

Tentative Minutes
New York State Association of County Agricultural Agents
March 13, 2003, Thursday

Attending: Larry Hulle, Steve Hadcock, John Ameroso,, Karen Baase, Anita Deming, Beth Spaugh, Walter Nelson, and Tom Gallagher,

Minutes: Tom moved, Karen seconded to accept minutes of Dec 18, 2002 as mailed.
Passed

Treasurer report: Concern that membership is coming in slowly, only 49 so far. We will only get 1 DSA unless we get new members very soon. Please contact your people that usually join and check if they have paid.

Account Balances

- Checking: \$4,972.24
- Savings: \$15,854.50
- CD: \$2,405.08
- Mechew CD: \$3,599.61

Bill Sanok is scheduled to retire in May. Steve moved that Donna Moramarco, and Judy Wright be granted life membership. Since Bill is a current member he will be considered for next year. Walt seconded. Passed

Walt moved to accept report filed for audit. Karen seconded. Passed.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting Survey report:

Vote was 16 to 7 to try the Annual Meeting close to Production Ag Week for this year. Group wanted the day before on Monday, Nov 3. They would like a tour. Anita will contact Nicki Nedrow to see if we can use the same time/building. Anita, Larry, John and Karen will plan the details. We made \$1100 for 2001 and \$931 for 2002 from the ACCEE conference attendance. We will join ACCEE in 2004 and do an every other year event.

FYI - Oct 15 to 17 2003 for the ACCEE meeting Hudson Valley resort. Approximate cost will be \$500/person.

Job Responsibilities:

Larry will compile and mail out the list of responsibilities that were submitted. Steve recommended we develop a set of policies to add to the Bylaws. Tom and John will help with this project. This will codify the long-term memory of old-time members for all to know the traditions.

2005 NACAA Meeting

Joan Petzen has resigned as Chairman for the National meeting in Buffalo. We are looking for another Chair. She will help but we need a leader. There will be a conference call of the planning committee next week. Names were suggested. Lots of good ideas. Larry will use these suggestions and follow up with selecting a new National meeting chair for 2005.

We need to encourage membership for the Annual meeting. We will need lots of helpers.

We need a **NYS Fund Raising Chair**. Steve recommended asking the people that are on the list for chairman. Also need

- Commercial and Educational Exhibits,
- Computer Room,
- Decorations and Signs,
- Entertainment,
- Inspirational and Opening Program,
- Reception and Information,
- Special Meals,
- Technical Equipment,
- VIP dinner and Publicity Chair.

Please contact Larry if you are willing to help.

Flyer examples were handed out for the Buffalo meeting and the National Association. Logo is approved.

Email from Glen Rogers says that we have several openings for State Chairs. In the Northeast we need:

- Agricultural Economics/Community Development,
- Horticulture,
- Extension Programs, and
- Early Career Development.

Glen also needs a Program Planning committee member from NY. Call or email Glen Rogers from Vermont if you are interested. 802-524-6501 ext 210 or Glenn.Rogers@uvm.edu

Tom is looking for video clips on agriculture in NYS. Please contact ASAP.

Galaxy III discussion

Can we hold our National Ag conference in a joint site with the Galaxy III in 2008? Vote will be at the Green Bay meeting. NACAA are set as 2006 – Ohio/Kentucky, 2007 - Michigan, 2008 – would be somewhere in the South. We are not sure if South wants to do this or if we could team up with Galaxy.

Lunch Break -

Topics for May 6 meeting with Helene Dillard and Mike Hoffman

November and April Inservice

Ag Upbeat

Soil Lab Update

Craig Trowbridge's time and computers for Buffalo Meeting
Need for publishing facilities at National meeting
How to Highlight Award Winners
Make sure both Helene and Mike are getting Co Agent Magazine
Concern about getting feedback from the PWT to agents in the field
Orientation about the NYSACAA for new agents

Presentations:

Bill Kimball from Ag and Mkts Division of Ag Protection and Development

Introductions

Handed out telephone directory – subject to change (if you would like a copy reply to this email with a snail mail address)

Handed out Annual Report and Grow NY publications

Ag Protection is a non-regulatory division of the Department

Farmland Protection and Marketing and Business Development:

Ag Districts – In NYS we have 340 districts, 22,000 farms, and 8.5 million acres. They also cover: Sound Agricultural Practices, Restrictive local Laws, reviews of districts, construction projects to return ag land to original condition, purchase of development rights, and advisory council on agriculture.

Marketing and Business section – Marketing is becoming a hot topic.

They work with more than farmers. In fact work with a lot of food processing companies that use some local products. Also work with companies that are located in NY but might buy from outside of NY too.

Also work with WIC coupons @ \$20/participant. It is important to have education at the WIC outlets. Also have extended the coupon duration for 2 weeks to make it easier for recipients.

Looking to help NY farmers to sell to restaurants in NYC. Also looking to develop a wholesale market in NYC. There is a new hand held electronic swipe machine to take food stamps at Farmer's Markets. They use cell phone technology and can also be used for credit cards. They are about \$400 each but are coming down.

International marketing with food and farm products got \$1.5 million for foreign market promotion and advertising. This is a 50% reimbursement to promoters. They are working more with food companies. They set up NY pavilions at National and International Trade Shows.

There is a major emphasis on Kosher marketing and PRIDE of NY advertising.

Governor's proposed budget did not cut Ag and Mkts too badly, but are on hold for all spending right now.

Julie Swarez from Farm Bureau

- 34,000 member families – does include insurance memberships.
- She handed out a packet with information on FB policies.
- They are developing an Agriculture Viability Institute to go to for grant funding.
- Big \$10 million budget cut for SUNY. They may feel it is better to cut CCE and SUNY than local schools. CU tends to cut agriculture positions and add on science positions. FB is concerned and trying to emphasize the land grant mission.

- There was also a \$1 million cut to County 224 funding
- Expects NYS to have a \$12 billion budget deficit. There are lots of salary losses from flight from NYC after 9-11. Costs are up for security measures everywhere.
- Pat Hooker is public policy contact person
- Julie is government relations
- Bob Hokansen is national affairs coordinator
- Go to www.nyfb.org for info on staff and activities.
- There are Ag Viability round tables going on around the State from both the majority and minority parties. Look for your local meetings and participate if possible.

Trip to meet Bill Ketzer at Assemblyman Magee's office

Bill Ketzer is the Program analyst for the NYS Assembly Agricultural Committee. However, he does not have an Ag background and was thankful for our insights on various issues he is facing. We let him know that CCE agents would be very willing to help him find answers and resources for specific questions and to understand the various issues from a variety of view points. He worked for Cahill in Ulster County prior to this position.

Currently he is researching the Intergenerational Transfer of Farms issue and Agricultural Conservation Easement needs.

There are a series of roundtables that are being held throughout the state. You should expect one per month throughout the summer.

He is concerned about the SUNY cuts and the impact that it might have on IPM, PRO-DAIRY, agent benefits, and the soils lab.

He asked to be put on the Ag News List for regional publications. "Bill Ketzer" ketzerw@assembly.state.ny.us, 518-455-4355 Capitol Building Rm 513, Albany NY 12248.

We adjourned at 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted Anita Deming