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and a mid-Atlantic state in development of their own exams.
- The task force is meeting with representatives from these states to talk about the best way to approach it moving forward. The first thing we did was get the approval of the national FFA, which we did thanks to Rebecca Carter and William Wadrich, who lead their agronomy career development event. They are both excited and want to partner with us to help them and state FFA boards connect to teachers, students, and anyone coordinating the state exams. Once these connections are made, local boards could assist in hosting summer teacher workshops, for example, as they have identified that as a need.
- The National Agronomy Career Development Event (Agronomy CDE) is held at the November FFA Meeting and the event is being redesigned and rolled out this fall.
- FFA students can opt-in to the CCA Apprenticeship program if they are above the cut score on the written exam at the Agronomy CDE.

ASA Membership Task Force

ICCA Board Representative Andy Knepp provided an update on the ASA Membership Task Force. He noted that the task force is much broader than just ASA membership. They plan on doing survey work to assess the needs of ICCAs. He encourages Board members to contact him for ideas and feedback: andy.knepp@pioneer.com.

Policy & Procedures Task Force on Amnesty

1. Members of the Policy & Procedures Task Force on Amnesty:

- Chair Sandy Endicott, endicottsandy82@gmail.com
- Gene McAvoy (FL), gmcavoy@ufl.edu
- Lisa Martin (IL), lisam.martin@frontier.com
- Barrett Noirfalise (MO), bnoirfalise@yahoo.com
- Andrea Rice (MO), arice@mo-ag.com
- Chad Stoeckl (Northeast), cstoeckl@wnycma.com
- Jeanette Marvin (Northeast), jeanettefmarvin@gmail.com

2. ACTION: Motion by David Simonson, seconded by Todd Rhode, to approve the Amnesty Proposal as presented by Chair Sandy Endicott. Motion carries by a vote of 15-5. Board members are encouraged to contact Task Force members to provide feedback on the policy and provide any suggested changes.

Policy & Procedures CEU Requirements Task Force

1. Members of the Policy & Procedures CEU Requirements Task Force:

- Chair Sandy Endicott, endicottsandy82@gmail.com
- Isaac Anderson (MN), ianderson1@landolakes.com
- Shaun Blaser (NW), ki7seb.shaun@gmail.com
- Jennell Eck McHenry (MidAtlantic), jennell.mdag@gmail.com
- Kevin Otte (OH), kevin@otte-ag1.com
- Andrea Rice (MO), arice@mo-ag.com

2. ACTION: Following discussion, there was consensus to return revised CEU Requirements proposal to the task force for further refinement. There was also consensus to add the Ethics component to the CEU proposal and bring both back to the board for discussion and approval. Board members are encouraged to contact Task Force members to provide feedback on the policy and provide any suggested changes.

Upcoming ICCA Board Meetings

1. June 6, 2024, 1:00-3:00pm (Eastern) – virtual

2. Sept. 23-26, 2024, Gainesville, FL – in person

Dawn Gibas reported that the hotel contract for the upcoming Florida meeting is finalized.

- Monday Sept. 23 Travel Day
- Tuesday Sept. 24 Field Visits (likely peanuts, cotton, etc.) University of Florida Research Center, visiting farm, selling water to a bottling company – will have CEUs available.
- Wednesday Sept. 25 ICCA Board Meeting in Gainesville, local communicating to the public, hot topics, etc.
- Thursday Sept. 26 ICCA Board Meeting in morning, travel home in afternoon
- Open Meeting: Any CCA can attend.

3. Dec. 12, 2024, 1:00-3:00pm (Eastern) - virtual

Consensus to adjourn.