

Minutes of the NFRBMEA Post Conference Board Meeting

June 24, 2022, via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 9am by Tina. Members present Tina Lebrun, Myron Oftedahl, Deron Erickson, Jeff Schultz, Debra Pike, Denise Reeser, Ron Dvergsten; absent: Jennifer Smith

No Secretary's report was given.

Treasurer's report given by Jeff. The only change to the treasurer's report on the balance sheet from the Annual Meeting is that the balance of the Ameriprise account has been updated. After that date, a check for \$2,790.70 check was deposited with the conference profit from a year ago this week and three sponsorship checks, \$5,000 from AG Resource Management, \$1000 from Iowa Farm Business Accounting, and \$500 from Farm Financial Standards. Checking account balance at \$13,271.33 currently. Jeff also shared the budget versus actual for 2021-22 then the 2022-23. Jeff is working on the 2023-24 budget. Discussion was had about changing over all of the Conference Treasurer duties to Jeff as well this year. Also discussed was the conference income and expenses and the timing of when the income arrives for deposit versus when the bills are due. Discussed conference attendance and estimates of the income from conference. Need to add \$1500 for travel for the National Conference expenses in the 2024 budget plan. Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Deron, second by Myron. Motion passed.

Discussed how to present the 2023-24 budget to the membership for approval because it was not done at the Annual Meeting, when it normally is approved. Also, Ron Dvergsten needs to be approved as President Elect. By-laws have been reviewed and it appears both could be emailed out for approval by the membership. A list of people present at the Annual Meeting needs to be gotten from Jennifer to know who was at the Annual Meeting and only active members are supposed to be voting. Discussion had about membership year runs from June 1 to May 31, but people pay dues late, so who is technically a voting member at the time of the conference and now. Also, our fiscal year is April 1 through March 31. Discussion had about why originally set up with two different dates. Deb said dunning letters don't go out until August. The two items could also be sent out with the next NUTS & BOLTS issue too, but then that was decided against. 2023-24 budget will go in Annual Report as well.

National Council report given by Deron. The National Council just met this week on Monday virtually. Deron shared the strategic priorities of the council. Deron is working to determine where NFRBMEA fits into the strategic priorities. Recruit, prepare, retain, and support educators seems to be a good fit. Deron's challenge is to determine which priority group to be a member of and to develop collaborations within and beyond the Ag Education community. The priority that includes all people on The Council is in leverage and diverse approaches is the one that's really driving many things currently. The Council courses mainly deal with high school ag and FFA. The second part of the national council meeting dealt with finding a new National FFA Advisor and Director of Ag. It is a short timeline, as the National FFA Advisor goal is to be in place by National FFA Convention. Deron shared that it was discussed about incorporating PAS back into the National Council. The next meeting is going to be in Indianapolis in October. Deron will be in Indianapolis then to participate in the interview for this National Director of Agriculture and National FFA Advisor. Mary Hoffman from MN is the president elect for National Council. Motion to approve National Council report by Myron, second by Ron. Motion passed.

Communications Director's report by Deb. Discussion about planning for future transition in the Communications Directors' position, so that when Deb does plan to retire from the position, someone can be trained in and make it a smooth transition. Past Presidents discussed combining it with another position such as National Council responsibilities. Deb said that we used to have an Historian, NUTS & BOLTS Co-editors, and a Membership Secretary. These positions consolidated into the Communications Director's role. Deb explained her job regarding membership, NUTS & BOLTS, compiling the Annual Report, and maintaining the website. A membership card is created and emailed out. Deb doubted that combining the Communications Director's position with the National Council position would be a good idea. Motion to accept Communications Director's report and rehire Deb Pike for 2023 by Deron, second by Myron, motion passed.

Conference sponsorship report by Tina and Denise. Tina is helping transition the position to Denise. NAFBAS has Brent (Goodwin) working on recruiting John Deere but so far, no response from John Deere. He is going to try a new approach this year. He's also going to talk to Case. Keith recommended reaching out to William Nelson again and get some insight into getting funding to get new instructors to Conference. Thank you notes have been sent to all our sponsors from this past year and also extending the offer to participate in professional development events this fall. Easy Farm was missed at the conference. Deb will create the 2023 Conference website with basic information. Anyone with contacts in Michigan for sponsorship let Denise or Tina know. January is key to have already lined up the sponsors for the June conference. Motion to approve conference sponsorship report by Jeff, second by Deron. Motion passed.

2023 Conference report by Myron. There are no financials yet due to waiting on bills to come in. Overall, the conference was good with a strong speaker for Thursday morning. As discussed at the joint board meeting, a planning template would help with the conference planning and consistency. A major topic assigned each year is a good idea to keep the conference focused. For triennial years with Extension, either limit concurrent sessions or have a separate track with Extension concurrent sessions. Tina, Myron, and Jeff are on this committee for working on a template with NAFBAS. Jennifer kept notes for topic ideas at our annual meeting and gave them to Jim McCabe. The 2023 Conference Planning committee is Lynn Hoffmann, John Jones from Michigan and someone from WI that Sarah Maass-Pate mentioned.

MOU Discussion: Discussed who was on the MOU committee; unsure of people on the committee at this time, but committee should meet in next few weeks and develop a plan of how to improve conference. NAFBAS said at Joint Board meeting that they were willing to rescind the letter to dissolve the MOU if the conference improved.

2024 conference locations were discussed with Duluth, Hawaii, Oregon. It was noted that few Minnesota instructors would be attending distant conference due to travel costs. Better to keep it in MN or Midwest for higher NFRBMEA attendance. Also, a comparison for costs to various locations may be needed to show how much more expensive distance locations are. Discussed poor communication between organizations for conference planning and the stipend Kylie will be getting for running the conference registration and what her job responsibilities entail. There is a need to go deeper into subject matter at conferences. A paper schedule at the conference would be preferred to just the emailed one. Also, the details need to be sent out earlier for planning purposes and improve communication with members and conference attendees.

Goals for the upcoming year: increasing membership is one goal; discussed a possible \$5 discount for new members to NFRBMEA. Goal to possibly reinstate the First Timers' Scholarship and work with the Centers for Ag on funding possibly. Increase number of new instructors attending the conference. Attend fall FBM Conference with a booth to increase membership in NFRBMEA and gain visibility. Goal for conference sponsorship: last year's was \$5,000 local and \$10,000 National, which was not achieved. There were no local sponsorships in 2022. Goal to have professional development for members. Midday virtual training ideas are ARM, PcMars, QuickBooks, possibly to be held in October, November, December, January, April, May.

Pre-Conference board meeting is scheduled September 27, 1-4 pm, via Zoom; meet in St. Cloud morning of September 12.

NUTS & BOLTS deadlines: July 11, October 17, January 9, and April 10.

Motion to adjourn by Deron, second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.