

## Conference Joint Board Meeting of NAFBAS & NFRBMEA Radisson Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT June 8, 2014

Those in attendance: Anthony Barrett (NE), Doug Wertish (MN), Ira Beckman (MN), Jim McCabe (IL), Mike Harer (WI), Mark Holkup (ND), Bob Rhea (IL), Don Nitchie (MN), Myron Oftedahl (MN), Deb Pike (MN), Rush Midkiff (KY), Jim McCuistion (CO), Virginia Berger (IA), Will Walter (SD), and Mark Wood (KS).

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Jim McCabe. Jim was chosen to chair the meeting and Anthony Barrett volunteered to act as secretary. With no objections to those chosen, the meeting progressed.

Minutes from the fall joint board meeting (September 23 & 24, 2013) were reviewed. It was noted that IAMBEA should be IABMEA. The change was noted. Myron Oftedahl made a motion to accept the minutes with the noted change. This was seconded by Mark Wood and motion carried.

The Memorandum of Understanding was quickly reviewed. It was noted the MOU is now an ongoing agreement subject to 2 years notification of cancellation from either party. This had previously been a 3 year agreement that was renewed as needed.

The pre-conference training workshop was then discussed. This was again led by Tina Barrett & Dwight Raab. There were 9 attendees, 6 NAFBAS and 3 NFRBMEA. A group supper was attended Saturday evening with spouses to get a chance to know each other a bit more. This was the second year of this training. In 2013, approximately \$1,500 was spent for over 20 attendees. For 2014, it was expected costs would be around \$800.

First time attendees used to receive \$100 for attending. We are no longer doing this. However, in 2014 CHS has provided \$10,000 for scholarships. These scholarships are aimed at college students who are interested in this line of work and would like to attend the conference. There is a cap of \$1,250 per student. There are 10 students (mostly juniors) attending this year. The goal is to expose them to what we do to get them more interested and possibly have more options for a hiring pool in the future. The hope is this for continue yearly if the money is provided. The students do not pay a registration fee.

Illinois is hosting the 2015 conference in Rochester, NY. The tentative dates are June 14-18, 2015. It is narrowed down to the Radisson or Hyatt. This area of NY offers much diversity in agriculture. The evaluations from KS were discussed. It was noted that 33% of attendees at the KS conference favored a shorter conference period. There was some discussion on offering two types of registration. The first being a Sunday to Tuesday registration and the second being a Sunday to Thursday registration. The thought with this is to front load the "big" speakers early on for the people that want that and offer the tours, etc. later in the week for people to attend if wanted. There was much discussion if this would help boost attendance and how the selling of rooms would work since we pretty much have to guarantee a certain number of rooms booked for the week.

Jay Olson quickly went over some of the 2014 numbers. There are 98 registered attendees and 10 scholarship students. There are also 79 family members which is up 20%. He also noted that the group is over on all required minimums at the hotel for breaks and meals and all rooms were sold. Therefore, there will be no issues on fees to the hotel for not meeting minimums. The attendance breakdown is 41 or 42 NFRBMEA and 47 or 48 NAFBAS. There is a few other extension or others. Jay also noted there have been some changes to the tour schedule due to logistical issues that are out of our control.

2016 is leaning towards possibly South Dakota taking the lead. If so, the Sioux Falls area would probably be the desired location for ease of travel.

2017 has hinted at Iowa taking the lead. Possible locations could be Des Moines or the Quad Cities area.

## **Committee Reports:**

**USDA:** This group is meeting at Wednesday breakfast.

**Technology/Resource:** Rob Holcomb is leading. They are meeting Monday at 3:30.

**Fundraising:** Jennifer Smith is the point person on this. Doug Wertish has also been helping. It was noted that longtime supporter CHS is a \$4,000 sponsor again and also providing the \$10,000 in scholarships. As always, the national sponsorships are essential and need to be relied on every year. This along with local sponsors every year make the conference great.

**Analysis Database:** This has been de-activated and is now being looked at by the NAFBAS state leaders in their annual meeting.

Ira Beckman is a member of the National Council for Ag Education. Would NAFBAS want to team up with NFRBMEA on sponsorship/dues of \$2,000/year to help get our name out and have a voice? NFRBMEA has been involved with this for over 30 years.

The Farm Bill Initiatives and Grant were discussed. IL, Texas A&M, and others were awarded \$3 million to train producers about choices on the new farm bill. USDA also has grants along with NIFA to support analysis and benchmarking. Several states have received some of this money in past years to further their programs to increase numbers and benchmarking. Jim Kelm and Dwight Raab held a presentation to Farm Futures Young Farmers Boot Camp and also had an article in Successful Farming. This was great in giving both our groups some national recognition.

Activities of new states were the next topic. Tennessee is up and coming and is in the process of getting a program started. They attended the state leaders meeting in St. Louis in August 2013 and went home with many good ideas to keep progressing.

It was brought up to possibly boost the pay for the work that Deb Pike puts into the website work. This can be a daunting task and Deb does it well. The website is a valuable tool to get the word out about agendas, etc. and also for conference registration. Is there a sponsorship activity that could help pay for this? Mark Wood made a motion effective for the 2015 conference to pay Deb Pike \$2,500 for her website work. This was seconded by Jim McCuiston and motion carried.

Rob Holcomb has put together the conference notebooks for the last several years. He has indicated he would like to phase out of this duty. Therefore, we are looking for someone to start taking over these duties. NFRBMEA will defer this to their secretary and Jim McCabe will work on the NAFBAS group to identify someone to help.

The last agenda item was to set dates for the next joint board meeting. September 18 and 19, 2014 was chosen. The location again will be Omaha, NE. This location worked well last year as flights are reasonable and the airport is in close proximity to the hotel. Omaha, is also a pretty central location for all who drive.

Virginia Berger made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ira Beckman, and motion carried unanimously!

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony L. Barrett  
Appointed Secretary for Joint Board Meeting