The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting is included as Attachment 1.

Stan McTaggart was introduced as the new representative from IDNR, replacing Dan Stephenson who will be retiring in the upcoming year.

The minutes from the September 7, 2017 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. On a motion by Dr. Spencer, a second by Ms. Lowry, and a unanimous vote, the minutes of the meeting were approved.

INCIDENT REPORTS:

IDA - Mr. Frank reported there were no incidents involving pesticides to report from the Illinois Department of Agriculture during the last three months.

IDNR - Mr. McTaggart reported there were no incidents to report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

IEPA - Ms. Lowry reported there were no incidents to report from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

IDPH - Dr. Colwell reported there were no incidents to report from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

IDoT - Ms. Dobbs reported there were no incidents to report from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

U of IL-ACES - Mr. Gill reported there were no incidents to report from the University of Illinois.

U of IL-INHS - Dr. Spencer reported there were no incidents to report from the Illinois Natural History Survey.

SECTION 24(c) REQUESTS: Mr. Frank reported on one Special Local Need request submitted to the Department during the past three months. Syngenta requested a renewal of an SLN that has been in existence for ten years. Dual Magnum has been used in Illinois under a Special Local Need on pumpkins as a broadcast application to control weeds. This registration will expire at the end of the calendar year. A five-year renewal was approved in late November.

SECTION 18 REQUESTS: Mr. Frank reported there were no Emergency Exemption requests submitted to the
Department during the past three months.

COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY COMPLIANCE: Ms. Lowry reported on one violation of standards during the past three months. See Attachment 2.

SECTION 2(ee) RECOMMENDATIONS: Mr. Frank distributed copies of a section 2(ee) recommendation for one product. This is included as Attachment 3.

PESTICIDE MISUSE COMPLAINT STATUS: Ms. Moss reported that as of December 1, 2017, 430 complaints had been received by the Department with 362 of them being agriculturally related and 246 alleging damage from dicamba. Sixty-four cases have been closed with no misuse determined, 82 warning letters have been issued, and 8 notices of fine have been issued.

IDPH STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE: Dr. Colwell indicated that the Structural Pest Control program was moving along nicely. They are looking at extending the sunset provision of the Structural Pest Control Act during the next legislative session.

OLD BUSINESS:
Mr. Owens led the continuing discussion regarding the use of pesticides containing dicamba on soybeans. U.S. EPA has added additional restrictions on the labels of the products involved, XtendiMax, Engenia, and FeXapan, including a re-classification to Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) status, time-of-day restrictions on applications, recordkeeping requirements, wind speed measurement requirements, and annual training prior to using the product. Illinois has decided to utilize the training programs put on by the product registrants, Monsanto, BASF, and DuPont. The Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association has been active in coordinating the logistics of the sessions.

Mr. Beaver informed the group that licensing changes related to the Illinois Pesticide Act are in effect now for applicators and operators who are seeking a new license. After this transition year in 2018, all licenses will be on a three-year cycle with the licensing fee for all three years being paid at the first year. For applicators, the expiration of the category exams will coincide with the expiration of the General Standards exam.

Mr. Owens provided an update on the new pesticide applicator licensing system and database under development for the Department. The new database system is functioning quite nicely; however, the software that reads and grades the exam answer sheets and transfers the information to the database needs some improvements in speed. The module of the system that handles pesticide product registration, including on-line product registration and payment of fees, is scheduled to be functional during the week of December 11. Once all modules are fully functional, the Department anticipates a great savings of time with regards to the processing of pesticide licenses and product registrations.

Mr. Frank informed the committee that the unwanted pesticide collection program, or “Clean Sweep”, was held on September 13 at Dewey, IL. Eighty-eight participants delivered 25,785 pounds of unwanted pesticides which will be properly disposed of by a waste disposal company.

Mr. Owens informed the committee that the proposed Illinois Pesticide Act penalty changes, which were discussed at the previous meeting, have been submitted to the front office at IDA for possible consideration during the upcoming legislative session.

No further old business was brought before the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:
The Illinois Pesticide Act states that the Interagency Committee on Pesticides shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor prior to each General Assembly session. A draft letter to be sent to the Governor for this purpose was reviewed by the group. This is included as Attachment 4. The group agreed to send the cover letter along with copies of the minutes from the four meetings held throughout the year to the Governor.
Meeting dates for the 2018 calendar year were proposed. Following the traditional schedule of holding the meetings on the first Thursday of the third month of each quarter, the group agreed via a motion by Dr. Spencer, a second by Mr. Owens and a unanimous vote, to hold the meetings on the following dates: March 1, June 7, September 6, and December 6.

Mr. Owens presented an update on the Land Application Authorization program administered by IDA. This program allows for the spreading of agrichemical-contaminated soil from an agrichemical facility or as a result of a spill during transport, at agronomic rates according to the active ingredients involved, onto farmland. This is included as Attachment 5.

Mr. Gill announced that two vacancies, due to retirements, on the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) team at the University of Illinois have been filled. The PSEP team conducts pesticide training for individuals desiring to become licensed as pesticide applicators or operators. Sara Hughson has assumed the entomologist role as replacement for Dr. Phil Nixon. Maria Restrepo-Turner has replaced David Robson as an IPM specialist.

No further new business was brought before the committee.

On a motion by Ms. Lowry, a second by Dr. Colwell and a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next meeting of the Interagency Committee on Pesticides is scheduled for March 1, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Natural Resources Conference Room #1 at the John R. Block - Illinois Department of Agriculture building on the State Fairgrounds in Springfield, IL.