

Lancaster County Ag Council
Thursday, November 19, 2020
12:30 PM
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Roll Call: Scott Sheely, George Cook, Ron Frederick, Don Hoover, Josh Scheinberg, Greg Kirkham, Mike Peachey, Mary Henry, Jack Coleman, Commissioner D'Agostino, Andy Bollinger, Mark Lowery, Lisa Graybeal, Dale Hershey, Stephanie Shirk

Contractor: Shelly Dehoff

George called meeting to order at 12:33 PM.

Roll Call by The Secretary: Shelly took roll call via "participants list" on the Zoom software.

Shoutouts: Congratulations to Lisa Graybeal, the 2020 George Delp award winner from this morning's virtual Chamber Ag Banquet. George Cook noted thanks to Scott Sheely for taking the steps to get the Ag Council in to the Extraordinary Give. Don Hoover noted 2 new apprentices in Binkely & Hurts's shop, partly due to a lot of work on Scott Sheely's part to make it happen (along with other partners) over the past few years.

Reading and Approval of Minutes The October 22, 2020 meeting minutes were noted. *Motion made by Mike Peachey, seconded by Greg Kirkham to approve the October 22, 2020 minutes. Motion passed.*

Review of Monthly Financial Reports: Dale Hershey noted the financial report. We have had \$14,619 net income for the year. There is currently \$15,270 in the checking account, and \$8301 in the savings (earmarked for projects). Dale mentioned some nice commitments for 2021 already. *Motion by Lisa Graybeal and seconded by Mike Peachey to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.*

Report of Executive Director:

- Scott S. discussed some other efforts that he works on with Ag Education in the schools. Agriculture education in the schools is 3 pronged; classroom, FFA and SAEs (projects)). It is tough to teach these things right now because they are teaching technical subjects virtually. Additionally fundraising activities have been stifled this year. It might be hard to recover for some of these students and FFA chapters. Scott has talked to people at Landis Valley Farm, and they are selling their animals. He just wanted to make us aware of the stress that is happening in the Ag Education world. Ron Frederick added that many teachers are also teaching students virtually AND in the classroom at the same time. It's very stressful. Stephanie mentioned that mental health issue resources exist/there is curriculum ready to go through PSU Extension.
- How the annual fundraising is going—going well. Seems to be bearing fruit.
- January will begin planning efforts for Family Farm Days.

Priority Business:

- Preliminary Budget for 2021—was on the screen to look at. It's a very general budget, usually. The carryover dollars from 2020 still needs finalized, but there's a good estimate. Income and expense estimates were noted. The group recognized that 2021 is still going to have restrictions, and events might still be cancelled, so income may definitely change but so will expenses if events do not happen. A formatting suggestion was made that carryover from 2020 not be included in total revenue. Make carryover a balance sheet item instead. *Motion made by Mark Lowery and seconded by Andy Bollinger to approve the proposed budget for 2021. Motion passed.*
- Possible donation to FFA Foundation—Mary Henry reported that she was approached by a PA FFA Foundation member, which is in the middle of their fundraising efforts, to see if the Ag Council would

be interested in making a donation. Two large money making events for them were cancelled this year. They have a “learning by doing” grant program and have received 3 times the requests compared to normal years. These grants go to the chapters/advisors to get supplies or equipment for the chapters. They want to award first and second round of grants in Dec and January, and would like to have support quickly, if the Council is willing. Consensus seemed to be \$500-\$1000 would be good support. Jack noted it is in line with our mission. Could we use the Barshinger funds for this?

Motion made by Mark Lowery and seconded by Jack Coleman to make a one time donation of \$1000 to the PA FFA Foundation allowing Executive Committee the discretion to decide if the funds come from the Barshinger money, or another source. Motion passed.

- Scott has been talking with the North Museum. They are excited and pleased with the follow up after Ag Week. They are seeing the results of people purchasing the packages and curriculum from them. If the Ag Council sends the packet of 3 resources to the Ag Teachers at a high school, they will be the gatekeepers to the middle or elementary teachers. These types of projects are a great benefit to the Ag Council. We can provide guidance and funding, but use other entity’s staff to do more of the heavy lifting. The museum felt they could do 2 projects similar to this one per year. Scott will continue to communicate with them. Are there other ideas for topics? Suggested already by the Museum include vegetables/bugs/pollination.
 - Does the Ag Council definitely want to see more of these types of projects and partnerships be pursued? Let the leadership team know if you have comments one way or another.
 - Can we offer the products for free, while the North Museum is selling them? Our contract says Ag Council is 50% owner and Museum is 50% owner and each is able to distribute the contents as each organization sees fit. Executive Committee will wrestle with this more, acknowledging not wanting to hurt our relationship with the Museum.
- The Recovery Lancaster report related to Ag and the pandemic has been presented to the Chamber, the Commissioners, etc. The suggestions contained at the end of the document included pulling together people in the charitable food network. Scott started that conversation with Commissioner D’Agostino. The Commissioner is fully supportive, so he will be working with Scott and other organization representatives to organize a virtual meeting soon. Need the ag supply (raw product) part of the industry represented too. Need to inventory the breadth and depth of all the players in the food supply distribution chain, and determine if there are gaps that can be filled.
- Year end member roster—have a producer vacancy. Could use vegetable representation. Expect a more finalized roster in December.
- The Ag Council will be 10 years old in January. What could be done to recognize/celebrate it? Any ideas—let the Exec Comm know.

Reports of Committees:

- Education/PR— haven’t met recently, but the 10th year anniversary should be something the committee helps with
- Economic Development— no report today
- Legislative/ Environmental— no report today
- Ag Week—

Reminders/For the good of the order:

- None this month.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING is Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 12:30 PM. MEETING IS A WEEK EARLY DUE TO CHRISTMAS!

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Dehoff, Lancaster County Conservation District