



Board Minutes

July 23rd, 2018, 6:30-9:00pm

Attending: Melissa Borsting (ED), Hannah Cavendish-Palmer (VP), Claire Foster (Secretary), Petrina Fisher (Board), Christeena Marzolf (Director at Large), Libby Reed (incoming interim ED), Nancy Marshall (Treasurer), Erin Ericson (board), Meredith Molli (Pres.), joined for part of the discussion by Sean Stratman (EFP Program Manager), and Margaret Hindle (EFP participant)

Call to Order, minutes approval from May 2018 (**Meredith**), unanimous approval

Q2 Financials (**Nancy**)

Reviewed the big changes between YTD 2017 and YTD 2018, mostly caused by EFP Stuart landing site bridge construction in contract services and supplies

Executive Director's report highlights (**Melissa**)

See Director's Report

Libby: Funding available from Snohomish Conservation District for expansion of our services more comprehensively into Snohomish County. Meeting scheduled to discuss potential partnership on creating a voice for small, commercial growers and targeted program services for farmers.

Bank Signer changes: Motion made to remove Melissa Borsting and Laura Casey as signers, add Nancy Marshall and Libby Reed as signers. Unanimously approved.

Executive director transition plan and hiring plan (**Executive Committee**)

Interim ED and allocation of Melissa's current responsibilities to existing staff (25 min), shifting some responsibilities to Lainey and some to Jocelyn in accounting contract since Libby has only 20 hours a week in her interim ED position, compared to Melissa's 30 hours a week. Would like to keep an eye on Board Recruitment needs and budget planning for 2019.

Hiring for new Member Services Manager (10 min), starting as soon as possible

Hiring timeline for new ED (10 min)

Job description to be refined by the hiring committee by mid-Sept.

Starting search process in October, goal of new hire starting mid-January 2019

Hiring committee: Hannah, Erin, Petrina

Beyers property – does SVT want to write a letter advocating for the County to purchase the property (**Melissa et al.**)

We have been verbally requested to submit a letter to the county, asking the county to buy the property and then allow SVT to manage part of it as a part of our farm incubator program. Discussed the intricacies of what precedent this might set, whether this would be in the interest of our membership, whether this serves the agricultural community in the long term. As an alternative, we would like to request that they clarify what they are asking of SVT in written form, and we would be glad to clarify that we continue to remain interested in managing a portion of the land onsite as a part of the EFP.

Updates from partners (WID, SVFC, KC Ag Commission, CCF, Carnation Farms – **Erin, Neil, Meredith, Petrina, Hannah**)

Poultry Co-op: awarded the Value-added producer grant, for general operations including some staff time. Regional Food Systems grant is moving through the process, answer anticipated in Oct., for project to create new farmer mentorship and an education component, and also a matching fund for farmers who want to establish a new flock or expand to a larger flock of min. 250 birds- aimed at recruitment of new co-op members. Egg-washing machine is working! Cooler is operational.

WID: First project is operational, counting and dredging at Remlinger in the first priority basin, looking forward to a tile replacement project at Full Circle, and lining out projects in future priority basins. Providing help in allowing farmers to access fish screens on their irrigation intake lines.

SVFC: 108 members this season, marketing goal achieved. Looking for a driver/assistant.

Ag Commission: There's a farm tour in South King County for Council members and staff on July 26th. North county tour delayed for next year.

Carnation Farms: Got the USDA Rural Business Development grant, to produce 10 value-added products in their kitchen in 2019, kick-off starting in Sept. Carnation Farms will become a copacker. Farmstand turning into a small café in a road-side building over the next years. Farmers in training are in full swing, and a ton of events are ongoing. Mobile Slaughter Unit project is still on the table, but the operator previously committed has been rejected by the county- seeking new operator for the site.

Adjourn/Late Happy Hour

Next meeting: August 27th, SVT Office. 6:30-8:30pm.