

NFRBMEA Board Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2023 • Conducted via Zoom

Tina called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. In attendance were Tina LeBrun, Lynn Hoffman, Ron Dvergsten, Deb Pike, Deron Erickson, Pauline Van Nurden, Vincent Gauthier, Denise Reeser, Myron Oftedahl, Jennifer Smith, Kevin Klair and Jeff Schultz.

Ron moved to approve, Myron second to approve agenda. Passed.

Guest speaker Vincent Gauthier (EDF). Sharing Farm Bill Policy concept to support National Farm Business Management Center that would coordinate across states and FBM programs to build dataset, provide support and resources for new farm financial benchmarking states where growth is needed or there is none, provide grants for two purposes, 1) for establishing new FBM programs; and 2) to support projects gathering data and analyzing the impact of conservation practices. Working on a marker bill asking for \$10 m to fund FBM center. AGRI group is supporting this concept. Looking for feedback from NFRBMEA. Discussion about involvement of NFRBMEA with this proposal, and discussion about how current conservation benchmarking programs would be incorporated into the new proposal, and how would Extension be involved in the project. Deron asked how it would collaborate with Extension. Pauline mentioned they have not addressed this yet. Tina asked how NRRBMEA could help facilitate this? Keith and Kevin conversations started this project with how to involve conservation and agriculture and combine with expanding FBM programs beyond Minnesota utilizing the farm bill. Myron asked how carbon credits fit into this proposal discussed. Ron suggested to have NFRBMEA be involved in this project through letter of support and an advisory board may be beneficial. Discussion about current committee, who is involved, and how NFRBMEA would be involved; Kevin, Pauline, Keith, and Vincent have been committee up to this point. Discussed having Vincent come to the National Conference to get information out to other states as well. Vincent asked for our feedback and input. Vincent also mentioned the lending industry is supportive. Myron did not want it to rob from existing funding, for it to be totally new. Kevin agreed. Deron requested it be communicated to us to that we can communicate it to our contacts.

Tina stated no revised MOU with NAFBAS has been received and registration is not open for the 2023 NFBM Conference yet. Kevin Klair asked to think about if it's an option for NFRBMEA to hold a conference on its own. Frustrations built over registration not being open for the conference yet, and not being able to get more people to attend. Idea to build a conference around FINPACK Users Conference by Kevin. Concerns are that Minnesota instructors already come together three times a year. Is there time to have another conference in schedules?

Discussion-Tina asked about location options for conferences. Discussed changes in professional development opportunities have changed, there are many more now, harder for people to attend multiple conferences in the summer. Suggested by Ron to have conference every other year. He described the first NFRBMEA conferences before partnering with NAFBAS. Changed from more of a family vacation to a solo work conference now. The first conferences were more focused on delivery of content by fellow instructors. Kevin shared idea of possibly having NFRBMEA add onto the Extension conference.

MOU is not currently signed with NAFBAS. Myron shared that this coming conference in June would be our last joint conference since MOU isn't signed. Is June is the best time for a

conference? Denise supported keeping NFRBMEA professional development since it's the best training.

Lynn discussed having the 2024 NFBM Conference at La Crosse or Red Wing. He is frustrated with slow planning and communication with NAFBAS. Discussed conference location, Minnesota participation and time away from home.

Update on 2024 conference negotiating for contracts and location. Poor communication back from NAFBAS. Suggestions for conference workshops and speakers in 2024. List from June conference and should be in minutes. Instructor led instruction sessions. Denise was going to talk about the NFBM Conference at PEP.

Secretary's report by Jennifer Smith: Jennifer will be stepping down come June. Minutes will be emailed or online from previous meetings.

Deb emailed out her Communications Director's report prior to the meeting. She needs the Post-Conference board meeting minutes and part two of Fall Board meeting minutes.

Deron Erickson shared his report for the National Council. He emailed the report out to the board. Motion to approve National Council report by Myron, second by Jeff, motion passed.

Denise-Conference Sponsorship report, all sponsors that she asked agreed to sponsor. She is just waiting to send information out to sponsors about details for conference. Denise will send list of sponsors to Deb, who will post them on the Conference website. Moved by Jeff, second by Myron, to approve the Conference Sponsorship report.

Treasurer's report, motion to approve by Denise, second Myron, motion passed.

Tina said she had talked with Tom Appel about dues consolidation. Colleges will follow up with doing a group invoice for dues from each college.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer Smith, NFRBMEA Secretary