

NDFMGA Board Meeting Agenda– February 2nd, 2019

Annual Meeting

Call to Order – Hero Barth

Introduction of new members – Hero Barth

Roll Call - Holly Mawby

Present: Hero Barth, Danielle Mickelson, Ross Lockhart, Daniel Rugroden, Roberta Hunt, Roberta Thorson, Mike Pretzer, Bonnie Munsch, Jamie Good, Holly Mawby, new board member Marvin Baker

Not Present: Stephanie Blumhagen, Janel Anderson

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting, December 27th, 2018 – Hero Barth

Motion: Mike Pretzer moved to approve the minutes from the December 27th 2018 Board meeting

Second: Ross Lockhart

Motion passed

Treasurers Report – Mike Pretzer

Motion: Danielle Mickelson motioned to approve the financial report as presented.

Second: Bonnie Munsch

Motion passed

Old Business

- Website updates – Holly Mawby
Holly updated the group that because of Stephanie Blumhagens work on recovery from leukemia and Robear accompanying her to Mayo, she had not had time to meet with Robear to finalize the website changes.
- Request for funding to ANONYMOUS DONOR – Hero Barth
After some discussion it was agreed that Holly Mawby would contact Donnie Giffey to determine if funds may still be available and if so what sort of time frame would be desired for a request from the NDFMGA. It was also agreed that a board meeting should be set for April to discuss this request and NDFMGA planning.
Motion: Mike Pretzer moved to apply for ANONYMOUS DONOR funding in 2019
Second: Marvin Baker
Motion passed
- Extension of Sue Balcom’s contract to continue design and distribution of newsletter
 - Reimbursement to Sue for attendance at conference for inclusion of items into newsletterMotion: Danielle Mickelson moved to extend Sue Balcom’s contract to continue with the design and distribution of the NDFMGA newsletter and to add to the contract \$600 for the writing of 12 articles limited to 500 words each for one year.

Second: Daniel Rugroden
Motion passed

New Business

- Member Mini Grant that needs review – Holly Mawby
After review of the grant application and report from the member in question, the board agreed that the intent and guidelines of the grant had not been met by this member. The grant was not significantly different from the previous year, did not have the NDFMGA logo, initials, or proper tag line, and did not benefit more than just the member that had applied for the funds. Board members agreed that any future grant requests from this

member would be denied.

- Approval or denial of offering mini grants and new vendor grants in 2019 – Hero Barth
Motion: Marvin Baker moved to continue providing mini grants and new vendor grants in 2019.
Second: Daniel Rugroden
Motion passed
 - Plan of work for 2019
 - Marketing/advertising
 - RRFN welcomes the opportunity to partner with NDFMGA again in '19. What we've done in the past was a :60 update that aired weekly from mid-June to late October. The campaign lasts 20 weeks and can be heard on RRFN affiliates in Bismarck, Casselton, Devils Lake, Grafton, Jamestown, Langdon, Mayville and Rugby. In addition, we also reached western North Dakota by airing the report on KDIX-Dickinson and KCJB-Minot for 15 weeks. The total investment for both radio campaigns is \$6,130.
 - ND Living, Billboards, magazines, etc.
 - Workshops, field days or educational offerings
- Motion: Danielle Mickelson moved to give Holly Mawby approval to spend the funds on advertising and marketing as directed by the members at the annual meeting.
Second: Ross Lockhart
Motion passed
- Attendance/booth at ND Tourism Conference – Danielle M.
Booth cost \$500, Danielle willing to do some of the booth manning but would need help
Motion: Daniel Rugroden moved to spend \$500 to have a booth in Minot on April 15th to the 17th at the ND Tourism conference.
Second: Roberta Hunt
Motion passed. Danielle will work with Holly to make arrangements and to elicit help from other board members in manning the booth if necessary.
- \$500 Request for Strengthen ND
 - Many small, rural communities in north central North Dakota are challenged by declining investment and an out-migration of young households. To support economic development and curb rural depopulation, Strengthen ND, Souris Basin Planning Council (SBPC), and North Central Planning Council (NCPC) have designed a project named *Building Resilient Farm Country*. *Building Resilient Farm Country* is a model to repopulate and expand economic opportunity for rural North Dakota by building the local food and micro-farm sectors, while also assessing and creating opportunities for cooperative livestock ownership and operation. *Building Resilient Farm Country* utilizes one of North Dakota's most ample resources, abandoned or idle farmsteads, by making them available for aspiring small farm producers with a support system. By repopulating idle farmsteads and mentoring new and aspiring farmers, economic development will be spurred in rural North Dakota, both locally and at the state level, as the farmers purchase fuel, groceries, farm equipment, fertilizer, seed, and other necessary goods. Additionally, as a result of repopulated farmsteads, a broader base of individuals will be available to serve as a workforce, become small business owners and entrepreneurs, and increase populations in rural school districts.

With the support of potential planning dollars from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Strengthen ND, SBPC, and NCPC will employ three specific strategies, including:

Advisory Committee: Assemble a local advisory committee comprised of stakeholders from across the region to support successful project implementation. It is anticipated that the advisory committee will convene at least six times throughout the length of the project to provide insight, connections,

and

potential

resources.

Inventory & Assessment of Farmsteads: Create an inventory and complete an assessment of flooded and vacant/idle farmsteads in Renville, Bottineau, McHenry, Rolette, Pierce, Towner, Benson, and Cavalier counties and the Spirit Lake Nation and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa reservations that share their borders. The assessment of each vacant farmstead will consist of evaluating their available resources, including water and road access, proximity to a community, type of growing conditions present, and other applicable items.

Localized Assessments: Create a localized assessment of the barriers to farming and livestock ownership and resources available for interested and emerging farmers and ranchers in North Dakota.

As mentioned above, we have received great encouragement for this project from EDA. In order to move forward with applying for funding, we need to raise \$20,000 in required matching funds from the community to leverage approximately \$80,000 from EDA to launch our efforts.

We are reaching out to you as a stakeholder of the identified region and potential project partner to ask for your support to meet our match requirement. We are hopeful that the ND Farmers Market & Growers Association will consider a gift of \$500.

Attached for your information is a brief strategy graphic for our proposed project. Should this strategy graphic interest you, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you our methodology.

Motion: Ross Lockhart moved to grant the \$500 request from Strengthen ND

Second: Mike Pretzer

Motion passed

- Election of Officers – Nominations for President were opened. Marvin Baker and Ross Lockhart received nominations. Each candidate was allowed to say a few words about how they view their role as President of the NDFMGA.

Motion: Mike Pretzer moved to close nominations for NDFMGA Board President

Second: Bonnie Munsch

Motion passed

Voting ballots were distributed to board members. Votes were tallied. Ross Lockhart was elected President of NDFMGA for the 2019 year.

Motion: Roberta Hunt nominated Marvin Baker as Vice President of the NDFMGA Board and made a motion that nominations cease.

Second: Mike Pretzer

Motion passed

Marvin Baker was elected as Vice President of the NDFMGA Board.

- Other Business:

- Discussion was held in regards to missing board member Stephanie Blumhagen and her recovery from serious illness.

Motion: Bonnie Munsch moved that the NDFMGA give \$1,000 to Stephanie Blumhagen to assist with medical expenses.

Second: Danielle Mickelson

Motion passed

- Danielle Rugroden offered a letter of resignation from the NDFMGA Board effective immediately.

Adjourn

Motion: Bonnie Munsch moved to adjourn the meeting

Second: Roberta Thorson

Motion passed

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