



CO Young Farmers Educational Association
CYFEA Board of Directors Meeting
4:00pm March 7, 2019
Aims Community College, Fort Lupton

MINUTES

Members in Attendance: Dave Lieber, Mark Sponsler, Jacqui Larson, Dale McCall, Darrell Johnston, Brad Riemenschneider, and Sharon Pattee.

Members Absent: Julie McCaleb, Danica Farnik, Kellie Enns, and Mike Womochil.

Guests: Lelyn Larson and Randy Schwalm, (CYFEF); Brandon Johnston (Front Range Chapter), Shelly Carlson (CYFEA E-Team).

Call to Order: The March 2019 CYFEA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:12pm, by CYFEA Chairman Dave Lieber. It was noted that a quorum was established.

Approval of the Minutes: Dave Lieber asked if the CYFEA Board members had read through last month's minutes and then requested their approval. A motion was made by Brad Riemenschneider moved to accept the March 2019 minutes as presented, with Jacqui Larson providing a second to that motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

At this time, Dale McCall asked if there had been any conclusion to the discussion on Friday and Saturday, February 8th and 9th, about whether the CYFEA should continue as an association for its membership. Much discussion followed over the course of 50 minutes on this subject.

Darrell Johnston stated that he felt that there was nothing definitive that had been decided during the State Institute. Dave Lieber reminded the group that there was much division in this regard, but that he felt that the majority of the Board and some members of the Foundation's Board felt that the CYFEA had momentum and was moving in a positive direction. Randy Schwalm stated that he felt that there wasn't enough money to continue moving forward with the CYFEA and that the Foundation was "broke" and didn't have the funding to provide the CYFEA with much financial assistance. This was due to the lack of sponsorship funding obtained by the Foundation and their "50/50" fund raising efforts. Randy felt that the CYFEA, as it was and is, "has run its course".

Lelyn Larson said that he felt things were moving in a positive direction and referenced several points in this regard, including the CYFEA membership has remained at last year's number of around 80 members; the CYFEA newsletter; a successful last two State Institutes; ag educational and workshop information provided to members; increasing sponsorship funding and engagement; a very successful "Tractor Hours" auction; and growing partnerships and recognition within CO's agricultural leadership and organizations.

Randy countered with an estimated price per member cost of running the organization. At this point, Mark Sponsler stated that it is not only difficult for an Ag organization to put a price on administrative expenses based on membership, but short sighted as well. Administration is a cost of doing business and the CYFEA currently runs on a shoestring budget as is. Jacqui Larson voiced her desire and reasons that she felt that the CYFEA should continue with its current momentum and build on its recent successes.

Brandon Johnston from the Front Range Chapter spoke his thoughts about the membership numbers and involvement that is struggling within their Chapter and also with the Ag educators that he had recently visited with. Shelly Carlson agreed with this opinion. Due to the amount of time taken on discussing this subject, Dave Lieber suggested that they move back to the agenda because Aims CC needed the meeting to wrap up by 8:15pm.

CYFEF Report: Brad Riemenschneider asked the group to consider something that he had been thinking about and had also discussed with Jacqui Larson. He suggested that the CYFEA needed to “rebrand” itself, and that this included changing the name of the organization. This plan would be an attempt to appeal to today’s changing social challenges. Brad mentioned several other ideas in this regard and the ensuing discussion went on for a while with different ideas being thrown out by several members of the Board. Sharon asked Brad if he would follow up with something in writing as to the “mission statement” and further details.

Randy followed up with his feelings that, in order for the Foundation to support the CYFEA, they needed something to sell a sponsor and that no additional money had been raised since the evening of November 17th. He didn’t feel that any sponsorship funding could be used for administrative purposes, especially the Executive Director’s salary. Mark Sponsler stated that it is not untypical, when sponsorship funding is not earmarked for something specific by either the sponsor or recipient, that portions may go toward organizational administration and support as needed.

CYFEA Executive Team Report: Jacqui Larson, President of the CYFEA Executive Team, stated that she felt that the State Institute was very successful and that the E-Team did a great job with the 2019 Awards Banquet on Saturday night, February 9th. Jacqui then reported that she and Dale Whittington had had a meeting to discuss the CYFEA Academic Scholarship program, on February 28th, which included Terry Weber. Terry was this year’s Chairman of the CO Farm Show’s Academic Scholarship program so provided some details on how they structure their awards. Jacqui was working on a draft of the main discussion points of that meeting and intended to present a recommendation to the CYFEA Board of Directors about changes to the CYFEA Academic Scholarship program’s criteria for the 2020-21 academic year.

Executive Director’s Report: Sharon Pattee presented the February 28, 2019 CYFEA financial statements to the Board. These financial statements were reviewed and discussed, and a motion was made by Brad Riemenschneider to accept them as presented. Darrell Johnston provided the second to the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sharon provided the Board with a draft budget for the March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020 fiscal year. This was document was briefly reviewed, but tabled for further discussion next month, in April. Sharon had also provided the Board with a copy of her Sponsor spreadsheet, indicating that this is something that is continually updated. She encouraged any feedback or updates on the document by the Board.

Sharon then reported on the CTE meeting that she attended last month in Aurora, as well as the survey that she had sent out recently with regard to the 2019 State Institute, a follow up letter that was sent out to each of the winning bidders in the “Tractor Hours” auction, the next CYFEA newsletter that would come out in April, her progress on the new CYFEA website, and the applications that she’s received so far for the 2019-20 academic scholarships. She provided Jacqui Larson with copies of the applications that had been sent in to date and said that she would forward others as they came in, up to the deadline date of Friday, March 15th.

CYFEA Chairman's Report: CYFEA Board Chairman, Dave Lieber reminded the Board that this would be Dale McCall's last meeting as a Board member. Brad Riemenschneider took a minute to thank Dale for his hard work and vision since his position at Board Chairman in 2017 and his subsequent service as a Board member since April of 2018.

Dave Lieber then mentioned that both Steve Olander and Jeff Modellmog had indicated that they were interested in serving on the CYFEA Board, at the 2019 State Institute. Discussion began and it was decided that Steve Olander could take Dale's place as a Chapter member position on the Board. At this time, Dale McCall made a motion nominating Steve and Jeff to serve on the CYFEA Board, in which Brad Riemenschneider seconded that motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

At this point, Sharon indicated that either Mark or Julie McCaleb, as industry representatives, would need to resign in order to clear a seat on the Board for Jeff Modellmog in that capacity. Mark Sponsler said that he would be willing to step aside in order for Jeff to take his seat on the Board, as an industry representative. Mark indicated that his work load and commitments were ever increasing, so it might be a good time to allow someone else to serve in his place. With this understanding, Dale McCall rescinded his motion and reworded it to just nominate Steve Olander to serve as a Chapter representative, filling his vacancy at this time. Brad seconded the motion and, after a vote, it was passed. Sharon indicated that she and Dave would follow up with Steve about serving starting in April.

Mark said that he would consider a formal resignation to allow Jeff Modellmog to serve in his place as an industry representative and would have a decision by the April CYFEA Board meeting. Dave Lieber then asked that the CYFEA Board officer elections be tabled until the April 2019 CYFEA BOD meeting.

Dave then brought forward the need to renew or pass on the Executive Director's contract which had formally expired on February 28, 2019. Randy said that the Foundation would not be able to continue paying half of the Executive Director's salary. After further discussion, Brad Riemenschneider made the motion to renew the contract with Sharon Pattee as of March 1, 2019, and Jacqui Larson seconded that motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Adjournment: The next meeting of the CYFEA will be planned for April 11th, 2019. Brad Riemenschneider asked if the Board would consider to conference calls instead of meeting in person for CYFEA Board meetings. He suggested that perhaps having one face-to-face meeting each calendar quarter and two conference calls would save time and money. There was some discussion and the Board agreed to try this format in the next few months, without a formal vote being taken. This meeting venue adjustment would be revisited over the coming months.

The March 2019 CYFEA BOD meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon

Sharon Pattee
CYFEA Executive Director