

Minutes of the NCERA-210 Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
Crown Plaza St. Paul-Riverfront, St. Paul, MN

Chair: Brent Hueth, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI 53706

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

Secretary: Todd Schmit, Department of Applied Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

Treasurer: Michael Boland, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KA 66506

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

Attendance: There were 30 individuals in attendance, 26 NCERA-210 members and 4 other individuals (graduate students, visiting scholars, guests)

NCER-210 Members in Attendance: Dave Barton (Kansas State University), Sanjib Bhuyan (Rutgers University), Mike Cook (University of Missouri), Karen Firestein (USDA Rural Development), Brian Henehan (Cornell University), Brent Hueth (UW-Madison), Phil Kenkel (Oklahoma State University), Robert King (University of Minnesota), Gregory McKee (North Dakota State University), William Nelson (CHS Foundation), Brian Oleson (University of Manitoba), LeAnn Oliver (USDA Rural Development), H. Christopher Peterson (Michigan State University), Burton Pflueger (South Dakota State University), Lynn Pitman (UW-Madison), Anne Reynolds (UW-Madison), Bruce Reynolds (USDA Rural Development), Victoria Salin (Texas A&M University), Todd Schmit (Cornell University), Richard Sexton (University of California-Davis), Thomas Stafford (USDA Rural Development), Curtis Stofferahn (University of North Dakota), Eric Thor (Arizona State University), John Wells (USDA Rural Development), Mike Boland (Kansas State University), Murray Fulton (University of Saskatchewan)

Others Attending: Davi Costa (Economic School of São Paulo), Yanli Ma (Iowa State University), Kevin Murphy (Pro-Fac Cooperative, Inc.), Betty Johnson (eXtension)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Brent Hueth at 1:05 pm.

Privilege of the Floor: Prior to the normal business meeting agenda, William Nelson of the CHS Foundation and Betty Johnson of eXtension led a discussion gauging the group's interest in forming a Community of Practice (COP) on Cooperative Development. eXtension is an interactive learning environment delivering the latest research information and knowledge from land-grant and state universities. Their goal is to connect knowledge consumers with knowledge providers, particularly as a resource for extension educators in having the latest and most relevant access to information they need. There exists access both to the public and internally, and information is provided in a wide variety of formats including podcasts, 'ask the expert' sessions, and published material. CHS is interested in contributing to eXtension as an industry supporter and possibly to lead an effort towards a cooperative COP. LeAnn Oliver discussed her recent efforts on the cooperative development webinars that have focused on existing and emerging cooperative development needs, existing research and outreach efforts, and future directions. Leann feels that extending these webinars into a more formal COP where a wealth of information could be made available to the cooperative community makes a lot of

sense. While there was general support for this idea, there were concerns about the incentives for people to contribute time to these activities, e.g., 'ask the expert', and of what format a cooperative development COP could look like and focus on. It was mentioned that some universities are considering investments for tenure-track faculty could be supportive of P&T. William Nelson offered to pursue the issues further and for those interested to please contact him. Updates to follow.

Resolution of Appreciation: A motion thanking LeAnn Oliver (USDA Rural Development) for her efforts in organizing and leading the conference calls and discussions on current cooperative development issues was made by Mike Cook and seconded by Chris Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

New Administrative Advisor: Chair Hueth announced that Steve Lovejoy from Michigan State University was appointed as our new Administrative Advisor. Brent reported that Steve is looking forward to working with us in this new capacity. Steve was unable to attend this meeting.

Approval of Minutes from 2007 Annual Meeting: A motion was made by Mike Boland and seconded by Greg McKee to approve the 2007 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Boland present the financial report. Prior to the meeting expenses, the balance in our account is \$1,127.05. Given the strong attendance, he is not expecting a negative meeting balance. With no student scholarships this year, the balance is expected to be fairly constant. William Nelson announced that some travel scholarships for students are available from the Ralph Morris Foundation. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Chris Peterson and seconded by Phil Kenkel. Motion carried.

Nomination Committee Report: Brent Hueth gave the nominating committee report. The committee recommended an officer slate consisting of: Gregory McKee-Chair, Todd Schmit-Vice Chair, Jennifer Keeling-Bond-Secretary, and Mike Boland-Treasurer. There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion to elect the recommended slate of officers by acclamation was made by Brent Hueth and seconded by Brian Henehan. Motion carried.

2009 Annual Meeting Format: The members discussed plans for next year's annual meeting, which Chair McKee will coordinate. There was some discussion of perhaps rotating the meeting with other cooperative industry meetings such as and ACB meetings. Mike Cook also discussed the new efforts being made by cooperative researchers in Europe that may also be useful in connecting with. Phil Kenkel reminded member that connecting this meeting with industry stakeholders is a key element of our work plan approved for this committee, and fits in well with the current linkage to the Farmer Cooperative Conference coordinated by the UW Center for Cooperatives. Scheduling the meeting for the beginning or end of a week was also mentioned as more convenient for attendees. Chair McKee will begin planning efforts and consult further with the leadership committee.

Status of Journal of Cooperatives: Phil Kenkel reported that the new electronic format of the renewed Journal of Cooperatives is going well and encourages continued submissions.

Book on Cooperative Conversions Discussion: Murray Fulton and Brent Hueth led a discussion on the next steps towards the cooperative conversions book chapter case studies. Following the meeting, authors will make additional revisions and then be submitted to Fulton and Hueth. The cases will be sent out for external review by the existing list of chapter authors. The format and publishing of the book was discussed. It was decided to publish all of the book chapters in a special volume of the *Journal*

of Cooperatives and to publish an on-line book. This option provides the on-line presence that is important for reaching a wide audience and offers a more "conventional" outlet for authors to use on their vitas.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm. Following the business meeting, authors of the book chapters presented their cases to meeting attendees on Wednesday, November 19th and Thursday, November 20th. These are shown below.

Day 1:

Mike Boland – Dakota Growers Pasta Co.
Murray Fulton – Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
Paul Earl – United Grain Growers
Greg McKee – North American Bison Co-op
Mike Cook – Goldkist

Day 2:

Brian Henehan – Pro-Fac Cooperative
Rich Sexton – Tri-Valley Growers
Phil Kenkel – American Native Beef
Chris Peterson – St Paul Co-Bank
Dave Barton – FC Stone

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd M. Schmit, Secretary
NCERA-210
December 10, 2008

NCERA-210 Annual Meeting

Co-operative Conversions, Failures and Restructurings: Case Studies and Lessons Learned from U.S. and Canadian Agriculture

November 19-20, 2008
St. Paul, Minnesota
Crown Plaza Hotel

Wednesday, November 19

1:00 pm	NCERA-210 Business Meeting	
2:00 pm	Welcome & Introductions	Brent Hueth, University of Wisconsin
2:05 pm	Dakota Growers Pasta Co.	Mike Boland, Kansas State University
2:40 pm	Saskatchewan Wheat Pool	Murray Fulton, Univ. of Saskatchewan
3:15 pm	United Grain Growers	Paul Earl, University of Manitoba
3:50 pm	North American Bison Co-op	Greg McKee, North Dakota State University
4:25 pm	American Native Beef	Phil Kenkel, Oklahoma State University
5:00 pm	End of Day 1	

Thursday, November 20

8:30 am	Pro-Fac Cooperative	Brian Henahan, Cornell University
9:05 am	Tri Valley Growers	Rich Sexton, Univ. of California-Davis
9:40 am	GoldKist	Mike Cook, University of Missouri
10:15 am	Lilydale	Ellen Goddard, University of Alberta
10:50 pm	St. Paul Co-Bank	Chris Peterson, Michigan State University
11:25 pm	FC Stone	Dave Barton, Kansas State University
12 noon	End of Day 2	

*Each speaker has 30 minutes to present followed by 5 minutes of Q & A's.

University of Wisconsin
CENTER FOR COOPERATIVES

KIS
Knowledge Impact
in Society