

**NFRBMEA Fall Board Meeting
Crowne Plaza, Bloomington, MN
September 26, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by President Jay D. Olsen at 9:13 a.m.

Those present were Jay Olsen, Doug Wertish, Myron Oftedahl, Jim McCuiston, Al Graner, Tom Weygandt, Ira Beckman, Deb Pike, Wayne Pike, and Jim Kelm.

Minutes were read and no corrections were made. Added to the agenda was the need to vote a Conference chair to the board.

Jim Kelm, a retired member, is Co-chair for the 2012 Conference and concern to compensate him was the first item of business. Ira Beckman moved and Jim McCuiston seconded that the Association pay for 4 nights of rooms for Jim and his wife, pay his wife's registration, and give Jim \$300 for expenses incurred for planning the conference. Also included in the motion was to compensate Rick Morgan \$250 for his work on the Fargo Conference while in retirement. After discussion, motion was passed. After a flip of a coin, Wayne Pike was the choice between the two chairs to be the voting board representative. Myron Oftedahl moved Wayne be the board representative and it was seconded by Ira. Motion carried.

An item that will be brought before the joint board meeting was addressed by Communications Director Deb Pike. A new hosting plan could change the current cost of \$269.40 to \$155.35, and this new plan has the ability to let her add a sub-domain for the Conference web page. Deb is also the webmaster for the Conference information and stated that the file size is getting large for a need of a sub-domain. There was a suggestion that the sub-domain might be named Farm-Ranch Conference.org.

Jim McCuiston gave the Secretary's report recognizing the Roll Call of States relationship to the member list and Deb's mailing list.

Myron gave an extensive Treasurer's report showing the expenses and income from the year's beginning date of April 1. \$2000 - \$3000 may have to be moved from savings to complete transactions to the March 31, 2012 end of year. Al Graner moved to accept the report and Doug seconded the motion. It was passed.

Deb's Communications Director's report stated that there are 62 current paid members. She would like to post the newsletter on October 14th and would like letters and items from the board members for this newsletter by October 10th. There had previously been sent 102 letters to inactive members and only 2 paid dues. It is Deb's opinion that mailed letters are unproductive and that we will use email and the web to access these inactive members.

Ira explained the National Council changes to the new 3 year term and reduction of members. A budget from the Council was presented. Ira apologized for not mentioning at the June post-Conference meeting that an added expense to the Association will be his travel to National meeting during the year. The first meeting is this week in Mississippi. His estimate is that with dues and travel the budget may

need to reflect \$5000 per year. The board discussed comingling membership with another group, but decided that this option would only create complications. Several board members stated the importance of our relationship with the Council and the indirect benefits that might be available to our group of agricultural instructors. The FFA and USDA are large influences in the Council. The dues of \$2000 per year are quite small compared to some of the other entities within the Council. Ira noted that with the possible cuts in USDA and Perkins funds could affect some of our member's activities.

Tom Weygandt gave a report on IABME with a projected \$23,000 left; \$16,000 budgeted for this year. He found the Conference to be a great experience and a highlight for the members. The members were given \$500 for Conference participation and an incentive to attend. The success of the webinars was not as beneficial as the regional meetings in Tom's opinion. These meetings were held in Bremer, Wisconsin and Mitchell, South Dakota. There is a possibility of three new members in North Dakota.

Jim Kelm recognized that the Agri-growth Conference includes many major sponsors. Doug asked who is responsible for organizing the sponsors nationally as well as the responsibility for the sponsors at the local area where the Conference is held. Ira suggested that a representative from each organization should be on a committee for recruiting sponsors nationally and locally. It was moved and seconded to discuss this at the joint Board meeting.

Jay brought to the table the Distinguished Service award for possible nominations. No action was taken at this time. A rough draft survey was handed out to board members by Jay Olsen and he thought maybe we could collect data to recognize the impact that our Associations have on the agriculture industry. It could be used for obtaining future sponsorships and validity for present sponsors.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McCuiston
NFRBMEA Secretary