

**Wisconsin FFA Center Board Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. - Holiday Inn, Stevens Point**

The meeting of the Wisconsin FFA Center Board was called to by Kim Houser at 10:05 a.m. All board members were present. Jeff Hicken and Sara Schoenborn attended as guests.

It was moved to approve the agenda of the Wisconsin FFA Center Board meeting by Graffunder/Johnson. Motion passed. It was moved to approve the minutes of the November Wisconsin FFA Center Board minutes with the corrections discussed via email by Graffunder/Kast. Motion passed. The minutes are posted on the Wisconsin FFA Center website.

Wisconsin FFA Center Office Operations

Staff Updates – Terry is currently out of the office. She is dealing with some health issues and will return when she is able. In the meantime, Aaron Zimmerman is filling in at the Wisconsin FFA Center office as the office assistant. It was moved by Neu/Hanson to pay Aaron Zimmerman \$10 per hour for the time that he puts in helping at the Wisconsin FFA Center including the time Terry would normally put in at the Half-Time conference. Motion passed. It was mentioned to Cheryl if Terry is not back after Aaron has to return to school to let Kim know and we would make arrangements with state officers or others to make sure there is staff support.

Current Activities and Office Operations

Cheryl reviewed the upcoming calendar of events with the group. For details the FFA Center Board report is attached.

Cheryl will be attending the National Agricultural Education Summit in Indianapolis at the end of January.

Summer Assistant 2014-Job Description Posted - Resumes Due Feb. 1

The copy machine at the Wisconsin FFA Center is getting old and Cheryl has been notified by the copier company that has our maintenance contract that parts will no longer be available for this machine. Cheryl is going to pull together some information and options and let the Wisconsin FFA Center Board members know either via conference call or at the next meeting depending on how soon this machine may need to be replaced.

The National FFA Officers are here in Wisconsin and have been traveling with Cheryl this week. They toured several schools around the state and presented several leadership workshops. There were a few modifications that had to be made due to the weather however it was still a successful week.

District speaking contest preparations are underway. Annual reports have also arrived. Jeff and Cheryl will offer a workshop using the Ag Career Network on Saturday morning. The GPR contract was emailed to the Wisconsin FFA Center and need signature. Convention speakers will be discussed this afternoon at the Wisconsin Association of FFA Board Meeting. There will be a MAQA training that will take place this evening. Cheryl asked for everyone to encourage fellow instructors to attend that session. In February, there will be a media training for the state officers. The state FFA officers will also be attending the Wisconsin FFA Alumni convention. Proficiency Judging will be held March 7-8 in Wisconsin Dells. 212 and Edge will be held March 21-22 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. The Fall 212/360 will be held November 14-15 at Hyatt on Main/KI Center in Green Bay.

Financial Report

The updated standard mileage rate has been changed to .56 per mile IRS rate as of January 1, 2014.

The DPI is once again allowing Cheryl to ask hotels for proposals and review bids. This is a change but also similar to what Cheryl was allowed to do several years ago before DPI suggested changes in the procedures.

Cheryl reviewed the financial report. Hudson is the only school left to pay *the Chapter Affiliation Fee*. They do have a new instructor in the program and Jeff is working with the new teacher to help them get information they need. Cheryl then reviewed the quarterly financial report. She stated that everything is normal as expected. Nothing seems to be out of order. Cheryl mentioned that there does need to be an adjustment made by Michelle at Dataflow regarding the lines for dental and disability. The new executive director contract added some flexibility to her benefits and it hasn't been reflected on the financial statement yet. Cheryl will take care of getting that fixed. Jeff stated that GPR funding contract has been sitting on the desk at DPI since August. Now that Cheryl has the contract she will get it signed and returned and the funds should be sent soon.

Kim discussed the possibility of having the Wisconsin FFA Center financial records audited. Cheryl discussed this with the accounting firm that we work with and they stated it was not necessary to spend the extra money for a formal audit. It was decided that there will be no action taken at this time.

Sara Schoenborn discussed the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Star Mission Fund Agreement that has been sent out. There are two changes to this document. Groups will now need to set a deadline and also submit a report to the FFA Foundation.

The State FFA Convention fee that comes from the \$350 affiliation fee payment was discussed. The amount of money that comes out of the \$350 Wisconsin FFA Center affiliation fee that goes to the State FFA Convention Funding is currently \$100. There was discussion as to whether this amount should stay the same or be changed. It was decided to revisit this in June and then make a decision as to what needs to be done.

FFA Chapter Affiliation Fee is currently \$350. It was moved by Sattler/Kast to keep the affiliation fee at \$350 for the 2014-2015 year. Motion passed.

FFA Foundation Report

Sara Schoenborn presented for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. They have currently raised \$215,364.17. The goal for the 2013-2014 campaign year is \$475,000. The Leadership Partner program is off to a great start. The Foundation already has two donors committed to the program. A new initiative is the Wisconsin 4-H/FFA Youth Leadership Fund. They have currently raised \$6,560. The goal is to raise \$10,000. The Star Mission Partnership Program has currently raised \$45,000 for the year. Last year the program totaled \$60,000. The annual report is completed and ready for distribution. SAE grant selection was held December 13th. \$18,000 in grant funds were awarded. FFA night at the Admirals is January 24th. National Ag Ed Summit is January 27-31. Sara will be attending on behalf of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. Golf outings are scheduled for July 21 in Eau Claire, July 22 in Wrightstown, and July 28 in Middleton.

Any Other Items of Business

It was brought up that some instructors are wondering if there would be a way to get the Half-Time Conference back under one roof. Cheryl discussed that at this time there really are not a lot of options to make that happen. The goal of this conference has been to be in a central location which limits to the Stevens Point area. Several FFA Center Board members stated that their sections would not be willing to drive to the Green Bay area and there is concern if the Dells would be an option. It was felt that Wisconsin Dells hotel options would be very distracting for the students with the waterpark activities.

Review FFA Center Board Terms and Positions for Election – Please remember to have elections for those board positions at PDC. Sections that will need new or re-elected representatives are *sections 6/7 and 8/9*.

It was moved to adjourn by Sattler/Graffunder. Motion Passed. Meeting stands adjourned.

Next Meeting–Professional Development Conference –Thursday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.

FFA Center Board Representatives Term

Sections 1&2 Kristin Hanson 2012-2015

Sections 3&4 Brian Kast 2013-2016

Sections 5&10 Ralph Johnson 2013-2016

Sections 6&7 Glenda Crook 2011-2014

Sections 8&9 Clara Hedrich 2011-2014

Kim Houser WAAE Past-President 2013-2014

Shari Graffunder WAAE President 2013-2014

Linda Sattler WAAE President-Elect 2013-2014

Bridgett Neu, WAAE Executive Director

Wisconsin FFA Center Report

January 2014

FUNDING

2013-14 Chapter Affiliation Fee Summary

Total Chapters Paid: 251 (As of Jan. 3, 2014)

Breakdown: Option 1 (\$350.00) – 250

Option 2 – (No one has indicated specifically they will use this payment option)

Waiting for payments – 1

2012-13 Chapter Affiliation Fee Summary

Total Chapters Paid: 243 (As of Jan. 9, 2013)

Breakdown: Option 1 (\$350.00) – 243

Option 2 – (No one has indicated specifically they will use this payment option)

Waiting for payment – 8

Chapters inactive – Benton and Green Bay West

Three new chapters with fees waived for this year – Fall River, Milwaukee Vincent and Owen-Withee

2011-12 Chapter Affiliation Fee Summary

Total Chapters Paid: 245 (As of Jan. 4, 2012)

Breakdown: Option 1 (\$300.00) – 245

Option 2 – (No one has indicated specifically they will use this payment option)

Waiting for payment – 4

Two new chapters with fees waived this year – Highland and Southwestern

First quarter financial statements were presented to the FFA Center Board at Half-Time meeting.

WISCONSIN FFA CENTER UPDATE

1. National FFA Officer team traveled Wisconsin January 5 – 12. Numerous chapter visits and activities conducted with the team. Unfortunately some activities had to be cancelled because of the cold weather, most went on as scheduled.
2. Online Registration System for District Speaking Contests - Preparing District and Sectional Speaking Contest Materials – Contests begin January 20.
3. Second year to continue procedure to fill all spots for Sectional Speaking contests. If some districts don't fill their allowed participants, others from the section will move into those spots. Determined by Sum of Rank and Quiz Bowl final scores. Passed by the FFA Board of Directors March 2012.
4. Continued to fine tune leadership conference registration site to provide features to help in calculating totals, etc.
5. Wisconsin FFA and FFA Foundation Annual Reports available at Half-Time Conference.
6. Continue to work with Ag Career Network and answering instructor questions. Workshop presented at Half-Time for advisors. State Officers conducting a workshop for students.
7. DPI will provide GPR money (\$19,166.66) to the Wisconsin FFA Center for 2013-14. Same amount as last year
8. Wisconsin FFA Center Summer Assistant Position has been announced and posted. Resumes due February 1.
9. FFA membership – 42 chapters selected the National FFA Affiliation Fee option
10. Attending National Ag Ed Summit January 28-30 in Indianapolis, IN
11. Preparing for the handling, processing and evaluation of the State and American Degrees and Proficiency Award
12. State FFA Convention planning has started.
 - a. Hotel contracts process starting in January.
 - b. State Officer Committees are underway and plans were developed at December Officer Meeting.
13. Preparing for upcoming State FFA Alumni Convention. State Officers conducting workshops and reflections.
14. Preparing for FFA Board meetings and Farm Forum.

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION of FFA UPDATE

1. Late membership rosters and payment were discussed at the State FFA Board of Directors meeting Friday – action was taken by the FFA Board of Directors.
2. Other items the Board discussed included – State Convention Speakers, Sectional Speaking Contests, Star Mission grants.

STATE FFA CONVENTION

Date & Locations: The State FFA Convention will be held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, June 9-12, 2014

Registration: Online registration system again in place.

Housing: Official Housing will be posted online in March - Hotel negotiations in progress

Activities: Day of Service will be continued

Rally for Hunger Service Project on Monday – Packing meals similar to National FFA project.

Upcoming Activities/Calendar of Events:

District FFA Speaking Contests to begin January 20. Sectional contests in March at the state officer's home schools.

National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting – Washington D.C. – January 22-24

FFA Night with the Admirals - Milwaukee – January 24

CTSO Night with the Bucks – Milwaukee – January 25

National Ag Ed Summit, Indianapolis, IN – January 28-30 – Cheryl to attend.

State FFA Officer Media Training - February 5 in Madison – State Officers to work with Jill Makovec.

CTSO Legislative Day – February 6 in Madison – State Officers to attend with Jeff Hicken and Cheryl Zimmerman.

UW-Madison Collegiate Hockey Extravaganza – Madison – February 7

Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention - Feb. 7-9, 2014 in Elkhart Lake. State Officers will be assisting and presenting a reflections program and workshops. The painted barn boards from State FFA Convention will be auctioned off at the Alumni Convention.

National FFA Week activities – February 15-22, 2014.

FFA Board of Directors will meet on February 20-21 in Wisconsin Rapids to conduct the review process for State FFA Degrees. The Board will meet again March 13-14 in Madison for convention planning.

FFA Officers will be assisting with the FFA/Farm Bureau Farm Forum Feb. 21-22 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Wisconsin FFA Proficiency Awards will be judged March 7-8 in Wisconsin Dells at the Chula Vista Hotel. Cheryl Zimmerman is coordinating the arrangements and details for the judging. Anyone interested in judging is invited to attend. Reservations should be made by February 20, 2014. Call the Chula Vista Hotel at 608-254-8366. Rooms are reserved under FFA.

State Degree Appeal Process interviews will be scheduled for the March 7-8 for those students wishing to appeal their state degrees.

212° Conference will be held March 21-22, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. The EDGE Conference will also be presented for Middle School Students by Rhett Laubach and his staff.

Next fall's 212° and 360° conferences will be November 14-15, 2014 at the Hotel Sierra/KI Convention Center, Green Bay.

2015 Half-Time Conference set for January 9-10 in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Stevens Point