



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Federal Crop  
Insurance  
Corporation

1400 Independence  
Ave, SW  
Stop 0801  
Washington, DC  
20250-0801

TO: Board of Directors  
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

May 9, 2001

FROM: Phyllis W. Honor /s/ Phyllis W. Honor  
Acting Manager

Minute Exhibit No. 2034  
Board Meeting of 5/10/01

SUBJECT: Board Memorandum No. 606  
Resolution to Approve Reviewers and Alternates, Approve the Task Order  
Statement of Work for Review of Proposed CRC Wheat Revisions, and  
Approve Execution of the Contract

There is submitted for your consideration and approval a resolution to approve a list of reviewers and alternates and the task order statement of work for the review of Crop Revenue Coverage (CRC) Wheat Revisions and to authorize the Risk Management Agency's Director of Contract Management and Special Projects to enter into contracts with the reviewers, either directly or through existing contracts such as the General Services Administration (GSA) FEDSIM Millenia contract (GS00T99ALD0210), GSA Schedule 70, GSA MOBUS Schedule, or NIH CIOSP contract, for the review of this submission.

The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) (Act) requires the Board to enter into contracts for reviews of any policy or plan of insurance, or any related material or modification of a policy or plan of insurance proposed to be offered under the Act by persons experienced as actuaries and in underwriting. Attached is a list of persons and entities from the approved list of Board reviewers that are recommended to conduct reviews of the proposed CRC Wheat Revisions. Also attached is a task order statement of work necessary to execute the contract for this proposed Board action.

Through use of the following resolution, I recommend that: 1) Risk Management Agency's Director of Contract Management and Special Projects be authorized to enter into and execute contracts with the persons or entities on the attached list, or the alternates in case the proposed persons are not available, to review the proposed CRC Wheat Revisions prior to Board action, 2) the attached task order statement of work be used to execute the contracts, and 3) the contract vehicles to be used for the execution of these contracts be either direct contracts with the reviewers, or subcontracts with the reviewers through existing contracts such as the General Services Administration (GSA) FEDSIM Millenia contract (GS00T99ALD0210), GSA Schedule 70, GSA MOBUS Schedule, or NIH CIOSP contract.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) requires the Board to enter into contracts for reviews of any policy or plan of insurance, or any related material or modification of a policy or plan of insurance proposed to be



**Attachment 1 for Board Memorandum No. 606**  
CRC Wheat Revisions

Recommend reviewers:

1. John Pierce (Actuarial reviewer)
2. Jerry Skees (Underwriting reviewer)
3. Tom Smith (Underwriting reviewer)
4. Don Armstrong (Underwriting reviewer)
5. Economic Research Service (Government underwriting reviewer)

## Attachment 2 for Board Memorandum No. 606

### Task Order Statement of Work

#### Actuarial and Underwriting Reviews of the Proposed CRC Wheat Changes for the FCIC Board of Directors

##### C.1. Background

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was established under provisions of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Act). This Act amended the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 which required the Secretary to establish within the Department an independent office responsible for supervision of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), administration and oversight of programs authorized under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*), any pilot or other program involving revenue insurance, risk management education, risk management savings accounts; the use of the futures market to manage risk and support farm income that may be established under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or other law; and, other programs the Secretary of Agriculture considers appropriate. The Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 further modified the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the FCIC Board of Directors (Board) to establish procedures under which any policy or plan of insurance, as well as any related material or modification of such a policy or plan of insurance, submitted to the Board under section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act be subject to independent review by persons experienced as actuaries and in underwriting, as determined by the Board.

##### C.2. Definitions

The vendor shall conduct a review of the attached **submission**. The review is to include, but is not limited to, the items in **C.5 Description of Work**. For definitions of the terms used in **C.5 Description of Work**, see the definitions section of "Interim Procedure For The Submission and Review of New and Revised Crop Insurance Policies" approved by the Board on September 18, 2000.

##### C.3. Deliverables

**Mandatory deliverables:** The vendor shall deliver both a hard copy and an electronic (MS Office) report of the review of the attached submission that includes: 1) a written summary of the findings of the review, not to exceed two pages in length, 2) a written report addressing the items in **C.5 Description of Work** that are within the scope of the expert reviewer's knowledge, and any additional information at the discretion of the vendor. In addition, the reviewer shall submit a personal biography not to exceed one

page that describes the experience, education, and any certifications or professional designations that pertain to the reviewers ability to conduct the review.

**Optional deliverables:** When directed by the Board, the reviewer will be required to explain the results of the review to the Board either orally or in writing, or answer question that may arise pertaining to the review. This option is at the sole discretion of the Board, and will be binding upon the reviewer for a period not to exceed 45 days after the required delivery date of the mandatory deliverables.

#### **C.4. Delivery Schedule**

Mandatory deliverables are due to the Secretary to the Board, Room 6624, Stop 0801, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-0801, by close of business on June 29, 2001.

#### **C.5. Description of Work**

The expert reviewers' mandatory written report will address each of the following items within the scope of the expert reviewer's knowledge, and may include additional information at the discretion of the expert reviewer.

- (1) Protection of producers' interests.
  - (A) Does the policy provide meaningful coverage that is of use to producers, and provide it in a cost-efficient manner?
  - (B) Is the policy clearly written such that producers will be able to understand the coverage they are being offered? Does the policy language permit actuaries to form a clear understanding of the payment contingencies for which they will set rates? Is it likely that an excessive number of disputes or legal actions will arise from misunderstandings over policy language?
  - (C) Is the mechanism for determining liability (i.e.- the amount of coverage) clearly stated and supported by an example?
  - (D) Is the mechanism for determining the amount of premium clearly stated and supported by an example?
  - (E) Are the mechanisms for calculating indemnities clearly stated and supported by an example?
  - (F) In the case of price or revenue policies, are the mechanisms for establishing price clearly stated and supported by an example?

- (G) Are adequate, credible, and reliable data available for establishing expected market prices for insured commodities? Is it likely that the data will continue to be available? Is the data vulnerable to tampering if the proposed policy is approved? Is the data likely to be available when needed? Is the proposed system for publishing prices feasible?
- (H) Does the policy avoid providing coverage in excess of the expected value of the insured crop?
- (I) Does the policy contain indemnity or other provisions that can not be objectively verified by loss adjusters, underwriters, or auditors?
- (J) Is the policy likely to treat all similarly-situated producers the same?
- (K) Will insureds be able to comply with all requirements of the policy?
- (L) Does the policy create vulnerabilities to waste, fraud, or abuse?
- (M) Is the product likely to adversely affect the agricultural economy of the crop that is proposed for coverage, or of other crops or areas?

(2) Actuarial soundness.

- (A) Is adequate, credible, and reliable rate-making data available? Is it likely that the data will continue to be available? Is the data vulnerable to tampering if the proposed policy is approved?
- (B) Are the explicit and implicit assumptions used in the rating process reasonable?
- (C) Are the technical analyses (e.g.- stochastic and other simulations) technically correct? Do they provide credible, relevant results?
- (D) Is the data used for the analyses appropriate, reliable, and the best available?
- (E) Does the certification from an actuary or similar person provide adequate support for the submission?
- (F) Does experience from prior years and relevant crops and areas support the validity of the proposed rates?
- (G) Is the product likely to be sold in a sufficient number such that actuarial projections would be credible?
- (H) Are the proposed premium rates likely to cover anticipated losses and a

reasonable reserve?

- (3) Other review areas.
- (A) Does this policy provide coverage that, in whole or part, is generally available from the private sector?
  - (B) Does the policy propose to insure a peril that is not authorized by the Act?
  - (C) Does the policy place an unreasonable administrative burden on the insured, the AIP's, or the Federal crop insurance program?
  - (D) To the extent of the reviewer's knowledge, does the policy comply with all requirements of the Act and the public policy goals of the Corporation?

## **5. Attachments**

- (A) The submission for review.
- (B) "Interim Procedure For The Submission and Review of New and Revised Crop Insurance Policies" approved by the Board on September 18, 2000.

### **Cost and Pricing for Actuarial and Underwriting Reviews for the FCIC Board of Directors**

The mandatory tasks shall be performed at the negotiated loaded hourly rate for the contract, and shall not exceed **80** billed hours. No other costs will be payable or reimbursed under the mandatory tasks. The option tasks, when required by the Board, shall be performed at the negotiated loaded hourly rate for the contract, and shall not exceed **16** billed hours plus any pre-approved travel expenses

Upon delivery of the mandatory deliverables, the vendor shall submit to the Director of Contract Management and Special Projects an invoice listing each person contributing to the review, their number of hours billed to this task, their negotiated contract rate for that person and clin, and the total amount billed for the task. The vendor shall certify in writing to the accuracy of the billing information.