

Council of Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations
Minutes
January 29, 2007

Attending: P. Donnelly, L. Dallis, T. Della Rocco, R. Stank, A. Hunt, F. LaGace, B. Aldrich, B. Leerkes, E. Walldroff, D. Buck, T. Cimochoowski, L. Zogby, A. Turner, D. Hawley, S. Bossard, R. Halpin, P. Forestiere, W. Schwerd, M. Keith, H. Dillard, G. Applebee, K. Scholl, T. Gifford, G. Preston, G. Hecht, L. Telega

Meeting convened at 1PM

President-elect Tom Cimochoowski presided for President Pete Donnelly who was unavoidably late.

Introductions of members in attendance.

Minutes of meeting on September 29, 2006 approved unanimously.

Membership Update: There are a number of vacancies in some regions which need to be filled. Also, those members whose terms end in 2006 and 2007 and eligible to serve another term need to be reelected by their region prior to the next meeting.

NYSAC meeting: George Hecht and Tom Cimochoowski will attend on behalf of the CoA.

PILD meeting in Washington, DC, April 23-25, 2007.

Members are asked to consider attending if asked. There is a need to wait until final Congressional committee appointments are made so that CoA members may be matched to Representatives from their district for lobbying purposes.

Next Council meeting will be held in Syracuse on May 11, 2007.

By-laws Update:

A draft of proposed changes (highlighted in red) to the CoA By-laws was presented for consideration. Most changes were minor and sought to make language uniform and intent clearer. Terry Gifford suggested that the formal name of the organization be changed to: Council of Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations for purposes of clarity. A final draft, with revisions, was approved unanimously.

President Pete Donnelly asked for a moment of silence to remember CoA member, Dr. Gary Ogden, who died earlier in the month.

Childhood Obesity Initiative: Dr. Helene Dillard

Dr. Dillard presented the CoA with the latest Initiative materials including the final

proposal, timeline and discussion points. At the time of the meeting, the Governor's budget had not been submitted, making meaningful decisions difficult. Dr. Dillard was somewhat optimistic that it would contain full funding for County Law 224, but less so about funding for the Obesity Initiative. If the Initiative is not funded, CCE could pursue funding in the next budget and/or pursue collaborative funding with other entities working on the same issue. She further noted that no other group has the specificity or research backup that CCE's program has. However, we must face the fact that there are many competing approaches for limited state funding in this area.

Albany Update: Lee Telega

A new transparency in state government is apparent and the "3 men in a room" will become less and less significant in the decision-making process. In the future, the state budget process will begin earlier. Full funding for 224 is contained in the SUNY budget and it is hoped that it will survive the legislative process and finally be approved. Lee outlined the other major priorities of the Spitzer administration as: upstate economic development, education and health care reform.

What if Obesity Initiative and 224 funding is not in the final state budget?

Discussion:

1. New York City legislators have expressed interest to Obesity prevention
2. The possibility of other tactics is to be discussed with Charlie Kruzansky the day after this meeting
3. There is the argument that there is a potential linkage to upstate food supply, economic development and health care cost
4. Some funds might be directed to localities via member items
5. Terry Gifford suggested that if 224 is funded, CoA members should reinforce the need during visits to legislators. If not, then members should discuss 224 funding and the Obesity Initiative with them and "see whose eyes light up" and show interest. This will lay the groundwork for funding in the next budget.
6. Perhaps a single region could be the recipient of Initiative funding.

A nominating committee was appointed by President Donnelly to select CoA officer candidates for 2007-2008 as follows: Richard Peterson, Tom Della Rocco, Richard Stank. They are to report the new slate of officers at the next meeting.

Evaluation of periodic CoA conference calls:

All members agree that the calls were very beneficial as a way of staying informed between meetings. A motion was made and passed unanimously to hold future calls at 9:00 am on Tue., Wed., and Thur.

Finance Report:

1. \$16,825.68 net on hand as of January 10, 2007
2. A proposal was made to have an internal audit of CoA funds simply as a precaution

3. Another proposal was made that EDs who attend CoA meetings have their meeting expenses paid by CoA. It was felt that this proposal could pose a problem with lobbying laws. Glenn Applebee suggested that an internal audit should proceed but that EDs expenses continue to be paid by their associations.

4. Discussions followed about the possible need to increase annual dues from the associations which are billed directly by Cornell. Any raise in fees should be accompanied by a clear explanation of the work of the CoA.

5. A motion was made to form a budget committee to establish an annual budget. It was passed unanimously. The President appointed the following committee: Deborah Buck, Brian Aldrich, and Ed Walldroff. They are to report back at the May meeting.

Regional Developing Ideas and Approaches: Discussion

There were reports from each region outlining what had been done thus far to translate the goals of the Obesity Initiative into specific ideas and programs. The discussion was varied and far-reaching with many ideas and some frustration. Many questions remain among ED's and board members as to how potential funding could best be spent. Dr. Dillard explained that ultimately Cornell will provide a few large standards or questions on obesity for evaluation of those specifics. Local program suggestions will feed into and enhance those standards.

Program for Legislative Contacts:

There was a final decision about whom to contact and the time frame.

A. If the Obesity Initiative is funded in the Governor's budget, we will support that as the primary goal, followed by 224 full funding.

B. If the Obesity Initiative is not in the Governor's budget, we will shift to promoting full funding of CL 224 and introduce the Obesity Initiative with the intent of gaining funding in 2008.

Each region was strongly urged to line up volunteers who will make legislative contacts immediately. The window of opportunity for contacts will be small and the need urgent.

Motion to adjourn at 5:20pm. Dinner and further informal discussions followed.

Respectfully submitted:
Lydia Dallis, Secretary