

## **2019 WAPAC Annual Meeting Minutes – 2/28/19**

Call to order @ 12:41 pm with approx. 30 members and guests

**Amendments to the Agenda** – none, agenda stands

**Approval of Minutes** from 2018 Annual Mtg.

- Correction of total WAPAC Expenses to \$32,755.40 by Robert Mickelson
- Bill Schaumberg/Nathan Casper – appr'v'd

**Treasurers Report** for 2018

- \$41,289.33 total expenses, \$38,304.61 total income, checking acct balance \$12,661.22 and PayPal acct balance of \$1079.36
- Steve Hoffman/Chuck Bolte – appr'v'd



### **Committee Reports**

- **Membership:**
  - o (Bill Schaumberg standing in for Nathen Nysse as he was attending a meeting) listed 9 new members for the past year.
- **Communications:**
  - o Tom Novak discussed the continuation of the monthly newsletter to bring highlights of the Legislative effort to membership and keep all abreast of upcoming meetings and items of interest. It is important to have members contribute when they have current topics to bring to other members attention.
- **Program:**
  - o Haily Sand discussed the 4 meetings held since last Annual Mtg which include our Feb joint mtg with NAICC in Madison, Sept Rockfest Field Day near Brownsville, Dec New Horizons Mtg in the Dells and the Jan WAPAC Breakfast in Madison.
- **Scholarship:**
  - o Robert Mickelson reported awarding one \$750 scholarship to Sarah Anderson, UWRF student that interned at AgSource this past year. Danielle Angotti also from UWRF applied.
- **Research:**
  - o Bill Schaumberg discussed the one page hand-out in mtg packet that detailed potential projects. Most likely area of research to have involvement in is the bedrock issue confronting us. Haily also added that the FSA is looking for current information on barn collapses from the recent heavy snows.
- **Legislative:**
  - o Eric Birschbach stated this is the year of "clean water" with the new administration. WAPAC wrote a letter for support at the UW to hire a new Forage Extension Agronomist and we had 6 ag groups co-sign onto our paper. Rachel Mueller and Eric continue to attend the Ag Coalition meetings and discuss issues affecting our ag community. Several members have been selected for advisory committees over the past year. March 12 is WAPAC Legislative Visit Day at the Capitol. Day starts at 9 am with briefings at the DeWitt offices followed by Capitol visit with individual legislators. Call Eric @ 608-576-9204 if you would like to attend.

- Jordan Lamb from DeWitt joined us and discussed her roll with WAPAC. She represents several ag associations besides WAPAC and is well versed in our issues.
  - The focus for this year is the biennial budget since all gov't funding and project concerns are addressed in the next several months. Current budget will deal with financial issues rather than policy issues as in the past with all Republicans in charge. Governor wields a veto pen so that will limit policy discussion in the budget.
  - Since there are only two active farmers in the legislature we need to maintain a united ag front. Funding research is a priority which ranges from filling extension specialists' positions, to increasing Producer Watershed Grants and keep Discovery Farms funded to showing support for the Vet School.
  - Transportation funding is \$1 billion short and there is a large united front supporting increased funding through the DRIVE Coalition. Transportation underfunding affected the previous governor's race so it needs to be dealt with.
  - Ground water nitrogen, phosphorous and bacteria concerns are currently on the front burner in the SW and Central Sands area of the state. A task force to study this issue will start with 8-12 public meetings across the state starting in April. Legislators want to be on the "right" side of water quality concerns so they will be receptive to our message.
  - Jordan represents us well in Madison – however our legislators NEED to hear from us, their constituents, to get our message across completely. It is time to be heavily involved politically.
- Steve Hoffmann as Chair of Gov't Affairs with NAICC spent a few minutes outlining the federal issues he and others deal with at on Hill visits and EPA visits.

### **Old Business**

- Constitution/By-Laws/Code of Ethics Changes
  - After lengthy discussion and realizing a membership quorum did not exist to vote (which was one major change to be made), it was determined to email this out to members and get it voted on.
- Resolutions
  - Paul Knutzen went over the 7 main points on the front page (these are our yearly talking points/main issues). Several minor changes were made and the Resolutions will be re-written and ready for legislative visits Mar 12.

### **New Business**

- Election of Board Members: new Board Member Greg Kerr, re-elected Nathen Nysse and Tom Prosser. Thank you to Scott Fleming for also running.

### **Other Business**

- Outgoing President Plaque awarded to Haily Sand – thanks for the hard work!
- Certificates of Appreciation to Nathen Nysse, Tom Prosser and Bill Stangel.
- This will be Melisa Skwor's last meeting as Executive Secretary – much appreciation for the past several years of keeping track of everything you do!

**Adjourn 2:40 pm**