

# NFRBMEA Spring Board Meeting Minutes

## May 4, 2023 via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 9:37am by Tina. Members present: Tina LeBrun, Ron Dvergsten, Deron Erickson, Lynn Hoffman, Denise Reeser, Debra Pike, Myron Oftedahl.

Introductions and updates given by members present.

Motion to approve agenda by Deron, second by Jennifer. Motion passed.

Strategic Planning by Deron. Question to Deb asking if NFRBMEA has ever done strategic planning? The four strategic priorities for the National Council are 1: recruit, prepare, retain, and support ag educators; 2: include all people and leverage diverse approaches; 3: engage and transition students to be leaders and advocates in/for AFNR and related industries; 4: develop collaborations within and beyond our ag education community.

Ideas from Deron: Does NFRBMEA want to be a part of Tech Ag? How does NFRBMEA help support entry level FBM? TIP for other states through NFRBMEA? State leaders in each state for NFRBMEA? Beginning member award for NFRBMEA member? Sponsor awards for outstanding program? Award for increase in membership in each state/college? Could there be credentialing info on NFRBMEA website for each state? Should there be presence on campuses for NFRBMEA? Could mental health support be offered to other states through NFRBMEA? Could we partner with CFFM as a listing of members who are a resource for FINPACK? Why aren't people at CFFM members? Deron brought up difficulties with NFRBMEA and NAFBAS if it's an only one person or the whole group NAFBAS difficulty, Ron shared the growth and reduction of growth of members over time in NFRBMEA. Myron shared the mission statement of NFRBMEA and the focus on professional development and how the conference has been the focus on the professional development. Deb shared how professional development has grown into the webinars the past couple years. The NUTS & BOLTS are archived on the website for a historical background. Deron asked in NFRBMEA wants to evolve more and look at national money for growth of NFRBMEA? Denise is supportive of asking the questions to grow and move forward. Myron brought up to align our goals with National Council to work together and not compete for funding at the national level. Tina shared the value of accountability for instructors. A Strategic Planning meeting will be scheduled during the Conference at 3:45 pm on Tuesday, June 13. Needs a plan and direction for the meeting to have a positive working meeting. Deron will lead the meeting.

Tina brought up discussion of having a conference without NAFBAS. Curtis mentioned that Extension may be backing away from doing the triennial. Sponsorship is extremely hard to do in the current conference format. Conference planning is very stressful in the difficulty of working with both organizations to plan the conference and difficult communication. Late registration hinders attendance at the conference due to planning for people and vendors to attend. Tina discussed having a conference without NAFBAS with Keith Olander and Megan Roberts. Keith asked what the conference would look like without NAFBAS. Keith suggested extending the fall conference, Kevin Klair suggested having a FINPACK users conference, or Keith suggested combining with PEP. Would NFRBMEA be willing to house the peer groups that started this past year with Minnesota FBM? Tina asked the question if our problems are with NAFBAS as a whole or just one person. Jennifer asked question if we will already plan on being dissolved because of no change to the MOU and NAFBAS already sent the letter last June 2022. Myron

said discussion was had in July, but nothing was changed or signed on a new MOU. Discussed plan to go forward with the assumption that we would be on our own in 2025 for the conference. Ron shared the MOU began because of the ability to offer better conferences together, rather than separate. Joint Pre-conference meeting will shed some light on the future on what NAFBAS is thinking with having conferences together. Myron shared NFRBMEA needs to be prepared to move forward and have a conference on our own. Ron shared the letter for MOU dissolution had to be a group of NAFBAS and not just one person. 2024 conference planning Lynn shared that as far is known, no contract has been signed with the hotel yet. Overall, go forward planning 2024 as the last joint conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin and to be sure NAFBAS will attend and be participating and showing up in the 2024 conference. 2025 go forward planning to be on own hosting a NFRBMEA conference. Ron made a motion, Myron seconded to have an agenda item at the Annual Meeting to discuss the National Conference going forward in the event an MOU is dissolved.

The Secretary's report involved reviewing previous meeting minutes and approving them. Minutes from the September 8, 2022 fall board meeting were reviewed and corrected spellings. Motion to approve by Ron, second by Myron, motion passed. Minutes from June 24, 2022 Post-Conference board meeting were reviewed, corrected spellings and dates on conference. Motion to approve by Ron, second by Myron, motion passed. Minutes from March 2, 2023 board meeting were reviewed and corrected spellings. Motion to approve by Deron, second by Ron, motion passed. Minutes from March 28, 2023 board meeting were reviewed and corrected spellings. Motion to approve by Deron, second by Ron, motion passed. Jennifer has to remember to sign the minutes at the bottom of each report. Motion to approve Secretary's report by Ron, second by Deron, motion passed.

Deb gave the Communications Director's report. The latest NUTS & BOLTS is finished and out and the Annual Report is being compiled. Treasurer's reports are needed for completing the annual report. The membership form on the website has been updated, Kansas State has three position openings on the website's Careers page. All NUTS & BOLTS and RTUs have been archived on the website. The sponsors updates are in progress for the 2023 Conference website and a Presenter page is coming soon. Website looks fabulous. Deron moved to accept Communications Director's report, second by Ron.

Conference Sponsorship update from Denise. Working on recruiting sponsors, by sending them information. BASE, CFFM, Easy Farm, Farm Financial Standards Council, PCMARS, are all sponsors. ARM & National Crop Insurance will be sponsors with the amount to be determined. AmBrook Recordkeeping is a new sponsor at BINBUSTER level. AmBrook will be giving a mini talk/workshop at conference. Denise has a check for Myron to deposit. Also, she needs to get forms out to sponsors that donated over \$500. Thanks to Myron and Tina supporting Denise in the sponsorship recruitment position. It is really hard to get sponsors, when there are delays in information sharing from NAFBAS for the conference. Vendors are paying a registration fee and paying donation in addition. It was challenging with that change, and also challenging to get time for the sponsor to talk. Jim McCabe has a \$6000 sponsor for the keynote speaker, but no details on that one yet. Denise is unsure if there are any local sponsors for 2023 conference. Need to reach out to John Jones, the head of planning the 2023 conference in Michigan. Motion to approve Conference Sponsorship report by Ron, second by Myron, motion passed.

Tina shared agenda planning for the conference. Also asked if conference registrations are done yet. Deron is done. Lynn and Jen have not registered yet, just waiting until later in the

month of May, but hotels are booked. The registration has a meal charge for the sponsors in addition to their donation. Tina has discussed with Jim McCabe the new sponsor of \$5000.

2024 Conference update by Lynn. Books of the area will be given out to conference participants. Hilton, 50 rooms, and complimentary breakfast, and Courtyard by Marriott hotels about 3 blocks to walk, it's right on the river, has a patio and deck, and have blocked off 50 rooms also. La Crosse Center is the location for the conference, with two large conference rooms. Lots of downtown activities and possible Paddleboat rides for activities. Family night possible to have Loggers baseball game- have an area for dining and watching the game. If no game, it is possible to just use the area that night for a picnic. Possible to get a Kwik Trip speaker. Lynn is looking for help with the topics and speakers. Potential conference topics: MN DNR Climatologist, credit scores (how determined, what effects), bank examination (what to look for, how to help), and case study. Speakers: Craig Culver, head of Ag Banks, Michael Swanson (need to work with Wells Fargo to get a sponsorship to get him to come), Scott Shellady from RFD TV, farm bill person, maybe Colin Peterson. Need an overall theme, and nothing currently done on farm tours. Tina recommended talking to William Nelson for ideas. Lynn has talked to Jim McCabe about doing a presentation for 2024 conference during the 2023 conference. Myron suggested to invite Ted Mathews and Monica McConkey on how to develop that connection with our farm students, instructor mental health, and what Minnesota has for a mental health program for farmers and how we developed it. Myron suggested keeping the room rates for a couple days before and a couple days after the conference.

Pre-Conference board meeting will be 1 pm Monday, June 12 in Michigan prior to the Joint Board meeting. Send any information to Tina that should be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting as soon as possible.

Post-Conference Board Meeting is scheduled to meet, June 28 from 1 – 4 pm via Zoom.

Deron moved to adjourn, second by Myron. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jennifer Smith, NFRBMEA Secretary