

**Land Improvement Contractors of America
Board Meeting
March 2, 2026 - Las Vegas, Nevada**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tony Cain.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Ted Lashley called roll and declared a quorum present.
A complete roll call is listed below.

Illinois Pres. Jon Seevers	New Jersey Pres. Ron Garofalo
Indiana Pres. Keith Miller	New York Pres. David Rule (proxy)
Iowa Pres. Dave Flewelling	Ohio Pres. Dan Thiel
Kansas Pres. Steve Peter	Pennsylvania Absent
Michigan Pres. Dave Kemp (proxy)	South Dakota Absent
Minnesota Pres. Dallas Loken	Virginia Absent
Missouri Pres. Ryan Cronk	Wisconsin Absent
Nebraska Pres. Jim Group	
Executive Committee Chairman Tony Cain President Jeff Schell Vice President Steve Anderson Region 1 Chris Wagner Region 2 Dave Gallahan Region 3 Adam Cook Region 4 Russ Peters Region 5 Vacant Region 6 Ted Lashley	Past Presidents Absent Associates David Lee Ladies Sarah Cook

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Chris Wagner for an open agenda, seconded by Dave Gallahan. Passed

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Chris Wagner to approve the previous minutes, seconded by Adam Cook. Passed.

REPORTS

Chairman of the Board - Tony Cain

After our search committee completed the search for our new CEO, we all voted for Dennis to take over.

I have been preparing for the winter convention in Vegas. I have seen positive changes already as the staff is preparing myself and the officers and the committee chairs so as we can have a very organized convention. I am also pleased with our move to our national office location in Lisle, IL.

I have been very busy being on the INLICA field day committee. We are expecting 2 days of education installing field tile drainage at Purdue University Agronomy Farm outside of West Lafayette, IN.

President - Jeff Schell

I feel that these past couple of months have been very productive for LICA National. We have held several Executive Committee ZOOM meetings and have ironed out and explained the duties for all officers. (Thank you Allison, Caroline & Dennis) Dennis brings a new sense of "professionalism" to the office of the CEO. I am looking forward to the future LICA.

I spent nearly half of January on the road attending state conventions. The first week I flew to Columbus, Ohio to attend the Ohio winter meeting in Dublin, many thanks to Steve and Eric Gerten for their, 30 plus minutes each way, "Uber" services to and from the airport. This just goes to show how making friends through LICA over the years has benefits that don't show up on a list in a magazine. The next week it was off to Lincoln, Nebraska for their annual meeting. The following week I drove to Bloomington, Illinois for their Winter Convention. With a -20 degree wind chill on Friday afternoon, I decided to depart early, as there was a snowstorm headed out of the west, head-on, into my route home. I made it home late that Friday and beat the 6" snow by less than 2 hours. The next week I attended our own Kansas convention in Manhattan, which was a very welcomed 56 miles from my house. One thing I found out is that each state has its own unique way of putting on a convention. I thoroughly enjoyed each and every convention, as well as the courtesy and hospitality extended to me. I engaged in some great conversation with people I had never met before. As a bonus, while in Ohio, I partnered up with Ohio LICA President Dan Thiel for their cornhole tournament, and lo and behold, we won! Good times for sure.

Treasurer - Russ Peters

Before you are the financials four month ending January 31, 2026.

There is a two-year comparison of the P & L per request of the audit and executive committee.

Dues are coming in slowly. We will have a much better idea of total dues at the end of March.

The office rent has been reduced by \$2,000. The move was the first week in January.

National is cutting expenses wherever possible.

The checking account balance is \$131,602. There is also a \$200,000.

Executive Committee - Ted Lashley

The Executive Committee met on Saturday, February 28 in Las Vegas for a brief review meeting. Officer and state chapter reports were presented, along with updates on current activities. The Committee also reviewed responsibilities and overall governance. Discussion focused on maintaining alignment across leadership and operations.

MOTIONS

Steve Anderson moves to hold the summer board meeting virtually on Monday, July 20th Dave Gallahan. Passed.

Steve Anderson moves to hold the Winter Convention 2027 in Phoenix, Russ Peters. Passed.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Associates Meeting – Sunday, March 1, 2026

In attendance: David Lee, Nate Cook, Alan Blaher, Brad Langerak, Bruce Mosier, Craig Callisto, Alan Kruszka, Amber Bosma, Rich Thompson, Scott Lukan, Andrew Drish, Rick Blesi, Barry Mitchell, Maggie Smith, Jim Jansen, John Larson, Tim Erikson, Gary Raniolo II, and Rebecca Scott.

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 pm by Chairman David Lee.

Motion for an approval of the agenda Amber Bosma, second by Rebecca Scott. Passed

Motion for an approval of the previous minutes Rebecca Scott, second by Amber Bosma. Passed.

David Lee asked about the accommodations. Harrah's was okay,

David Lee asked if Associates would be willing to do educational webinars for National LICA YouTube and/or social media. Anywhere from 3-5 minutes long.

Discussion on sharing information between Associates through emails or a shared calendar.

Due to the new implemented communications, the Associates see no need for a virtual meeting before the 2026 Summer Meeting.

Motion to adjourn Alan Kruszka, second Becca Scott. Adjourned.

Budget – March 1, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 5:13pm by Russ Peters.

In attendance: Adam Cook, MI; Chris Wagner, NJ; Russ Peters, IA; Michael Dietrich, NJ; Ted Lashley, NE; Dennis Mikula, National

Motion for an open agenda by David Gallahan, Chris Wagner. Passed

Motion to approve the previous minutes by Chris Wagner, Dave Gallahan. Passed.

Election-Treasurer-Ted Lashley. Nominated by Dave Gallahan, second by Adam Cook.

Election-Secretary Adam Cook. Nominated by Chris Wagner, second by Dave Gallahan.

Ted and Dennis will meet to go over numbers.

Michael Dietrich in attendance. Introduced as financial reviewer of financial review.

Caroline Krug will handle day to day numbers.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Gallahan, Chris Wagner. Passed. Adjourned 5:20pm.

Conservation, Excavation & Earthmoving- March 1, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 10:33am by Chairman Ted Lashley

In attendance: David Gallahan, VA; Ted Lashley, NE; Bruce Barnhart, IA; Steve Anderson, IL; Joe Stull, IN; Terry McConnell, OH; Dee Lar-

son, MN; Shane Fountain, IA; Ray Cooney, NE; Jon Ungerer, KS; Jeff Schell, KS; Scott Lukan, IA; Jim Group, NE; Dave Bose, KS; Ryan Arch, IL; Matt Japp, NE; Ann Rasmussen, NE; Daniel Thiel, OH; Carolyn Thiel, OH; John Freeman, MI; Tomasa Ambriz, IL; Mark Erpelding, IA; Jon Seevers, IL; Keith Miller, IN; Russ Peters, IA

Motion for an open agenda by Jeff Schell, second by Bruce Barnhart, Passed.

Motion for approval of previous minutes by Russ Peters, second by Jim Group. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gov't Shutdown – affected funding/bidding

Ag work – farmer's desire evaporated because they didn't have the funding

Feedlots received funding

NRCS – reductions in staff

Iowa hit hard – didn't have any archeologists – delayed projects, so they borrowed Nebraska's archeologists; Kansas taking forever to archeologists to get stuff done

Some states complaining NRSC/TSP not accepting anything except engineers for TSP programs

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Illinois gets credit – has apprentice program; have to have apprentice in order to get 3/more employees; call local community colleges

One Calls – work with legislators to make things better

Iowa contractors have more clout – have more laws passed

Nebraska – still tough

Need to the right contacts with state representatives

NEW BUSINESS

QR Codes – Survey: please do! This benefits LICA/all of us!

Technology –

manufacturers are doing better with equipment - A lot of progress

GPS – re-establishing US standard: designing time – not old US vs new QR Code on equipment

Helpful for operators

One place for each machine – good for service

Better for manufacturers to produce – liability issue if owner does

DEF

Gov't asking for data in def rates to help mitigate some of these problems?

Emissions related

Committee – State/Region

-Virtual committee meeting June 2nd at 6:00pm CT

Motion to adjourn by Dave Gallahan, second by Russ Peters. Passed. Adjourned 11:18am.

Convention Committee – March 1, 2026

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Steve Anderson at 1:15 pm

Roll Call: Chairman Steve Anderson LICA Vice President, Ted Lashley Region 6 VP, Russ Peters, Region 4 VP, Adam Cook Region 3 VP, Chris Wagner Region I VP

In Attendance: Steve Anderson, IL; Adam Cook, MI; Ted Lashley, NE; Hugo Castillo, NJ; Tracy Carver, NJ; Rebecca Scott, IN; Jon Seevers, IL; Renee Lashley, NE; Ron Garofalo, NJ; Pat McConnell, OH; Pat Wagner, NJ; Dave Gallahan, VA; Norma Lashley, NE; Ann Rasmussen, NE; Maura Dibble, NY; Nordis Estrem, MN; Dee Ann Larson, MN; Nanci Gutwein, IN; Amy Gerten, OH; Tony Cain, IN; Ray Cooney, NE; Kira Cooney, NE; Amber Bosma, IA; and Mike Cook, MI.

Chris Wagner made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Russ Peters, carried

Ted Lashley made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting at Duluth, MN, seconded by Adam Cook. Carried

Old Business: 2026 Virtual Summer Meeting. National Staff talked

about the fact that we cannot hold a meeting in conjunction with the Water Management Forum. National will not be hosting another Forum this year.

Chris Wagner made the motion to hold a virtual summer meeting, seconded by Russ Peters. Carried. The Board Meeting will be held on Monday, July 20, 2026, committee meetings to be determined.

Adam Cook made the motion to attend the casino in Arizona, seconded by Ted Lashley.

Buddy Freund, NJ and Ron Garofalo, NJ spoke about the upcoming summer convention in New Jersey.

Buddy Freund presented New Jersey's vision for the 2027 Convention. The goal is to create an exciting, high-energy event that motivates all 2,400 members to attend. Plans include a Wednesday evening welcome reception with entertainment and strong attendance.

The committee discussed developing a high-value educational track focused on topics that directly impact contractors' businesses. Confirmed speakers include Joe Terillo, presenting "Devastation to Inspiration," and Blaine Adams on construction economics and forecasting.

Morning devotionals are planned, along with educational programming for Executive Directors based on their identified needs. A tour of an 88,000-square-foot restored truck museum is also being considered.

New Jersey proposed adjusting the schedule to hold education and Associates' Night on Thursday, committee meetings on Friday, and the Board Meeting on Saturday. The intent is to allow greater participation in convention events and increase attendance.

Concerns were raised about the impact on preparation for the Board meeting. The current structure allows time for committee chairs to review minutes, identify motions, and prepare reports before the Board meets.

A virtual meeting will be held in approximately 30 days to further review the proposal and logistics. The motion was seconded and approved.

Russ Peters made the motion to table this and discuss this before the Zoom meeting, Chris Wagner seconded. Carried.

Potential 2028 locations were discussed. A motion was made and approved to investigate Charleston and Savannah.

Winter 2028 – Russ Peters made the motion to have the convention in Savannah, seconded by Ted Lashley.

Chris Wagner moved to strike the motion the last motion, seconded by Dave Gallahan, carried.

Ted made the motion to investigate Savannah and Charleston, Chris Wagner seconded, Carried.

Adam Cook made the motion to adjourn at 2:15, seconded by Ted Lashley. Motion Carried.

Education & Technology Committee –March 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am by Chairman Chris Wagner. In attendance: Chris Wagner, NJ; Caroline Krug, National; MaryBeth Schram, National; Kelby Kiefer, IA; Andrea Rice, MO; Mitchell Rice, MO; Kira Cooney, NE; Tracy Carver, NJ; Hugo Castillo, NJ; Nate Cook, MI; Ron Garofalo, NJ; Maura Dibble, NY; Eric Layden, IL; Buddy Freund, NJ; Dennis Mikula, National

Motion for an open agenda by Maura Dibble, second by Ron Garofalo. Passed

Motion to approve the previous minutes by Nate Cook, second by Maura Dibble. Passed.

Old Business:

-Chris Wagner encouraged everyone to attend the education sessions in the Earthmoving track at CONEXPO.

New Business:

Discussion on potential webinar ideas.

Kira of NE suggested succession planning and contract law.

NJ webinar recordings are available online for members only.

Mary Beth from Origin has offered help from Origin in the form of webinars or white papers. She also offered to facilitate OSHA 10 hour and OSHA 30 hour virtually. Mary Beth will confirm capability of conducting virtual OSHA 30 as a National benefit.

Chris Wagner requested a volunteer to step in as chair of the Education & Tech committee. Ron Garofalo will consider it.

Virtual meeting for Ed &Tech committee was posed for May/ June. Date is set for June 10th at 6pm CT.

Hugo recommended starting a LICA podcast. They are popular among contractors. Testimonials from members

Establish a private podcast. Research which platform can be free and accessible.

Andrea MO and Hugo NJ volunteered to research this process.

Andrea suggested establishing a guideline for what is free and what is behind a member only paywall.

Dennis Mikula suggested having a LICA partner sponsor the production of a LICA podcast, with opportunities for advertising.

Reusing a 30-minute webinar as a podcast, and editing it down to 3-5 minute short form, and a 30 second teaser. For more social media contractors.

Associates could get involved by having discussions with contractors on the podcast.

Offer a podcast spot to Associates who invest in LICA as a perk.

Chris Wagner brought an idea from Past Presidents that we should have a standing seminar about how to run a formal meeting with a Roberts Rules refresher. Create a webinar as a resource that can be reviewed by every new committee chair.

Andrea Rice suggested onboarding of some kind for new members and chairs.

Include a Robert Rules guide with bullet points for each committee.

Ron Garofalo reiterated the importance of attending the Earthmoving education track.

Andrea suggested we try to get the rights to the AEM education session recordings.

Andrea asked about creating a "What is LICA?" video as a part of onboarding.

Motion to adjourn by Eric Layden, second by Ron Garofalo. Passed. Adjourned 11:21am.

Executive Directors Meeting – Sunday, March 1, 2026

Those in attendance were: Sarah Cook, MI; Hugo Castillo, NJ; Pat McConnell, OH; Amy Gerten, OH; Jenny Breberg, MN; Nanci Gutwein, IN; Kelby Keifer, IA; Ryan Arch, IL; Andrea Rice, MO; Jon Ungerer, KS; and Kira Cooney, NE.

The Executive Directors hosted their meeting in two parts. The first part was led by Dennis Mikula, who reviewed the main themes from his one-on-one meetings with the Executive Directors. The group then broke into smaller teams and narrowed the list down to three priority areas.

Kelby Kiefer and Kira Cooney (co-chairs), and Andrea Rice, Jenny Breberg – Marketing Position

Ryan Arch and Nanci Gutwein (co-chairs), Pat McConnell, Amy Gerten, Joanie Micsky – Retention

Maura Dibble and Buddy Freund (co-chairs), Sarah Cook, Jon Ungerer, Millie Gallahan – Benefits

Motion to approve the previous minutes by Jenny Breberg, second Buddy Freund. Passed

Hugo and Buddy talked about the development of a Building Leadership Development Group (BLDG), noting that the working title may change. The event series will be called Construction, Cocktails, and Connections. Four events have been scheduled for 2026. The purpose of these primarily social gatherings is to engage younger members of the industry, with the goal of attracting and identifying future leaders and increasing participation among the next generation in NJLICA.

Nanci Gutwein said that IN LICA did hearing tests for their members and associates. She said it went really well.

Andrea Rice, Executive Director of Missouri LICA, reported that an official Missouri LICA Legislative Day was held this year for the first time in nearly a decade. She noted that proposed legislation regarding comparative negligence law has been introduced in Missouri, which would significantly benefit MO LICA members. During the event, members met with the Chairs of the Conservation and Commerce Committees, as well as the bill sponsors. Time was also allotted for members to meet with their individual representatives and senators. Following the Capitol visits, discussion was held about making Legislative Day at least a semi-annual activity and potentially incorporating a Capitol tour in the future.

Jenny Breberg spoke about the legislative issues they have in Minnesota.

Ryan Arch said that the minutes reflected that some State Chapters had success in their conventions. Jenny Breberg said that they had more exhibitors than contractor members.

Sarah Cook said that Michigan has the same issue – more exhibitors than contractor members.

Sarah said she instituted early bird registration, that didn't work either. Kelby said that IA LICA historically does great with attendance. The biggest struggle was Associates she set a deadline for the Associates so that she could prepare. IA LICA decided that they would have a lower price booth if the exhibitors registered by a deadline. Nanci said IN LICA had similar problems. Andrea said that there was a suggestion to move the banquet to lunch of the last day of their convention.

Spring Virtual Meeting

Sarah said that the focus should be the 3 items at those meetings.

Sarah will send out a sign-up form for the last week of April to decide a time and day.

IA LICA is finishing up the farm renovation and plan on hosting a grand opening this summer.

Buddy talked about NJ LICA Summer Meeting about bringing someone in to “train” the Executive Directors. The National CEO of four organizations, Richard Bright. Buddy asked for ideas from the Executive Directors about topics they would like. Strategic Planning, use of AI, sales, value and benefits, marketing, retention.

Buddy also asked about the timing of the Executive Directors training session. Possibly Wednesday from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Sarah Cook mentioned that it conflicts with tours.

Most would be willing to do it if the travel times worked out. This would be “the” Executive Directors meeting that week.

Sarah Cook said that Adam Cook suggested moving the Executive Directors meeting directly prior to the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday (late afternoon). Wednesday, February 10th at the 2027 Winter Convention. There is no action needed. TBD

Dennis Mikula joined the Executive Directors and Sarah reviewed the groups that were assigned. Dennis said the goal is to have the chairs of each topic meet with him directly.

Dennis said he would get an email to the co-chairs and decide what times/days work for meeting with him.

Motion by Andrea Rice, seconded by Maura Dibble to adjourn.

Insurance and Safety Committee – March 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1:16pm by Chairman Eric Layden.

In attendance: Eric Layden, IL; Caroline Krug, National; Tomasa Ambriz, IL; MaryBeth Schram, IL; Marisa Elrod, GA; Terry McConnell, OH; Mark Erpelding, IA; Dan Thiel, OH; Ryan Mikula, NJ; Steve Gerten, OH; Bruce Barnhart, IA; Bruce Mosier, IA; Jim Jansen, IA; Shane Fountain, IA; Jim Group, NE; Joe Stull, IN; Keith Miller, IN, Matt Japp, NE.

Motion for an open agenda by Matt Japp, second by Jim Group. Passed

Motion to approve the previous minutes by Bruce Barnhart, second by Mark Erpelding. Passed.

Mary Beth and Marisa Elrod from Origin Insurance presented a mock insurance renewal to uncover pitfalls in the process. Mary Beth encouraged members to reach out to their providers about one thing they learned from the exercise.

Eric Layden gave an update on the Safety Portal and how National has been rolling out three files per month in The Dirt digital newsletter.

Bruce Mosier, Prins, clarified that there are 3 buckets that we are presenting information from: a safety program, meeting topics, and other useful documents, which includes a customizable subcontractor agreement. Having the documentation is a great start to building out your safety program.

Eric Layden mentioned the process of gaining access to the files, suggesting it may be helpful for National to email all members with the files.

Keith Miller stated he asked Allison to create a short educational video on how to create your own safety program, similar to her presentation in Indiana.

Discussion about creating a secured location for these member-only files. Google Drive by invite is the process for the ELDT training materials.

Joe Stull suggested we try creating a Google Drive folder with the files being released.

Bruce Mosier made an announcement that UFG will no longer be a part of our partnership. Prins has investigated alternatives and is developing a partnership with Grinnell Insurance in Iowa, who began writing policies on January 1, 2026. They have a dedicated underwriting team who is evaluating applications for LICA. Bruce mentioned that Grinnell is very fairly priced. Pollution and E&O will be added to the program as an improvement. UFG departed the program due to size and profitability. Losses were due to a variety of causes.

Eric Layden asked around about what states are doing regarding safety. IL- IDOT and Flagger training, Terry McConnell stated OH offered an OSHA 10 hour. Keith Miller stated IN also offered an OSHA 10 hour.

Established a date for the next virtual committee meeting of May 19th at 6:30pm CT

Eric Layden and Keith Miller will remain Chair and co-chair

Motion to adjourn by Bruce Barnhart, second by Matt Japp. Passed. Adjourned 1:56pm.

Ladies and Devotions Committee - March 1, 2026

In Attendance: Sarah Cook, MI; Pat McConnell, OH; Norma Lashley, NE; Shelley Barnhart, IA; Nanci Gutwein, IN; Amy Gerten, OH

Call to order 10:30am

Motion to approve open agenda by Norma, 2nd by Nanci, motion carried
Motion to approve previous minutes by Pat, 2nd by Amy, motion carried
OLD BUSINESS:

- NJ Summer 2027 Speakers for Devotions. Buddy and Ron have taken care of this for us.

NEW BUSINESS:

- National would like us to schedule a virtual meeting in May or June. Discussion. With no actionable items, the ladies & devotions committees do not see a need to schedule a virtual meeting.

- Motion by Nanci to suggest to revise scholarship rubric to emphasize the agricultural and construction industries, 2nd by Norma, discussion, motion carried.

- Norma is willing to review scholarship applicants. Pat McConnell is also willing to review scholarship applicants as well.

- Scholarship funding. Shelley motions to approve funding for 5 - \$1,000 scholarships for this year. 2nd by Nanci, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 10:59am by Amy, 2nd Shelley, motion carried

Legislative Committee – March 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:15am by Chairman Bruce Barnhart. Those in attendance were: Bruce Barnhart, IA; Caroline Krug, National; Dee Ann Larson, MN; Kelby Kiefer, IA; Kira Cooney, NE; Ray Cooney, NE; Jim Group, NE; Ted Lashley, NE; Jon Ungerer, KS; Dave Bose, KS; Mark Erpelding, IA; Nanci Gutwein, IN; Maura Dibble, NY; Rebecca Scott, IN; Tracy Carver, NJ; Buddy Freund, NJ; Pat McConnell, OH

Motion for an open agenda by Mark Erpelding, second Dee Larson. Passed

Motion to approve the previous minutes by Ted Lashley, second by Jim Group. Passed.

Brian Deery introduced himself to the committee. His history working with AGC and common threads with LICA. He writes the legislative landscape and invites feedback from readers to improve the content. Gave an update of what's been happening since the summer meeting in Duluth.

Referenced 45-day government shutdown, the longest on record. Discussed cuts to Ag funding, and increase in highway funding, airport improvement and water/ wastewater, state revolving fund, and clean drinking water fund.

Discussion on the Farm bill and necessary collaboration between SNAP programs and farmers. A Farm bill 2.0 introduced by Dems going to committee this week.

Discussion on reorganization in Washington, moving employees out of Washington and the economy is taking a hit.

Discussion on Ethanol and E15 mandate.

Discussion on highway trust fund, which is funded by the federal gas tax. The tax hasn't been raised since 1993, so the remaining expense needs to be funded by the general fund. Electric and hybrid vehicles are reducing gas tax revenue as well.

Ted Lashley raised a question about any changes regarding DEF and studies on its impact on trucks. Brian will look into it.

Discussion on WOTUS and NEPA regulations.

Discussion on white house conferences on small businesses and how LICA can participate to identify issues that affect smaller contractors.

Virtual meeting in May/ June 6pm central on June 3rd.

Motion to adjourn by Mark Erpelding, second by Ron Garofalo. Passed. Adjourned 10:23am.

Long Term Planning and Past Presidents Committee March 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tony Cain.

In attendance: Steve Gerten, OH; Steve Anderson, IL; David Gallahan, VA; Tony Cain, IN; Chris Wagner, IA; Matt Japp, NE; Mike Cook, MI; Jeff Schell, KS; Dennis Mikula.

Approval of the Agenda – Motion by Steve Gerten, seconded by Mike Cook. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes – Motion by Steve Gerten, seconded by Chris Wagner. Motion carried.

Tony Cain discussed holding a virtual Long-Term Planning Committee meeting between the Winter Convention and the Summer Meeting.

Discussion followed regarding education on conducting official meetings and teaching

Chairpersons how to properly run meetings. The committee discussed offering a session on how to run a meeting at the 2027 Winter Convention and the 2027 Summer Meeting. There was discussion about whether this should be a standing session.

Mike Cook suggested standardized Zoom meetings and having instructions available for using Google Meet.

Strategic Plan discussion was held.

The committee agreed to schedule a virtual meeting at 7:00 pm Eastern. June is best, with

Tuesday, June 9 suggested.

Mike Cook suggested that committee chairpersons should save all items from previous minutes.

Discussion was held regarding member benefits.

Discussion was also held regarding Caterpillar dealers.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike Cook, seconded by Nordis. Motion carried.

Membership Committee – March 1, 2026

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bruce Barnhart at 2:30 pm
In Attendance: Bruce Barnhart, IA; Dallas Loken, MN; Sarah Cook, MI; Ron Garofalo, NJ; Dave Gallahan, VA; Adam Cook, MI; Hugo Castillo, NJ; Chris Wagner, NJ; Jon Seevers, IL; Mark Erpelding, IA; Russ Peters, IA; Jon Ungerer, KS; Matt Japp, NE; Dee Larson, MN; Caroline Krug, National; Amy Gerten, OH; Nanci Gutwein, IN; Barry Mitchell, NY; Andrea Rice, MO; Kira Cooney, NE; Ray Cooney, NE; Maggie Smith, NY; Kelby Kiefer, IA; Ryan Arch, IL; Buddy Freund, NJ; Adam Cook, MI; Ryan Cronk, MO; Andrew Ireland, MO; Sarah Cook, MI; and Eric Layden, IL.

Jon Seevers made the motion for an open agenda, seconded by Chris Wagner, carried

Chairman Bruce Barnhart summarized the minutes from the summer meeting in Duluth, MN.

Dave Gallahan, VA, motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Ron Garofalo, NJ, carried.

LICA CEO Dennis Mikula spoke to the committee about membership, retention, who is LICA, what is the value of a LICA membership. He will be meeting with Caterpillar this week.

Bruce Barnhart recommended an action plan that every state should have a goal to have at least 2 people who have never attended anything to attend one of the Zoom committee meetings. This way states can reach out to members who have not previously participated by highlighting the benefits of attending Zoom committee meetings.

The Zoom meeting of the Membership Committee will be on Monday, June 8th at 6:00 Central time.

Discussion on what some of the states are doing for membership, and what is going right or wrong currently. Bruce Barnhart and Dennis Mikula talked about what everyone and each of the states can do to enhance membership.

Russ Peters, made the motion to adjourn at 3:28 pm, seconded by Ryan Cronk, carried.

On-Site Waste Committee- March 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order.

In attendance: Terry McConnell, OH; Pat McConnell, OH; John Freeman, MI; Dan Thiel, OH; and Joe Stull, IN.

Motion to approve the agenda by Dan Thiel, seconded John Freeman. Passed.

Motion to approve the previous minutes by Dan Thiel, seconded by John Freeman. Passed.

Discussed county regulation. John Freeman gave update infiltrator and new pump stations.

Virtual Committee Meeting – Tuesday, May 5th 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn by John Freeman, seconded by Dan Thiel. Passed

Policy Committee- March 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm by Chair Steve Anderson.
In attendance: Steve Gerten, OH; Jim Group, NE; Joe Stull, IN; Steve Anderson, IL; Jeff Schell, KS; Nordis Estrem, MN; Rebecca Scott, IN

Motion for open agenda by Joe Stull, Jim Group. Passed.

Motion to approve the previous minutes by Steve Gerten, Joe Stull. Passed.

Consensus of the committee is that a midterm virtual meeting is not

needed, but sending out unreviewed minutes at that time would be beneficial ahead of the next meeting.

Reviewed minutes of July 12, 2025 Board Meeting

Reviewed minutes of July 9, 2025 Executive Committee where a credit card policy change was made.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Schell, second by Jim Group. Passed. Adjourned 3:01pm

Water Management & Quality Committee- March 1, 2026

Acronyms defined: ADMC – Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition; NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service; NACD – National Association of Conservation Districts; IRA- Inflation Reduction Act; NGOs – Non-Governmental Organizations; TNC – The Nature Conservancy; EDF – Environmental Defense Fund; SWCS – Soil & Water Conservation Society; AFT – American Farmland Trust; TSP – Technical Service Provider; WASCOB – Water & Sediment Control Basin; IRA – Inflation Reduction Act

The meeting was called to order at 9:18am by Chairman Adam Cook.
In attendance: Adam Cook, MI; Eric Layden, IL; Russ Peters, IA; Terry McConnell, OH; Nate Cook, MI; Scott Lukan, IA; Ryan Arch, IL; Amy Gerten, OH; Shane Fountain, IA; John Freeman, MI; Daniel Thiel, OH; Tomasa Ambriz, IA; Andrew Ireland, MO; Ryan Cronk, MO; Dallas Loken, MN; Andrea Rice, MO; Jon Seevers, IL; Joe Stull, IN; Keith Miller, IN

Motion for open agenda by Russ Peters, second by Keith Miller, motion carried.

Previous minutes summarized by Adam Cook. Motion to approve previous minutes as summarized by Jon Seevers, second by Terry McConnell, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Indiana LICA field day will not be hosting National LICA at the Purdue Field Day in July. National LICA will hold meetings virtually. Indiana LICA will host their field day July 21-22. Water Mgmt Forum will not happen, the virtual meetings will be National LICA committee meetings.
- No ADMC update due to lack of information.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Missouri LICA will be having a field day July 22-23.
 - Ohio LICA is planning the Farm Science Review field day Sept 22-24th.
 - National recommendation of quarterly committee meetings. Suggestion to have a webinar with meeting following. Discussion. Missouri LICA has participated in a research study on blind inlets that could possibly become a webinar. Evenings Tuesdays and Thursdays. Early May bad. May 26th 7:30pm EST/6:30pm CST, alternate May 28th
 - Jon Seevers made a motion to change the name to Water Quality Management. Discussion. Suggestion Water Management & Quality. Suggestion Water Resource Management.
 - Motion to change name to Water Management & Quality by Ryan Cronk, second by Russ, motion carried.
 - Minnesota state has seen some (non-LICA) contractors drain wetlands without permits, which has negatively reflected on the whole drainage industry. MN LICA has Board members that have been closely following discussed legislation that will affect the drainage industry.
- Motion to adjourn at 9:54 by Jon Seevers, second by Keith Miller, motion carried.

Motion to approve the committee reports as given by Steve Anderson, Chris Wagner. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Tony Cain reviewed the 2022–2027 Strategic Plan for National LICA.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Dave Gallahan, second by Chris Wagner. Motion Passed.

