Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society

Board Meeting Minutes---501(c)(3)

Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND.

July 16, 2018

**Consent agenda/roll call/approval of the minutes of 5-8-18**

**Roll:** Les Miller, Roger TeSlaa, Sean Hyatt., Krysti Mikkonen, Curt Petrich, Lynn Brakke, Owen Trangsrud, Annie Carlson (phone), and Jill Jerde. Absent: Gretchen Harvey, and Ross Reinhiller.

**Action**: **Motion made and approved to accept the consent agenda**

**Reports: \*The following is a brief overview. Full minutes were lost in a computer crash.**

**Financial Report:** Roger discussed the organization’s bank statements, the value of moving CDs for better rates and more flexibility, and the C5 renewal process.

**ED Report:** No report,Ross is on vacation.

**Tour of Holiday Inn conference facility from about 10-11am.**

**Research Report:** Owen reported on cowpea lines being developed with Pulse USA. Frank Kutka is very involved in a volunteer capacity. Owen retrieved the seed cleaner and is still working on bringing the two combines from Carrington area to his farm to avoid storage costs.

**Special Report:** Regeneration Workshop, Northfield MN – Les reported that there were attendees from 12 states at this event. They toured 2 demonstration farms. The first one is focusing on 100 acres recently purchased with the help of local sponsors to be used as test plots that consider production methods that support soil health, regeneration and excellent income potential. This land has been in continuous corn for 15 years with gross annual income of approximately 54,000-66,000. The new usage model forecasts that after 5 years, production income will approach 1,000,000. The 2nd farm is active with rows of hazelnuts and red broiler chickens that are grown for Twin Cities markets. The goal is to develop clusters of farmers in the 12 state area, to support them with financing, grower expertise, marketing—with farmers not starting chicks until there is a contact for the finished birds in place. This same model is being developed for grass-fed beef and pastured pork. Nebraska is already mapping Omaha, Indian reservations, and other pockets of farmers across the state. This model is aimed at small farmers to help get them started and become financially healthy.

**Old Business:** Einkorn analysis/nutrient testing of Lynn Brakke’s wheat to be compared with FBC einkorn grown in 2016. Discussion of sharing costs with Lynn to Natural Way Mills for this analysis that will also benefit NPSAS. Ideally the information shared will also help develop this emerging market.

**Action:** Motion made and approved to pay half ($550.00) of the testing invoice for vitamin and mineral analysis of Lynn’s 2017 crop of einkorn wheat.

**New Business:** Winter Conference planning. Jill present the new categories of sponsorships for the Food & Farming Conference 2019. They vary from $45.00 to $5,000 with tiered benefits associated.

**Action:** motion made and adopted to approve the conference sponsorship categories as presented.

**Membership:** The board considered how best to growmembership and engaged in a robust discussion of how best to develop the reasons why people would want to join NPSAS.

**Adjourn: approximately 3:30pm**

Next Meeting: 10am on August 14, 2018, at the Holiday Inn, Fargo ND.

Respectfully submitted, Gretchen Harvey