

NFRBMEA
Minutes
Spring Conference Call
1:00 p.m., April 20th, 2004

Members Present: Jim Kelm, Ron Dvergsten, Rich Baumann, Tom Weygandt, Wayne Pike, Debra Pike, Laurie Morris, Charles Duell, Tom Ackerman, Ed Ruff.

#1: Call to Order. Tom Weygandt called the meeting to order at 1:07 CDT.

#2: Additions or corrections. There were none.

#3: Minutes from the Fall board meeting. Ron moved, Jim seconded motion to accept the minutes.

#4: Treasurer's report. Rich reported on the actual 03-04 vs. budget 03-04. Rich noted a shortfall in contributions and donations outside of the conference sponsors. Revenues were lower than projected and expenses were higher. Charles moved, Jim seconded motion to accept the treasurer's report.

#5: Membership secretary's report – Wayne Pike. 154 regular, 7 associate, 1 honorary lifetime. Last year at this time we had 176 regular members. Discussion over how to go about increasing membership in the organization. Jim suggested further discussion and brainstorming to increase participation, with the membership committee.

Email addresses: Wayne moved to set policy that NFRBMEA does not supply member email addresses to the public. Ron seconded the motion. The webmaster will make connections for those members wishing to get email addresses.

#6: Webmaster's report – Deb Pike.

Newsletter 321, 148 member electronic, 157 non-member electronic. Paper copies 16; 8,742 visitors to the web site. Conference info is posted there.

Non-member web links: Deb suggested \$50.00 annual fee for commercial links; \$0.00 for non-commercial links. Jim moved to adopt a \$50.00 fee for commercial links, but no money for non-commercial links, Ron seconded.

#7: Mission Statement. Discussion around the proposed change to the mission statement. Jim moved to lay on the table the discussion until the pre-conference board meeting.

#8: Bylaws committee. Tom Weygandt reported on the suggested bylaw changes. The dues increase voted for at the fall board meeting is passed to go to the annual meeting. Discussion centered on definition of membership: Active and Affiliate. Ron moved to accept the changes as discussed. Tom Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. Tom Weygandt will draw up the proposed changes as discussed.

Briefly the suggested changes are:

- 1) to be added to article III, section 1, “All officers must be active members.”
- 2) Throughout the bylaws, the references to mail to be expanded to electronic notice,
- 3) Article V. Section 1, membership, add after “limited to” the phrase “current or former” and under Article V, section 2, add “students,” before “individuals”.
- 4) Also proposed to change Article VIII, Section 1, read “current version of Robert’s Rules of Order.”
- 5) Also proposed is to limit voting to active members, probably as a new section.

#9: Change in Rural America Conference – Wayne Pike. Dr. Joerger is on the program to present the results of the survey at the conference. Jim moved, Ron Seconded to pay Wayne and Deb’s costs to attend the conference and represent NFRBMEA at the conference.

#10: NAFBAS. Tom Weygandt reported that he had asked Jim Kelm to act as our conference planner for the joint NAFBAS conference to be held in 2006 in Omaha. Jay Olson will also be contacted by Tom to see if he would like to assist. NAFBAS will be meeting in Wichita. As a way to introduce NAFBAS to NFRBMEA it was discussed to have a display for the NAFBAS conference.

Jim Moved, Ed seconded to hold the fall board meeting in Champaign Ill, September 27-29, with the joint meeting with NAFBAS on the 29th.

#11: National Council – Tom Weygandt. Tom reported that we had been asked to become members to the national council for \$3000.00. Tom replied that he submitted a request for \$1000-1500. This would be in effect following the retirement of Gary Thome.

#12: 2004 Conference Report: Ed Ruff.

Program—Ron aired his thoughts about the timing for Thursday morning. Ron suggested that the story telling breakfast be moved up by 30 minutes to an hour to provide more time for the exchange of ideas.

Sponsors—trying to get more sponsorships locally in Wisconsin. Stewart Peterson as a possible participant in the trade show. Ed mentioned that he would like a list of the regular trade show participants. Wally Hoffman, Red Wing software are planning on the trade show for sure.

Certificates of Appreciation—Tom will need to sign the Certificates at the pre-conference board meeting.

Liability Insurance—Reminder that insurance is needed. Ed says he has a quote on the way.

#13: Distinguished Service Award Plaques – Six plaques are available. Four individuals have been identified. Jim will get the name plates engraved and will have them to affix to the plaques at Wisconsin Dells. Wayne, Ron, Tom and Rich are planning to make the presentations.

Retiring Officers Plaques. Ed will get the plaques for those officers retiring.

#14: Roll Call of States. Charles will responsible for this. Not too long. Not too short.

#15: First Timers Scholarships. Ron will handle the first timers' meeting.

#16: Exchange of Ideas: Ron already has three idea submissions in, is about 3 weeks until the deadline.

#17: 2005 Conference: Tom Ackerman. Keynote speaker will be from Perdue University, dept of Ag Economics, Dr. Mike Boehlje. Theme speakers: Ag Outlook, Alternative agriculture (greenhouse and vegetable production, meat goat production, aquaculture [fish & shrimp]). Development of new wheat varieties; Pioneer agronomists, specialty soybeans. Management Concerns, Amy Miller, land use planning at a county level, Government regulation; Farming and Your Neighbors, mega farms. Wagon tours of the Ohio Ag research and development center. Tom related that he would probably not be attending the conference at Wisconsin, and is trying to line up another instructor (Luke) to take the lead role in Tom's absence for the 2005 conference.

#18: Committees: Ron. Ron suggested that we need to work on membership committees, and other committees so we can have more active committee meetings.

#19: Other business. None brought up.

#20: Adjourn. Move by Jim to adjourn, seconded by Ron. Meeting adjourned. 3:25 CDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Duell
Secretary