Instructions:

1 - Click on your room link below
2 - Assign a notetaker
3 - 1 minute Introductions
4 - Record here:
   ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
   ● Anything you need from IRAI?
Room 1:
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Barb Horsch - cash grain farm 30 miles north of Champaign. Have land to offer and are interested in this topic, cereal rye cover crop this year on 200 acres, have done conservation tillage, conservation strips, no-till & strip-till and are interested in next steps. Son has a degree in biology and is interested in soil biology and ecology.

Alyssa Hartman (notetaker) - Artisan Grain Collaborative, network of farmers, processors, end-users, and advocates working on food-grade grains in the Upper Midwest

Amy DeLorenzo - IL Extension + Discovery Partners Institute in Chicago; works with extension educators in Cook County and surrounding region on community composting. Looking for folks to work on this with, both scientific and research-related

Anthony (Tony) Yannarell - Associated Professor in natural resources & environmental sciences; special interest in soil ecology and studying microbial communities in soil and how they change as plant communities change. Has worked on projects re: habitat restoration & prairies, cover crops, weed ecology & microbes

Dr. Jifunza Wright Carter (Black Oaks Center) - work from Chicago to Pembroke Township. Work collaboratively with Artisan Grain Collaborative & Savanna Institute. Doing agroforestry training. Have a teaching field at their eco-campus training the next generation of Black farmers since 2013. Working to increase production while honoring the environment and increasing the economic investment in their community.

Ryan Tate - Senior Director of corporate and foundation relations for College of ACES

Ryan: what kinds of engagement opportunities are there for external stakeholders such as foundations, funders, etc. that would like to get involved?
Room 2:
1 - Assign a notetaker
2 - 1 minute Introductions

Carl Bernacchi - ARS researcher, crop sciences researcher at U of I in Champaign
Jean Brokish, American Farmland Trust and Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership
Remi and Gavrielle Welbel - Zumwalt Acres in Iroquois County, agroforestry, biochar, basalt, etc.
Bruce Karmazin - Lumpkin Family Foundation (central Illinois)
Carl Rosier - Agroecology solutions in Pennsylvania
Eric Miller - Piatt County farmer; crop rotations and cover crop research with Lowell Gentry
Guillermo Marcillo - Postdoc in Crop Sci Dept (crop physiologist); studying cover crops

3 - Record here:
   ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?

Is RFP geared toward demonstration practices or research endeavors or a combination?
They may be looking for out of the box / innovative ideas
Preliminary / project scoping opportunities?
   ● Anything you need from IRAI?

Clarity on how they define metrics and how would can gauge our impacts
Clarity on their priorities to better evaluate chances and weigh application

Will IRAI provide initial feedback on concepts to see if it fits? Like a pre-proposal.

Context -- only three pages, and $50k could support something creative
Room 3:
1 - Assign a notetaker
2 - 1 minute Introductions
Cindy Shepherd - FaithinPlace
Walter Lynn - Understanding Ag. based in Springfield multi national education.
Bill Davison - Chestnuts and a perennial system Food Forest Savannah Institute
Bob Montgomery - farm land owner rents to farmer Washington, IL
Dave Bishop - PrairieEarth farm - interested in farm to school programs

3 - Record here:
  ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?

Dave - How do farm to school food programs fit into regenerative ag?
Certified organic but questioning how USDA standards fit with regenerative.

Crop Sciences website has given some information about regenerative ag. Wondering what impact in the long term.

Walter recommends “The Soil Owner’s Manual” by Sitka (NRCS)
Podcast by Bob Kemp with Paul Sitka about 6 principals of soil health.

Metrics for soil health? Walter says we can get too scientific. We can make it more accessible - more citizen science-y to engage public in the issue. Basic observation.

Conversion of annual to perennial crops is the way to measure.
Organic matter and earthworms are measurable. Water quality is another way to measure.

Dave - Diversity is another way to make sure soil health is improving.

Soil type - chestnuts thrive in sandy soil
  ● Anything you need from IRAI?

Bill has a proposal on harvesting tree crops. Quality of nut crop and identifying most promising cultivars.
Room 4:
1 - Assign a notetaker: Gemini Bhalsod
2 - 1 minute Introductions
3 - Record here:
   ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
     i. Clarity on how the funds can be used?
     ii. Can it be a multi year proposal? (2-3 years might be possible). Follow up: Is it 50k each year, or 50k over a few years?
     iii. How can an applicant include other funding into the budget? If this RPF would only fund part of a project?
   ● Anything you need from IRAI?
     i. How can we stay in touch with IRAI and others on the call today?

Katie DeMuro - Greenleaf Communities - Chicago. Regen Ag workshop series, sensor tech for soil health and carbon sequest. Looking at soil microbiome and carbon markets. History of working with researchers at Ohio State on ag amendments and wanting to bring in more interdisciplinary stakeholders. Interested in investigating the developing carbon markets and how those can benefit farmers as well as sensors for measuring, monitoring, and verifying carbon sequestration. We would like to bring together experts for a workshop on the protocols needed to link the soil microbiome and carbon sequestration and create a potential standard for this.

Kim Erndt-Pitcher - Prairie Rivers network, also part of Regenerate IL & Idea Farm Network. Build food system of IL that is rooted in Regen Ag. Connect farmers and other stakeholders

Jean - Wetlands Initiative. Building small constructed wetlands to treat water adjacent to farms. Got the science part of it down, but working on expanding to different ecosystem services

Dave Zentner - Project Director for Upper Mississippi River Initiative. Emphasize local community problem solving using regen ag. Interest in project site in IL for a 3 year pilot project that will be replicable. Bring together landowners and farmers in educational program, tech support, farm support, social support etc

John Williams - Farm Manager at Sola Gratia farm in Urbana IL. Veggie farm, donates to food pantries and emphasis on food access.

Lenore Beyer - Kinship Foundation (a Fresh Taste funder for this project). Curious about the program.

Gemini Bhalsod - Cook County IL Hort Extension Educator - working on composting initiative including municipal composting, education, small farmer support, education etc
Room 5:
1 - Assign a notetaker - Karen Lehman
2 - 1 minute Introductions

Pete Huff - Wallace Center, in Western Wisconsin, Menominee, work on reintegrating livestock into perennial and annual systems, working through value chain to processing and distribution.

Traci Barkley - Sola Gratia Farm. 12 acre annual vegetable farm in Urbana, St. Matthew Church, donate ⅓ to food back, starting farm to school program, umbrella community gardening program, 200 member CSA. 3 part mission - food insecurity, build community, commitment to sustainable farming practices (organic short of certification). Have grown from 4 acres to 12, educate people about growing practices. IRAI interesting because we’re in UC, accessible to researchers and have high visibility for demonstration/educational purposes. It would be awesome to be part of this.

Jenny Kokini - managing director of iSEE, interested in the management of funds and to meet with the possible members of the community who will be partnering in submitting proposals for the RFP.

Nancy Holm - retired from Illinois Sustainable Center, now work with Greenleaf Strategies, water quality, want to do project on soil carbon and the soil microbiome. Want to help promote regenerative ag and learn how to monitor soil carbon in communities.

Joel Gruver - soil scientist, soil science and conservation at WIU, direct organic research program, large scale organic grain systems. Looking at Kernza, multispecies cover groups, perennial grains. Educator interested in innovative methods of education. Teach class on soils, biomass crops. In sustainable ag classes, want to keep students abreast of developments. Can have students with significant acreage in the class.

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Pete - how do we compensate farmers for their time? If we’re adding in to something that’s already happening, can we use funding to accelerate participation in the farms? Honoraria?

Traci - SARE compensates farmers for participation. Any time a farmer is involved and not a grantee, compensated for their time.

KL - are there SARE projects that this can build on?

Illinois is underfunded by SARE.
Pete - let’s see where things are moving, SARE proposal in the Embro watershed. Need to see the landscape to see how the dollars can be leverage, round out part of an underserved project. Legwork needed to create confluence. Someone’s job at IRAI? What’s in motion where, to avoid redundancy.

Traci - maybe not best use of funds to work with people you’ve already worked with. Do matchmaking through some means like a survey. What are you already doing? What are you willing to do, interested in doing? May be a role for connector.

Check SARE website to see where projects have been funded in Illinois.

Pete - relationship between UIUC and youth education. How do we integrate younger generations into participatory research. How to involve another generation to collect information, 4H, FFA, learn how research works. Cool translation of something in practice into a new audience.

Joel - grazing enterprises are good entryway for young people to come back into farming operations. Many students from cash grain operations, hard for students to come back into that, have to work several decades in service, then try to come back when they’re in middle age, easier way, move into family operation through smaller lower entry grazing operation. Livestock on the Land documentary from PFI.

Pete - how do you stack enterprises on traditional corn and soy to diversity and create opportunity for multiple generations?
Room 6:
1 - Assign a notetaker
2 - 1 minute Introductions
   ● Mallory Krieger, OATS & Pasture Project
   ● Talon Becker, UI Extension
   ● Erin Gundy, Champaign County SWCD
   ● Duane Hovorka, Ag Program Director at Isaac Walton League of America
   ● Viviana Okakpu, Advocates for Urban Agriculture
   ● Nic Podoll, Organic Crop Consultant with Rodale Institute
   ● Mary Ann Anderson, landlord
3 - Record here:
   ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
     i. We exhausted our questions during the first breakout
     ii.
   ● Anything you need from IRAI?
     i. Farmers and stakeholders need help connecting with specific researchers that do
        the type of research they are interested in implementing on their farm/land. (Kind
        of the point of these meetings, we know.) Another useful "tool" may be a "Citizen
        Scientists Needed" directory where researchers can post projects for which they
        need collaborators outside of academia (i.e. farmers, landowners, other
        stakeholders) and perhaps some function that allows people to submit ideas
        and/or sign up for alerts for projects on certain topics.
Room 7:
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● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
  i. Role of media and communications in projects?
  ii. Opportunity for urban ag proposals? How much emphasis/prioritization is there on scale?
  iii. Scope: grain, grazing, etc.
  iv. Are policy/advocacy proposals allowed?
● Anything you need from IRAI?
  i. Plan to partner with/reach out to other state/regional Universities and/or community colleges?

Erin Harper - Ext. Ed. for Local food systems and small farms in East Central IL; interested as an option partner for anyone interested in applying as the U of I connection, 4H educators and Erin have been looking at ways to create curriculum for middle and high school that could assist with beginning farmer training to incorporate more regen. ag. in ag classes

Daniel Doyle - Lumpkin Family Foundation in Mattoon, Illinois - interested in seeing the stakeholder conversations happening and the connection of the univ. to the broader community so that things don’t happen in isolation; initiative to expand itself, research, and what’s happening on the ground.

Josh Nelson - Campton Township Parks/Open Space, manages parks and soon leased farmland

Eve Abrams - Reporter working on a podcast (FERN) about climate change, has been talking to farmers and learning about practices that are great for the soil and mitigate climate chaos

Kathryn Pereira - Ext. Ed. for Local food systems and small farms in Cook County; currently working with a compost group in Cook County - morphing into a bigger project on composting education and research with a goal of impacting policy change

Jesse Faber - work with the FFA chapter in Pontiac, IL, 4H leader, developed an interest and curiosity in RA - what role can Jesse or his high school students have in this work, could they obtain land for research, education, and production?

Jacquieyvn Evers - Director of The Land Connection, looking for ways to help continuing moving forward our work on regenerative agriculture initiatives such as regenerative grazing and helping commercial grain farmers adopt regenerative practices
1. Connecting community colleges and statewide curriculum developers to ensure there are partnerships that are being taught can be dual credit. Additional needs - teacher training. Would summer regenerative agriculture class be beneficial to teachers?
   a. Likely that ag teachers across the state do not have a handle on regen. ag.
   b. Movement on creating a biology course on agriculture, as well as a plant and soil chemistry course to provide more contextual opportunities for students
   c. How do you get students to sign up for a course about soil? This is the goal of the chemistry and biology route.
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Mark Bernards - Teach at Western Illinois University,
Katie Adams - Savannah Institute, run demonstration farms across Illinois showing how to incorporate trees into farms, run a small apple orchard on rented ground, Agroforestry, trees on working lands, biodiversity/carbon sequestration/potential economic opportunities, how to connect to NRCS conservation measures
Lisa Martin - coordinate certified Crop Advisor program for Illinois. Here to observe and see if there is a role for CCA’s
Lynn Clarkson - CEO of Clarkson grain company, Agriculture has new markets that reflect consumer values which creates new opportunities. Clients include food processors, and connect specific farms to consumers. Interested in major economic metrics. Important to link people. Lots of focus on non-GMO, subset wants only organic, subset wants real farmer organic, subset wants a specific variety for specific processing
Fred Iutzi - Former WIU employee, Consult with Savannah institute, recently led Land Institute, currently consulting with a number of institutions, will likely be moving back to Illinois soon.
Melissa Banerjee - director of development at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Recently funded to help put in small hydroponic systems for classes to learn about produce production, nutrition, and food industry jobs. Work in a food desert in Chicago in a predominantly Puerto Rican area. Hoping to improve food justice, and to see if program fits into the RFP.

Questions:
1. Can proposals include marketing metrics (in addition to or in place of production metrics)?
2. Real limiting factors relate to decision making
3. Key to adoption is motivation of operator. Social and economic motivations.
4. How do we connect landowners to people who are willing to make changes
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