

Minutes of the NCERA-210 Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday, November 10th, 2009
Crowne-Plaza Hotel, St. Paul-Riverfront, MN

Chair: Greg McKee, Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105

Vice-Chair: Todd Schmit, Department of Applied Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

Secretary: Jennifer Bond, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1172

Treasurer: Mike Boland, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66505

Administrative Advisor: Steven Lovejoy, Department of Agricultural Economics and Michigan State University Extension, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

Attendance: There were 18 members in attendance, 17 NCERA-210 members and 1 other individual.

NCERA-210 Members in Attendance: Sanjib Bhuyan (Rutgers University), Mike Cook (University of Missouri), Brian Henehan (Cornell University), Brent Hueth (UW-Madison), Phil Kenkel (Oklahoma State University), Robert King (University of Minnesota), David Holm (Iowa Inst. for Co-ops), Gregory McKee (North Dakota State University), William Nelson (CHS Foundation), LeAnn Oliver (USDA Rural Development), Lynn Pitman (UW-Madison), Anne Reynolds (UW-Madison), Todd Schmit (Cornell University), Thomas Stafford (USDA Rural Development), Madeline Schultz (Iowa State University), Jennifer Bond (Colorado State University), Julie Hogle (USDA Rural Development)

Others Attending: Steven Lovejoy (Michigan State University)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg McKee at approximately 4:10 p.m.

Chair's Report: Chair Greg McKee noted that membership in NCERA-210 has been primarily limited to agricultural economist although charter allows for inclusion of a broader audience. This year's relatively low attendance was thought to be primarily the result of tightening University extension budgets as opposed to a lack of interest. In light of the low attendance at this year's meeting, developing a stronger link with cooperative managers via the Farmer Cooperative Conference may increase attendance at next year's meeting. It was also proposed to meet at the National Council of Farmer Cooperative's annual meeting as was done historically.

A number of upcoming retirements were announced and/or noted with the implication that the committee will need to actively reach out to potential members in the future to sustain the membership size. Attending members were encouraged to invite additional faculty members and industry participants to the next annual meeting. It was also proposed to change the emphasis of the research committee from farmer cooperatives to rural cooperatives to include a broader category of research topics and potential meeting attendees. Bringing in industry speakers was also proposed as a means of enhancing the program and participation for next year. Rural health care cooperatives were mentioned as a research topic of particular interest.

Approval of minutes from 2008 Annual Meeting: A motion was made by Todd Schmit and seconded by Brent Hueth to approve the 2008 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Boland was not able to attend in person; however, he sent word that the organization was in the black by at least four digits. No student scholarships were awarded this year though this may be an option in 2010. The Ralph Morris Foundation funds were mentioned as a means of defraying travel costs for graduate students attending next year's meeting. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Brent Hueth and seconded by Julie Hogle.

Nomination Committee Report: Brent Hueth invited attendees to nominate individuals for office. Julie Hogle was nominated by Brent for the position of secretary and the nomination was seconded by Brian Henahan. The committee further recommended the following office slate: Todd Schmit-president, Jennifer Bond- vice president, Mike Boland-treasurer, and Julie Hogle-secretary. A motion to elect the recommended slate of officers was made by (?) and seconded by (?). Motion carried.

Status of the Journal of Cooperatives (JOC): Phil Kenkel updated the group on the JOC. Notable events include NCFRC releasing the copyright allowing the journal to be linked through agecon search. Agecon search indicates that journal experiences 4000 hits per month through the service. This figure does not include hits from the actual JOC site. A pressing issue is the need for more articles. Many articles are being conditionally accepted to the journal and do not come back with revisions. The Journal needs more publicity and promotion of the quick turnaround time. Several ideas for submissions were proposed including: expanding to include industry research and contributions, including more case studies, more articles on instruction and cooperative education-particularly articles geared towards undergraduate curriculums, anti-trust topics (Capper-Volstead), and size of cooperatives (how big is too big-the case of dairy cooperatives). Journal of Cooperative Studies has moved to having every other issue be a guest series. The guest editor proposes a topic and solicits articles. The benefits of this system are improved regional coverage and dispersion of the editing burden to others. In addition, the concentration of articles on one topic every other issue may enhance the journal's readership numbers. Several names were mentioned as possible contributors and/or guest editors (Peter Carstenson, Ron Cotterill, Azzeddine Azzam). A format of position pieces and reaction pieces was also proposed.

Status of the Cooperative Conversions Book Discussed: Brent Hueth updated the group on the status of the case studies book. Chapters were published in the Journal of Cooperatives. Murray Fulton and Brent completed the overview of the book. The hard copy version can be ordered in 7-10 days. Final version has been ordered and all authors get a free copy. The book is available online for free and can be downloaded as a pdf. Individuals who want bound paper copies can get them at cost for around \$15.

2010 Annual Meeting Format: Todd Schmit led the discussion on the format for next year's meeting. It was noted that efforts should be made to broaden the appeal of the meeting possibly by changing the location, changing the time of year held, and partnering with other organizations. A suggestion to confirm that any proposed dates be checked against other planned meetings was made. It was further suggested that announcements about the meeting go out to a larger audience including the National Association of Ag. Accountants, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives, and the Knowledge Center. The Farmer Cooperative Conference may move to Denver in 2010, many in attendance expressed a favorable opinion about moving the NCERA-210 meetings to Denver as well and continuing the piggy-back meeting format.

To further enhance participation numbers, the call for papers will go out earlier, student scholarships may be promoted with the hope that more grads will attend, a notice will be sent out in the AAEA Exchange, and the meeting may be promoted at the AAEA annual meetings in Denver as well.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Phil Kenkel and seconded by Julie Hoglund. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5 p.m. Following the business meeting, attendees were invited to meet for dinner.

Annual Meeting of NCERA-210

Integrated Research and Education Committee for Cooperatives

November 10-11, 2009

Agenda

Tuesday, November 10th

12:00pm - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 Cooperative Grain Marketing Alliances – Phil Kenkel

1:45 – 2:30 High School Curriculum on Cooperative Management – Gregory McKee

2:30 – 3:00 CHS Foundation – University Partnerships – William Nelson

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:00 Development of eXtension Community of Practice: Status and Purpose –
Madeline Schultz and Brian Henehan

4:00 – 4:45 Business Meeting

Privilege of the Floor

Chair's Report / Announcements – Gregory McKee

Treasurer's Report – Michael Boland

Nominating Committee Report and Elections – Gregory McKee

Journal of Cooperatives Update – Phil Kenkel

Cooperative Conversions Book Update – Brent Hueth

2010 Annual Meeting Planning – Todd Schmit

Other Business

5:00pm Adjourn

Wednesday, November 11th

7:00am- 8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 8:30 Discussion of Research by E. Ostrom – Mike Cook

9:00 - 9:45 Cooperative Case Study Approaches as a Teaching Tool – Robert King

9:45 - 10:30 Economic Impact of Cooperatives Research Update – Brent Hueth

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:15 Group Discussion - Prioritizing Current Issues on Cooperatives (Greg McKee,
facilitator)

11:15 Adjourn