

National Farm and Ranch Business Management Association

Fall 2007 Board Meeting

October 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President John Hobert at 8:15 a.m. at the Classroom Office Building at the U of M Campus, in St Paul, MN. Members present were:

President John Hobert
President- Elect Paul Gorman
Past President Jay Olson
Treasurer Doug Wertish
Historian Laurie Morris
Membership Secretary Wayne Pike
Webmaster Deb Pike
National Institute Clark Hanson
MAELC Julie Tesch
CFFM Dale Nordquist
2007 Conference Chair Jim Kelm
National Council Rich Baumann

The agenda was approved as presented with no changes.

Julie Tesch brought greetings from MAELC.

Dale Nordquist brought greetings from CFFM and the U of M.

State Reports

CO – Laurie Morris reported that CO Farm Management has stayed roughly the same the last few years with the loss of one program. They are doing more distance education as full time instructors are down to 10.

ND- Jay Olson reported that they are working more with extension now, with new instructors being located in extension offices. Program strength has been related to the individual person and replacement of retirees has been somewhat of a problem to get good people and being able to meet salary equivalents. They have 14 programs and 17 instructors.

SD- Clark Hanson reported 2 ½ people left in SD working as less state support for the program has been coming thru the yrs.

MN – John Hobert reported that MN has a new Director of Management Programs in Dr. Richard Joerger replacing John Murray. Dr. Joerger has an interest in working with NFRBMEA in the development of the National Institute initiative. MN has

approximately 75-80 instructors at this time. Information from regional dean Al Brudelic reports there are 73 FBM instructors, 12 SBM positions, 1 SBM Diversity, 2 Lamb and Wool and 1 Specialty crop position.

Current initiatives of MN FBM include: Organic project with the MN Dept of Ag, Uniform data project with the U of M, renewal of the FSA Borrower training program, increase in number of farms in the state database, and making strides in special sorts collections. MN will be holding its first FBM professional development conference in November 2007.

The secretary's report was passed out. It included the minutes of the last 4 meetings of NFRBMEA held in Rochester in conjunction with the annual conference. These minutes are also included on the website. Jay Olson moved and Deb Pike seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Paul Gorman reported on the previous day's National Institute committee meeting. He reported that they were continuing the project with an emphasis on 1st and 2nd year instructors. They would like to conduct activities either at the annual conference or separately and not with NAFBAS at this time.

The committee report has three objectives to it:

- 1) to develop a national conference (2 day event)
- 2) to develop an induction-mentor program
- 3) to develop an in-service program (possibilities with the Farm Financial Standards)

The committee recommends applying for a Bremer Bank grant application with Clark Hanson writing the grant and doing the start up work of the grant if approved. Bremer would probably let us know if approved by the end of this year. Jay Olson approved the committee report with the committee having the full power to act on behalf of the organization. Paul Gorman 2nd. Motion passed.

The treasurer's report and the conference treasurers report was presented by Doug Wertish. The reports were approved as read subject to audit.

Jim Kelm, 2007 conference co-chair summarized the conference held in Rochester. Jim recommends holding monthly conference planning calls for the next group. The conference was completed successfully without many hitches, which is a minor miracle.

Wayne Pike reported that we have 123 regular, 17 affiliates, and 1 lifetime members paid as of this time. Last fiscal year we had 141 regular, 23 affiliates and 1 lifetime paid.

Deb Pike reported that she is working on updating a photo collection of the Rochester conference and membership lists. She has already updated all of the minutes, committee membership pages, job postings, and she has some resource files uploaded from the Exchange of Ideas. She is constantly looking at ways to improve the web site.

Wayne Pike said the advertising rates from the paper copy of the Nuts & Bolts may be outdated now that N&B has converted to a real time update by email that is done 8-10 times per year. With web advertising there are no restrictions that paper copies can give like a full-page printing or postage rates. Wayne moved that we change the advertising rate to a flat fee of \$200 per ad for a years worth of real time updates of Nuts & Bolts. Doug seconded. Motion approved.

Kevin Klair from the CFFM informed our group about their efforts to acquire grant money through the US Farm bill for FBM education. There is some support initially but nothing is done until the bill is signed.

Brad Greiman from the U of M Ag Ed department welcomed us to the U. He reported that they have approximately 75 undergrads on campus in ag ed currently with another 5-10 students in “2+2” sites. He is the only full time instructor in the department now due to retirements and resignations.

Wayne asked the question of how did the First- Timers Scholarship format work this year with the Bounty Hunter – Hunttee concept. It was moved by Wayne, seconded by Jay to give \$100 scholarships to five 1st year registrants, limited to one per state until early registration deadline and if not claimed by then, it will be opened up to anyone with registration date being the determining factor of winning the scholarship. Motion passed.

The sponsor committee report was given by John Hobert on behalf of committee chairperson Gary Thome. Letters have been sent to the 2007 sponsors outlining the potential agenda, sponsor guidelines, and the organizations fact sheets. Sponsor guidelines are at the following levels: Vendor \$400, Bronze \$1000, Silver \$3000, Gold \$6000, and Platinum \$10,000. Anyone with potential sponsors should contact Gary Thome.

Laurie Morris outlined the full potential agenda for the 2008 conference in Fresno, CA. She went through all of the work the committee did when on the “scouting” trip to Fresno. They talked to a lot of people and made a lot of contacts in a short period of time to put together the great preliminary agenda.

Paul Gorman outlined the start of the 2009 conference site selection in St Louis. They looked at other tour locations in the area also.

Rich Baumann reported on his last meeting last week on the National Council. They are pushing a 10 x 15 proposal which is having 10,000 quality Ag programs by 2015 (currently there are about 7200). There second initiative is the Case Project which is a curriculum and science project geared at getting ag curriculum into non-ag schools and also more diverse schools as well as home school curriculums. The project has hired 2 curriculum writers already.

Rich's three-year term is up at the end of the year. NFRBMEA is to appoint the person to the Council. Applications were due to the board by Sept 15. Jay Olson was recommended to fill the position by Paul Gorman and seconded by Wayne. Motion passed.

Wayne Pike proposed forming an LLC to run the conference in conjunction with NAFBAS. He outlined some pros and cons of forming an LLC on the attached outline. Vic Richardson also sent his list of Pros and cons. The board thinks this LLC outline may be a good format to introduce to our NAFBAS partners. Wayne moved to explore the idea of forming an LLC to run the conference as a Nat Farm Management entity. Jay seconded. Motion passed.

Laurie proposed that the office of historian may not be needed as the advent of digital cameras and web ability has replaced the need for paper history. The board may take it under advisement for the spring meeting. Laurie said there is duplication of duties between her job and Deb Pike's position as webmaster. We may need to look at the by-laws of the NFRBMEA to make sure we are following those by-laws and maybe have to change them to follow the proposals before the group now.

Spring board meeting was discussed by John. Last year it was a conference call. What kind of technology should be used to hold the board meeting? John said we may do a web cam or teleconference. Date of the meeting is set for 9 a.m. April 18, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Wertish