**Meeting Minutes**

**Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society**

Board Meeting via conference call, June 13, 2019, 8-10am

**Mission:** Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society promotes sustainable food systems through education, advocacy, and research.

**Attendance:** Curt Petrich, Mike Jorgenson, Verna Kragnes, Sean Hyatt, Annie Carlson, Gretchen Harvey, Kristi Mikkonen; **Absent:** Roger TeSlaa & Lynn Brakke.

**Action: Motion made and approved to accept the agenda and the minutes of the 5/10/19 meeting as presented.**

**Executive Director’s report:** See written report submitted via email.

Verna provided updated estimates of membership, a publishing schedule for the *Germinator*, and a progress report on summer events and winter conference planning as discussed by the program committee. Recommendations included some adjustments to timing, vendor locations, and possible keynoters.

The Board discussed updates on the P4H (Partnership 4 Health) project—its current status and future goals. Board members discussed continued collaboration beyond the initial promise of partnership until September 2019. P4H is a product of a collaboration between the MN Dept. of Ag & MN Dept. of Health because of an obvious shared recognition that increasing healthy food production and increasing public health go hand in hand. This discussion led to two conclusions: that NPSAS would do well to focus on its mission and that its ED needs latitude to pursue grants and other partnerships that fall under mission-based parameters established by the board. The development of a case statement that establishes board-approved funding areas, as well as the development of processes for regular evaluation by the finance committee will be on the agenda for the July board meeting.

**Action: Motion made and approved to continue NPSAS collaboration with P4H for the next 3 years, with the understanding that this grant will reflect the case statements adopted by the board in July.**

Verna provided additional updates on the approach the staff is taking re: financial reporting, her work with the finance committee to establish healthy reporting processes, and the progress being made with filing the 990. The board will provide final approval of the 990 via email as necessary. The board also received a fundraising update. As with fundraising and partnership building, NPSAS is dedicated to serving its multi-state membership.

**Committee reports:**

1. Finance Committee: See FC committee report submitted via email. Submission of the 990 will be approved via email in the coming weeks.

**Action: Motion made and approved to accept the finance committee’s recommendation for the handling of funds and the segregations of functions, which align with current best practices for nonprofits like NPSAS.**

1. Personnel Committee: Verna dropped off the call while board members discussed staffing and other personnel issues. NPSAS will continue to develop quality succession plans for staffing and directors.

**Action: Motion made and approved to designate Verna Kragnes NPSAS’s executive director.**

**Old Business:**Personnel committee report, see above.

**New Business:** Finance committee recommendations, see above.

**Adjourn:** 9:42am.

**Next Meeting: In-person meeting, July 11, 2019, 1:00-5:00pm. Location TBD**

Respectfully submitted, Gretchen Harvey