**Indiana Pork Board of Directors Meeting**

**Conference Call**

**Monday April 27, 2020**

**8:30 am**

**Minutes**

**Attendance**

Nick Maple Nick Tharp Telynda Hendrickson

Tyler Fledderman Mike Taylor Dr. Marshall Martin

Brian Martin Doug Newcom Heather Hill

Andy Tauer Mich Render Mark Johnson

**Staff**

Josh Trenary Jeanette Merritt Stacy Herr Stephanie Morris

**Call to Order**

Nick Maple called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

**Antitrust Statement**

Josh Trenary read to the Board the conflict of interest and antitrust statements. He reminded the Board to not discuss price or market conditions. Boards of Directors such as Indiana Pork are under scrutiny by the Department of Justice and we should adhere to our conflict of interest and antitrust policies in our deliberations in any Indiana Pork Board meeting.

**Reserve Spending Policy**

Josh Trenary reviewed the reserve spending policy. Indiana Pork must retain a 6-month reserve for operating expenses and spend no more than 25% of total reserves in one year. At the current spending level, a 6-month reserve would be between $675,000 and $690,000.

Josh Trenary recommended that for the current covid 19 pig inventory crisis in Indiana,and potential for euthanasia of animals, that the Board authorize $25,000 from the checkoff disease account for centralized euthanasia equipment, an additional amount of up to $125,000 from checkoff funds if necessary, and authorize Tim Murphy and Josh Trenary to select noncheckoff funds instead of checkoff funds if new equipment would be purchased that would be owned by Indiana Pork.

Discussion followed on the recommendations made by Josh Trenary. Heather Hill made and Brian Martin seconded a motion to suspend reserve spending guidelines for covid 19 related expenditures. The motion was approved.

Nick Tharp then made and Tyler Fledderman seconded a motion to authorize $25,000 from the checkoff disease account for centralized euthanasia equipment, an additional amount up to $125,000 from checkoff funds if necessary, and to authorize Tim Murphy and Josh Trenary to select noncheckoff funds instead of checkoff funds if any equipment purchased would be owned by Indiana Pork. The motion was approved.

Josh Trenary then discussed some National Pork Board grant options for additional funding. The Indiana Board of Animal Health is developing some consistent euthanasia procedures. Stacey Herr has been in contact with Dr. Cooper. Josh Trenary is in frequent contact with Dr. Bret Marsh. As soon as he has a consistent disposal guidance document from the Indiana Board of Animal Health and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management he will share it with the Indiana pork industry. He further stated that NRCS EQIP lacks funds, would require additional paperwork to make payments to individual producers, and does not have a centralized mortality management capacity. Josh Trenary was asked to estimate the number of animals that might have to be euthanized. He said about 187,000 based on the two closed plants in Indiana that process 43 percent of Indiana hogs and assuming that they were closed for 12 days.

Josh Trenary referenced a letter that he had forwarded to the Indiana Pork Board that he has prepared to send to Governor Holcomb. It is currently being vetted with the Indiana Farm Bureau and the Indiana Soybean Alliance. It recommends working through FEMA as a better funding option and process compared to NRCS EQIP.

Dr. Kara Stewart is planning an Extension information session on Wednesday (April 29, 2020) and Jeanette Merritt has shared talking points with her.

**Formal FEMA funding ask letter to Governor Holcomb for disposal of mortality**

Motion made by Mark Johnson

Second by Telynda Hendrickson

All board members agreed by saying “I”

**Other federal assistance**

Josh has a call with other state executive directors with USDA to further discuss what this looks like. Indiana Pork will need to send another letter to Governor Holcomb to sign and send to Vice President Mike Pence. The letter will state that the Governor will be able to force open a packing plant. So far, Josh has not felt like Governor Holcomb would plan to sign the letter. If the Governor does not agree with the FEMA ask or the letter to the Vice President, Mike Pence, Indiana Pork will need more grass roots for this issue and will need producers to contact the Governor’s office.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Taylor

Second by Mark Johnson

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 am

Respectively submitted,



Dr. Marshall A Martin

Secretary