



NFA

Northumberland Federation of Agriculture

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Mar. 14, 2017, 7:30pm OAFVC in Colborne

Present: Lisa Meekes, Allan Carruthers, Doug Gray, Marvin McComb, Ian Sculthorpe, Arlene Dorland, Paul Burnham, Terry Linton, Trissia Mellor, Resi Walt, Marty Opsteen, Gord Sharpe, Pat Johnston, Gene Brahaney, Fred Young (WSPS)

1. **Call to Order:** by Allan at 7:45pm
2. **Agenda:** Motion; Doug/MartyThat the agenda be accepted as circulated. CARRIED
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion; Paul/Gene..... Feb. minutes approved as circulated. CARRIED
4. **Delegation/Guests:**
 - 4.1. Fred Young WSPS is offering Working at Heights training for requirements for small business. There are member and none member fees for these courses. Wondering if NFA should look into training a trainer for this area to make the course cheaper for those required to take it. Canadian Agriculture Safety Association resources on the web site for Agriculture. <http://www.wsps.ca/Farm-Safety-Products/FarmSafe-Plan.aspx> Lots of resources in French and Spanish. There is a new definition for volunteers at a work site and resources need to be given to them just like a paid worker.
 - 4.2. Rick Arnold from Northumberland Chapter of the Council of Canadian was unable to attend but Paul spoke in his absence. Rick was looking for an AG rep willing to attend NAFTA discussions in Mexico in May and thought NFA could support. After some discussion it was agreed that this was an OFA task rather than a county level task.
5. **Financial Report:** Motion; Paul/Marvin To approve financial report as circulated. CARRIED
 - 5.1. Budget needs to be passed by next month and will have a balanced budget as a goal. Allan and Arlene will work on it.
6. **Business Arising from the minutes/current issues:**
 - 6.1. Meeting Feb. 15 with Northumberland County addressing farm property tax assessment with Ben LeFort, farm policy researcher from OFA. This meeting was well attended by local farmers to show support. The county made a motion to have the finance dept. meet with NFA to work on a plan to be passed at March county meeting. A second meeting with county finance committee was on Mar 6th attended by Paul Burnham, Allan Carruthers, Bruce Buttar, Mark Dejong and Lisa Meekes with great dialog discussing municipality's budget issues. Mark & Allan went to talk to councilor Mark Lovshin about his conflict of interest declaration.
 - 6.2. Pat, Strategic Planning Workshop report –Motion; Terry/Paul that revised vision statement be accepted. CARRIED “VISION- working for a vibrant and innovative agricultural industry” Goals & objectives were reviewed and discussed. Motion; Terry/Marty that we keep the current constitution objectives. CARRIED The next workshop is Apr. 3 in Belleville.
 - 6.3. Fast Ag Facts for Dufferin; <http://bit.ly/FastAgFacts4Dufferin> Trissia said that the County will work on this for Northumberland with the new stats available in May.
 - 6.4. Drought workshop with Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.....No workshop is being planned at this time. Soil Health workshop is coming up in Batawa on March 24. Pat attended the Healthy Soils workshop hosted by the Hastings Stewardship Council.
 - 6.5. Constitution – Arlene is making changes and will circulate to directors via email for input. Plan is to have it ready to pass for June meeting.
 - 6.6. Breakfast/lunch meetings are being arranged. The first one is April 7 with MPP Lou Rinaldi @ The Big Apple in Colborne. Yet to confirm date with MP Kim Rudd April 19th or 21st. There was discussion on how best to connect with municipality reps in each township. Suggestions were to connect through the Ag Advisory committees in each township and possibly a BBQ before a county meeting.
7. **Correspondence:**
 - 7.1. Denis Orendt of RS Systems has requested endorsement of NFA & OFA to Lou Rinaldi's office to his suggestion of increased funding for farmers to capture rainwater. Funding does exist through Ganaraska Conservation and it was thought Denis should get Lower Trent to get the same funding.
 - 7.2. Cap and Trade workshop March 28, Campbellford RSVP required
8. **Reports:**
 - 8.1. Allan – Reported that Barclay Nap is doing a project, “Junior Farmers; where our Roots came from”. He has completed over 200 interviews with past Junior farmers asking what junior farmers organizations did for farmers in the 40's, 50's & 60's Barclay was in Northumberland on Apr. 12th interviewing many past junior farmers at Howard and Cathy McCann's farm.

- 8.2. Bruce Buttar, Zone Director – The Cooperators Insurance members benefit is supporting OFA members and despite the Fort McMurray payouts, is doing well. Tyler Brooks from OFA is conducting a food strategy focus group with 7 adults and 5 youth. The Spring lobby was keeping Natural Gas infrastructure and high speed internet on topic and there will be the Hill Lobby on Mar. 23
- 8.3. Resi Walt MSR –Reminder of the Involve Funding program 1st round deadline April 31 and the Zone Summit meeting in Napanee March 23.
- 8.4. Gene, PAC member – Gene unable to attend the Regional PAC meeting in Brockville (7829 Kent Boulevard, Brockville) Apr. 4 due to conflict with Cooperators AGM on the same date. Gene wondered if Amy was willing to attend as she has expressed an interest in the past.
- 8.5. Trissia Mellor, County Rep. –
 - Hopps AGM this coming weekend in Durham County.
 - Food & Beverage Conference held in Niagara March 2-3. Northumberland is hoping to host next year.
 - Trissia and Dan had a second meeting with international company looking for location for business. They are very impressed with the proactive attitude and have requested a 3rd meeting in April.
 - OAFVC is having an open house Mar. 21 to showcase some of the products produce at the facility, some which have won international awards.
 - Doug Gray and 2 other producers are also working on using the OAFVC as a launch pad to store and distribute frozen beef
 - Trissia and Paul are cohosting a radio program titled “From the Field” with a purpose to educate and dispel myths about agriculture in the community. Program ideas are welcome. 89.7 FM every Tuesday at 12:30
9. **New and Other Business:**
 - 9.1. Allan excused himself as President and Vice Marty took over the reins. **Motion; Allan/Paul..... NFA make a onetime seed money donation of \$1250 to FARM 911 project. CARRIED** This will be supported by all four counties in our zone and they will be having a kick off at the Hasting Plowing Match this year.
10. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting, Apr.12 at 7:30 pm Snack duty assigned to **Gene Brahaney**
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Arlene @ 10:25pm