

Minutes of the Annual Fall Board Meeting

September 27, 2023 ♦ South Central College, North Mankato, MN

Attendees: Ron Dvergsten, Tina LeBrun, Lynn Hoffmann, Jeff Schultz, Deron Erickson, Denise Reeser, Brad Sirianni, Deb Pike, and Myron Oftedahl.

The meeting was called to order by Ron at 9:10 AM. It was conducted in two parts, with the Joint Fall Board meeting sandwiched in between. The agenda was reviewed and approved. Members shared brief personal and professional updates.

Secretary Brad read the Post-conference meeting minutes – motion to approve by Deron, second by Lynn. Approved.

Jeff presented the Treasurer's reports. He reviewed the balance sheet and Profit & Loss reports. There was a problem with one dues payment but that was corrected. Discussion was held regarding putting some dollars in a higher rate account at Ameriprise. Motion by Deron, second by Lynn to have Jeff, Myron and Denise decide as committee where to invest cash reserves. Motion approved. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Brad, second by Lynn. Approved.

Deb presented the Communications Director's report, describing her activities regarding website maintenance and membership activity. She talked about the summer issue of NUTS & BOLTS and the upcoming deadline on October 24 for articles for the Fall issue. A basic webpage for the 2024 Conference is up: www.nfbm-conference.org/2024/. There was a brief discussion on retired instructors (ND) and new ones (membership). Motion to approve by Denise, second by Jeff. Approved.

Deron presented the National Council report. The Council met in Minneapolis, September 11. National FFA Foundation representatives joined the Council. Discussed leadership changes. Keith Olander reported to the Council on Monday morning. Deron gave updates on behalf of NFRBMEA. Keith presented for 25 minutes on behalf of AgCentric and future of farm business management around the country. Lack of state leadership is a common theme shared by states that are struggling to keep/maintain farm business management programs. The Council discussed ways to support and/or advocate for farm business type of programs. The Council is very willing to help. Deron proposed adding us to the Teach Ag initiative. Melissa Rekeweg, Managing Director, wants to visit us at the National Conference.

There was discussion with The Council related to adult education vs. high school. Discussed CASE (Keith has been involved), AFNR standards,. CASE is again managed through the Council. Denise mentioned the financial management curriculum and possible roles we can play. Motion to approve report by Denise, second by Lynn. Approved.

Denise gave a Conference Sponsorship update. The last checks from the past conference have been turned in. Working on conference in La Crosse, Brad, William Nelson. She has updated her sell sheets. Leedstone is interested in working more with us and how we can help each other- could be a possible sponsorship. Also, Ambrook is continuing to communicate with us. Denise recommended recognizing sponsors sooner during our conference. Motion to approve report by Lynn, second by Deron. Approved.

Next, Tina gave a Recruitment & Retention report. She discussed the professional development series and making conference not the only opportunity for the members. Discussion on Estate Planning and Betsy's recommendations. Being part of MN peer groups. Will discuss more later in the agenda. Ron discussed Northern Crops Institute and what role they could play in our professional development opportunities. Others, Ambrook, ARM, BASE, etc. Get dates established today with rough draft of topics and promotional materials.

Myron gave a final 2023 Conference review. \$20,071.47 beginning + \$500 sponsorship that recently came in. \$5,000 CVENT??? (\$2,750.00 for registration site.) Discussed concerns with CVENT. Should

we explore CFFM again? Credit card fees that were paid and other fees are inconsistent and cause questions. Monthly \$243, \$158, \$106 in consecutive years. Need to discuss with NAFBAS. Each group should get approximately \$7,327.23 from the 2023 conference. Vendor registration – Inconsistency requires some explanation.

Ron and Tina discussed the MOU Review Committee. They met with Jim McCabe & Dean Ziegler. Tina said that we are seeking changes mostly due to the registration struggles. Have information and registration available sooner. There was also discussion about sharing professional development opportunities with each other (NFRBMEA & NAFBAS). Need to put together a job description for the conference treasurer.

2024 Conference Planner Lynn Hoffmann gave a brief update planning activities and will go into further detail at the Joint Fall Board meeting later today.

In Old Business, the open President-Elect position was discussed. Ron talked with Kent Janssen, and he is considering serving in a leadership role down the road. Need to encourage people to consider serving the organization. Possible future conference planner- Brent R.? There was discussion on the value of being in an organization and serving in one. Networking. Investing in themselves.

The schedule for *NUTS & BOLTS* article submission and publication dates for this year's remaining issues was determined. Fall submission: 10/24 for 11/1 publication; Winter submission: 1/24 for 2/1 publication; and Spring submission: 4/23 for 5/1 publication. No specific themes for each issue, any topic is welcome. Encourage non-board members to report on the conference and/or other topics.

Further discussion was held on the Power-Up Professional Development Training Series. Webinars will be held on the following Wednesdays: Oct. 25, Nov. 15, and Dec. 13 from noon to 1 PM CT. Tentative topics and presenters: 10/25- Mark Jarek, Northern Crop Institute; 11/15- Estate Tax, Iowa State; 12/13- Ambrook; 4/17- BASE; 5/15- ARM.

New Business items included whether to change our membership year from June 1- May 31 to July 1- June 30? No change recommended at this time. Should we have a Unified Dues option with MAAE Dues for Minnesota? The board discussed and decided not to pursue a dues option with MAAE at this time.

We reviewed our strategic goals and priorities for 2023-24:

- *Conference Sponsorship* – goal of \$3,000 local and \$10,000 national level. Find a Grant or Sponsorship to increase new conference attendees.
- *Membership increase* – 10 new members, 5 first time registers for conference.
- *Membership education* - Nuts & Bolts 4x per year and RTU's min. 4x per year. 2-4 Virtual Professional Development Session (Member only)

We reviewed the agenda for the Fall Joint Board Meeting, scheduled for 11:00 a.m.-12:50 pm. today.

We are looking for recommendations for possible NFRBMEA Distinguished Service Award recipients. Past recipients are listed on our website.

NFRBMEA 50th Anniversary (1973-2023)- should we have some sort of celebration during the Monday evening social?

Our next meeting date was not set but will be sometime between the end of March and before April 17, 2024. Lynn moved to adjourn the meeting and Tina seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Submitted by,

Brad Sirianni, NFRBMEA Secretary

(Edited to fit page by Deb Pike)