

***National Farm and Ranch Business Management Education Association
Conference Call
April 18, 2008 9:00 am CDT***

Call to order by John Hobert at 9:00 AM at Riverland Community College, Austin, MN

Members present were:	President	John Hobert
	President Elect	Paul Gorman
	Past Pres/Nat. Council	Jay Olson
	Treasurer	Doug Wertish
	Historian	Laurie Morris
	Membership Secretary	Wayne Pike
	Webmaster	Deb Pike
	Secretary	Rick Morgan
	National Institute	Dr. Clark Hanson
	Resource Library	Ron VanNurden
	Fund Raising	Gary Thome

The agenda was presented by President Hobert, two items were added, one about the 2010 bit for our Conference and another item about the Annual Report. All agreed that Hobert had done a fine job on the agenda.

Good news started off with Laurie Morris; she stated that all was fine in her life and the fields in Colorado were dry, again. Dr. Clark Hanson commented on that his wife had just left him, again, and was spending time in the Cities with the Grandkids. Jay Olson remarked that the farmers near Devils Lake, ND had been in the fields already. Pikes said their dog was doing great in dog school. Gorman, Morgan and Wertish all discussed the attributes of being a grandfather, while Ron VanNurden stated that his daughter has a wedding in the near future.

Wayne Pike moved to accept the **Minutes** of the 2007 Fall Board meeting as printed and sent out earlier for all to read. Second by Morris, motion passed.

Doug Wertish gave the **Treasurer's report**. He summarized his report with separate sheets on the Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet for both the Conference and our organization. Morgan moved acceptance of his report, seconded by Thome and passed. Olson moved to accept his Conference Treasurer's report, seconded by Morgan and that also passed.

Wayne Pike gave us his **Membership report**, we have 126 total members, down primarily due to Ohio's funding change. The new format for Nuts & Bolts got good response by many.

Deb Pike gave us her report on the **Website**. She stated that she had fielded some requests for more details on the Spouse program at Fresno. She also stated that the Exchange of Ideas go back to 1999 and are all on the Website. The new 2008-09 membership application is up also.

Ron VanNurden gave his **Resource Library report**. The NAAE have a "Communities of Practice" that NFRBMEA could work with. It is not exactly like our Library idea but more

along the lines of a chat room to give input on our resources in our Library. We would need a facilitator to work with the NAAE. Wayne Pike moved that Ron pursue the connection with NAAE, seconded by Gorman and passed. We are all guilty of not getting items sent into the Library. Hobert suggested we have simpler steps or requirements of getting items up on the Library.

Morris started the discussion on our **2008 Conference**. As of her last conference call yesterday, all is going well. Hobert read off his list of meal sponsors. He also addressed the needs for each day of the conference. He will need help stuffing packets Saturday night in Fresno, Sunday with registration, Monday with the vendors, Tuesday with the Exchange of Ideas activity, Wednesday with the tours.

Hobert stated that last year we had about 230 at Rochester, while we may only have 130 at Fresno because of the distance and added cost. He detailed the list of donations and that it is always good to keep these organizations well informed of our activities.

Gorman gave a report on the **2009 St. Louis Conference** scheduled for June 14-18, 2009. He will be helped by instructors from Missouri and NAFBAS. He also is chairing the Exchange of Ideas activity.

Olson discussed working with the **National Council** and his concern that they do not recognize FBM instructors as regular Ag teachers in their policy to try to get college loan forgiveness. He will try to get them to see the light.

Dr. Clark Hanson gave his **National Institute report**. The Otto Bremer Foundation is getting close to awarding us with an \$180,000 grant over three years. Hanson and Olson have some minor details to work out, but it does look promising. Gorman moved that we allow Hanson to offer credit at \$100 per credit from SDSU at our Fresno Conference; seconded by Wertish and passed. We would most likely have to pay Lake Region Foundation \$3000 each year to administer the funds if we do get this grant. Hanson restated our Institute's objective is to get the first-, second-, and third- year FBM Instructors up to speed to that they can be successful instructors.

Olson and Morgan gave a proposal for **Fargo/Moorhead to host the 2010 Conference**. Dates would be June 13-17, 2010.

Olson also stated that he would like some assistance preparing the 2007-08 **Annual Report**. Gorman moved to pay Deb Pike her Riverland rate to do this report as it has been done in the past; seconded by Wertish and passed.

Moved by Wayne Pike to give **Distinguished Service Awards** (DSA) to Lowell Nelson, Lyle Hermance, Larry Klingbeil and Tim Holtquist, seconded by Olson and passed.

Morgan moved we give the DSA-Friend to CaseIH, seconded by Deb Pike and passed.

Laurie Morris will receive a service award as our retiring Historian. Anyone knowing any

member that wants to run for office, let us know. We would like to see a wider geographical range for our officers.

Meeting was adjourned by Hobert at 11:50. Hobert passed out meal tickets to those at Austin.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Morgan, Secretary