**Meeting Minutes**

**Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society**

Board Meeting October 10, 2019, 8:00-10:00am

Via conference call

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

**Attendance:** Curt Petrich, Krysti Mikkonen, Mike Jorgenson, Lynn Brakke, Annie Carlson, Gretchen Harvey, Verna Kragnes, & Kayla Pridmore; **Absent:** Sean Hyatt.

**8:00am:** Curt called the meeting to order, verified attendance, and asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. Requests made to discuss nominations process and mentorship.

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting

**Action: Motion made and approved to accept the minutes of September 12, 2019.**

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

*Germinator:* Board members held a robust discussion about the *Germinator* that included striking the right balance between advertising and text. Staff will do some research on the history of this balance to better inform this discussion to include analysis of costs, reach, etc. The next issue deadline is tomorrow. The board has taken the recent delays seriously and wants to make clear that every effort will be made to avoid a similar delay in the future. Board members are asked to send potential new advertiser prospects to Verna or Heidi.

*Grant Funding and FBC:* Verna is on track with the submission of a SARE grant to be submitted later today. The proposal is designed to facilitate the refreshing of FBC activity and membership. She is working with interested FBC members who similarly want to see the research work continue to be facilitated and supported. This initial request is a request to submit a full proposal for funding that would be made available in November 2020. Verna is also working on identifying other funding sources with shorter time frames so that the rejuvenation of FBC work can begin as soon as possible. We currently use a ND address as the official address of NPSAS but we need to be attentive to creating the organizational infrastructure needed that allows us to serve our multi-state members and not be hampered from supporting NPSAS mission because of state lines and certain grant funding limitations.

*Mission-driven activity:* A wide-ranging discussion considered the many ways there are to accomplish the mission-driven work of NPSAS. This discussion led to a larger consideration about what members want NPSAS to be in the future. We agreed to have more discussion on the strategic planning needed by NPSAS and will consider ways to engage members at the winter conference in this work.

**Committee reports:**

**Finance Committee**:

*Assets in storage:* These include Dylan, Mida, TM23, etc. Board members considered how best to liquidate. A discussion with FBC members about their interest in this inventory is the next step to making a decision.

*Fundraising:*This work is ongoing and continues to be a high priority before the end of 2019. Verna and Kayla attended a Giving Hearts training and have suggested some helpful strategies for expressing gratitude to past supporters of NPSAS in November/December.

*Historical overview of income/expense 2008-2018:*Kayla explained the challenges inherent in this task. Consistent data in Quick Books only goes back so far, so creating this comparison is difficult. Challenges locating 990s also complicate the task. Contacting prior EDs are a next step. Kayla feels comfortable can create some kind of comparison but wants to feel confident about the numbers she shares. Curt encouraged her to make a “reasonable” effort to identify some historical trends that would be helping in planning for the future of NPSAS.

**Personnel Committee Report:**

*Nominations process:*The discussion included filling board of director positions up for rotation at the 2020 annual meeting. All agreed that recruiting younger farmers and mentoring them to become part of the leadership team of the future would add appropriate balance to NPSAS board. Board members agreed to follow the nomination process adopted last year. It includes: sending out a request for nominations to NPSAS members so that nominees can be contacted about the expected time commitment and meeting expectations. The process also allows time for the creation of candidate profiles that can be sent out to members with the Official Notice of Meeting that precedes the annual meeting and election.

**Old Business:**

*Bylaws:*Routine updates are needed and Gretchen is working on suggested revisions that she will send out to board members prior to the November board meeting. The consensus is a clearly marked a copy of all proposed changes be made and sent out to members for a vote by mail/email prior to the winter conference, as was done with the organizational merger vote in 2018. In addition to approving the proposed changes, board members will receive the mailing for preview prior to its being sent out to members.

**Action: Motion made and approved to accomplish bylaws updates by mail prior to the annual meeting so that every member’s input matters as we know it will take time to read through the changes. Board members should get a view of the supporting information and letter that goes along with the mailing.**

***Mentorship:*** This topic tabled.

**New Business:**

*Application for Board of Directors***:** see draft sent via email that has been tweaked by Personnel Committee. Discussion of ways to send out to members—using e-sprout and the next *Germinator.*

**Adjourn:** 10:21am.

**Next Meeting: November 14, 2019, 1:00-5:00pm, Fargo Public Library.**

Respectfully submitted, Gretchen Harvey