A meeting of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) was held November 19-20, 2020, via videoconference and phone. The public was invited to attend the open session portion of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am on November 19, 2020, and 9:00 am on November 20, 2020.

The Board immediately went into executive session to discuss confidential matters with Risk Management Agency (RMA) staff and submitters of private products under section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act).

Open session of the Board reconvened on November 20, 2020, at 11:15 am.

Sam Pogue read the recitation to all members of the Board to advise the Board of its responsibilities in representing the interests of the FCIC and USDA and advised each member to act accordingly.

The Chairman requested Board members to introduce themselves. Present by phone were Rob Johansson, Chief Economist, Martin Barbre, Michael Clemens, Rickey Bearden, Nicole Berg, Kenneth Selzer, Scot Silveus, Pat Swanson constituting a statutory quorum, and Robin Anderson, Secretary, FCIC.

Also present by phone were Richard Flournoy, Heather Manzano, Shaun Collins, David Zanoni, Mike Ciliege, Francie Tolle, Tom Worth, Kristen Gallagher, April Pugh, Kay Hendrick, Robert Dubois, Isac Shelton, Ryan Seely, and Rodney Strickland, RMA; Maureen James and Sam Pogue, Office of the General Counsel; and Cindy Nickerson, Office of the Chief Economist.
Chairman Johansson asked Martin Barbre, FCIC Manager for the Manager's Report. Mr. Barber stated that the Manager's Report is available online.

Hearing no objection, Dr. Johansson agreed to dispense with a reading of the Manager’s Report. (Exhibit 4645)

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on September 17, 2020. (Exhibit 4646)

The motion carried. (Exhibit 4646)

First on the agenda was Docket No. CI-Section 508(h) Confidential Submission 0096 11-20-20 01, Exhibit 4647 which was tabled per discussions in Executive Session.

Next was Docket No. CI Section 508(h) Confidential Submission 0095 11-20-20 01, Exhibit 4648 which was tabled per discussions in Executive Session.

Chairman Johansson offered the following resolution for Docket No. CI-Section 522(b) Concept Proposal 158 11-20-20 02, Exhibit 4649 which was seconded.

WHEREAS, Section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) requires the Board to consider paying an advance payment of up to 50 percent for research and development costs of a concept proposal that will be developed into a complete and of sufficient quality 508(h) submission, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That pursuant to the information contained in Docket No. CI-Section 522(b) Concept Proposal 158 11-20-20 02, Exhibit 4649, the Board approves the advance payment of $214,341, for Concept Proposal 158, as discussed in Executive Session, as authorized under section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, the regulations published at 7 C.F.R. part 400,
Subpart V, and the Approved Procedures for Reimbursements and Determination of Reasonableness Related to Reimbursement Expenses for Concept Proposals, 508(h) Submissions and User Fee Requests.

By accepting the advance payment or additional advance payment, the applicant agrees to provide a submission consistent with section 508(h) of the Act to the Board in the July 2022 submission period.

There being no discussion, the Board voted to approve the resolution. (Exhibit 4649)

Chairman Johansson offered the following resolution for Docket No. CI-Section 522(b) Concept Proposal 159 11-20-20 02, Exhibit 4650 which was seconded:

WHEREAS, Section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) requires the Board to consider paying an advance payment of up to 50 percent for research and development costs of a concept proposal that will be developed into a complete and of sufficient quality 508(h) submission, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That pursuant to the information contained in Docket No. CI-Section 522(b) Concept Proposal 159 11-20-20 02, Exhibit 4650, the Board approves the advance payment of $249,638 for Concept Proposal 159, as discussed in Executive Session, as authorized under section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, the regulations published at 7 C.F.R. part 400, Subpart V, and the Approved Procedures for Reimbursements and Determination of Reasonableness Related to Reimbursement Expenses for Concept Proposals, 508(h) Submissions and User Fee Requests.

By accepting the advance payment or additional advance payment, the applicant agrees to provide a submission consistent with section 508(h) of the Act to the Board in the April 2022 submission period.

There being no discussion, the Board voted to approve the resolution. (Exhibit 4650)
Chairman Johansson offered the following resolution for Docket No. CI-Section 522(b) Concept Proposal 160 11-20-20 01, Exhibit 4651 which was seconded:

WHEREAS, Section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) requires the Board to enter into contracts with persons with qualifications appropriate to review the type of concept proposal submitted for reviews of a concept proposal proposed to be developed under section 508(h) of the Act, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That pursuant to the information contained in Docket No. CI-Section 522(b) Concept Proposal 160 11-20-20 01, Exhibit 4651, the Board approves expert review for Concept Proposal 160, and directs that the Manager of the Corporation be authorized to take such action as necessary to enter into and execute contracts with the Board approved persons or entities or the alternates in case the proposed persons are not available

There being no discussion, the Board voted to approve the resolution. (Exhibit 4651)

Chairman Johansson offered the following resolution Docket No. CI-Section 508(h) Confidential Submission 0097 Modification 11-20-20 01, Exhibit 4652 which was seconded:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the information contained in Docket No. CI-Section 508(h) Confidential Submission 0097 Modification 11-20-20 01 Exhibit 4652, as well as other material submitted to the Board on this matter, the Board hereby approves Confidential Submission 0097 Modification, beginning with the crop year the Manager determines is practicable with reinsurance and administrative and operating subsidy in amounts and under such terms and conditions as determined appropriate by the Manager as authorized under section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act. NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Board delegates to the Manager the authority to make such technical policy changes as are necessary to make the policy legally sufficient.

There being no discussion, the Board voted to approve the resolution. (Exhibit 4652)
There being no further business the Board voted to adjourn and to meet again February 22-24, 2021, location TBD

November 20, 2020  /signed/
Robin Anderson, Secretary
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation