

**Marion County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors Meeting – August 12, 2015
MINUTES**

President John Zielinski called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was present:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Zielinski, President
Troy Hadley, Vice President
Brenda Frketich
Greg Bennett
Bob Dettwyler
Roger DeJager
Stuart Olson
Connie Young

Not Present:

Kathleen Carl
Bruce Chapin
Keith Ditchen
Joe Sherman

Guests:

Elise Bauman, Salem Harvest
Matt Schuster
Lon Young

Staff:

Genoa Ingram
Jessica Carpenter

Consent Agenda: Minutes and Financials

The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 10, 2015, meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Bob Dettwyler and Troy Hadley to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2015, meeting as presented. **Motion passed.**

Staff reviewed the current year to date actuals, pointing out any areas that were over or under budget significantly and providing an explanation. Staff is forecasting that both membership dues and the Country Company Program income will be very close to the budgeted income for the year. Expenses will exceed due to contributions the Board voted to provide during the year that were not considered during the budget process.

MOTION: Moved by Roger DeJager and seconded by Troy Hadley to approve the financial report as submitted. **Motion passed.**

Board Member Reports: Board members reported on their crop yields for the summer.

Membership Approval

Board members considered the membership applications and took the following actions:

- Troy and Sherri Kuenzi, Troy Kuenzi Farm – Approved: Voting Members
- Stan and Beverly Seifer, Seifer Farms, LLC – Approved: Voting Members
- Linda and Gary Thomsen – Approved: Supporting Members
- Randall and Kristie Teeney – Approved: Supporting Members
- Joe Hynes, Joe Hynes Farm – Approved: Voting Member

Guest Speaker: Elise Bauman, Executive Director, Salem Harvest

Elise Bauman explained that Salem Harvest is a non-profit organization that connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteer pickers to harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. At least half of each harvest is donated to the Marion-Polk Food Share or its affiliated food pantries, and volunteer pickers take home the remainder. Board members were encouraged to participate in the harvest program and spread the word.

Old Business

- 25 Fields Staff reported on efforts to correct an article in *KeizerTimes* indicating that there was no opposition to the 25 Fields project among the agricultural community.
- Marion County Fair Update John Zielinski reported that attendance was good and receipts were up from previous years. There is a new manager who is making changes and implementing a number of efficiencies.
- Drought Rating John Zielinski reported that, based on responses from members, MCFB was not recommending that Marion County be designated as a drought area.
- Tractor Safety Signs Jessica Carpenter reported that she was working with the vendor on the sign order, which should be available by the Annual Meeting.
- Driver's Education Scholarships/Educational Materials
Jessica Carpenter reported that none of the schools were offering their own programs. Courses are being offered for the for-profits only. John Zielinski suggested contributing funds for a tractor safety course at the State Fair through FFA. **By consensus**, the Board agreed to contact FFA.

New Business

- Scholarship Applications
Board members reviewed scholarship applications submitted by Claire Zielinski, Korie Chapin, and Daniel Schurter. It was noted that all three applicants applied for both the Mary Petzel Scholarship and the Scott Miller Scholarship for a total available dollar amount of \$3,000.

MOTION: Moved by Connie Young and seconded by Greg Bennett to divide the available funds equally between the three applicants. Claire Zielinski will be the first recipient of the Scott Miller Scholarship; Korie Chapin and Daniel Schurter will receive the Mary Petzel Scholarship. **Motion passed.**

- Willamette River Erosion John Zielinski reviewed correspondence from Linn County in response to MCFB's letter regarding input from Farm Bureaus bordering the Willamette River. The letter asked for comments regarding loss of farmland due to river erosion. It was suggested that MCFB approach Oregon Farm Bureau to see if there might be an opportunity to set up a meeting with all Farm Bureaus that border the Willamette River to be held in conjunction with OFB's Annual Meeting.
- Oregon Seed Growers League Request The Board reviewed a request for Sponsorship from the Oregon Seed Growers League.
By consensus, the Board agreed not to contribute and to defer to OFB.
- 2015-16 Budget Jessica Carpenter reviewed a draft budget for the next fiscal year. The proposal anticipates that dues will remain static. The Farm Tour and CPR courses were

included in the new budget. Leadership training was not included since it has not been utilized during the past two years. Other figures were adjusted based upon previous years' figures.

- Staffing Contract The Board entered into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the staffing contract.
- Urban Ag Fest Jessica Carpenter provided information on Urban Ag Fest to be held in October.

Advisory Committees

Stuart Olson provided an update on a meeting at the Capitol with the Employment Division to discuss employment laws.

OFBF District 15 Director's Report

No report.

YF&R

Brenda Frketch reported that at the State level, the State Tractor Driving contest will again be held this year. YF&R will meet at Chapin Lake the night before. No activity planned at the county level.

Women's Report

Connie Young requested that MCFB provide MCFB hats as giveaways during the upcoming MCFB Annual Meeting. She also reported that she will participate with WAC to coordinate the Oregon Bounty Harvest to be held at the Capitol function on October 17, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Items for September

Board members asked that invitations be extended to the Marion County Commissioners as well as to Public Works to attend the September Board meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2015, in Salem.

Adjourn

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.