

Finland Cooperative Board Meeting August 9th, 2018

Present: Honor Schauland, Kaare Melby, Matt Morris, Andy Gomez, Sue Rian, AM Karl Klinker, Stacy Breden, Manager Mike Coyle, David Abazs (for presentation/discussion at the beginning of the meeting)

Meeting called to order at: 6:54pm

MSP Andy, Sue to accept August minutes.

David Abazs speaks about the Bush grant that has been applied to for \$200,000 to build local food systems. Explains that the Co-op could be a place where local food could be compiled and shipped elsewhere, and local folks and producers can get a supply of goods that they can't otherwise get on their own by pooling their buying power. Co-op is a potential venue for that work. Haven't heard back yet.

New related project - Backhaul project. Working with local small grocers to keep them going - supplies - and also helping farmers have a market. Grant is being applied for soon. ***Need support letter by the 18th of August.** There would be a stipend for the Co-op and PR and the supply end of things. *David will send the article about the work done in SW MN to board.

<David leaves>

No Treasurer's report.

Manager's report - review accounts receivable. Mike checked into RCB. They don't pay unless they collect. *Mike will look into other collection options. #14 has filed for bankruptcy. Mike will submit a claim, but we're not likely to get anything. Will probably file on last fiscal year as a loss. Otherwise, Accts Receivable is in good shape. Review snapshot report from 2010 compared to current one - so that board can see the comparison. The Comment Box just had money in it. Maybe we need comment slips. Maybe new decoration or color. Round-up total is close to \$70. Honor finally got the CCF flyer printed and laminated and brought to the store for the employees to use when asked. Employees asked Mike not to go to the food show due to concern about overbuying. Mike at first thought that was crazy to not go to the food show, but he acknowledges that it takes a lot of his time and energy. Karl is neutral. Questions asked about deals? Mike says the deals aren't significant, it's the timing and the booking. Board is happy that employees approached Mike about it but it's clearly Management's decision. North Country Business products called back about clothing in the POS - requires an additional module or something but they found a category workaround. Not perfect but it's better. Learned how to indicate discontinued items and a bunch of other stuff on Elaine's list. Old computers have not been dealt with yet - there hasn't been time. Hard drives have been removed, ***Mike will get rid of the towers ASAP.**

Karl reports on the walkin. Want to see where they pour the slabs for heaters to see if a slab could be poured to put a walkin. Breakroom - Barrett came and ripped everything out, but now you can see how bad it is. Need to sister in floor joists, get rid of bad wood, damage to wall. Not

sure what to do now. Have to wait until the AEOA project and then figure out what to do with the walkin freezer. AEOA has to be done with in 90 days, so hopefully soon. <Mike leaves>

Karl's report: Karl is glad that the employees talked to Mike about the food show. Mike's been taking some vacation time, that's going fine. ***Board needs to review Karl as AM at the next meeting. Karl needs to fill out his self-review form, and Mike should fill one out too or otherwise give feedback to the Board.** <Karl leaves> ***Honor find form - give copy of the first one to Mike for the file.**

<Mike comes in>

Mike's report: Being able to take vacation is good. Karl is getting better at doing fuel. It takes awhile. Every cent the market changes it's \$80. A full load is 8000 gallons. A penny doesn't seem like much but it's \$80. If it changes 10 cents it's \$800. Right now we're more concerned with having fuel available.

Stacy asks for the history of the ice cream thing. Kaare and Matt explain.

<Karl comes back in>

Kaare gives AEOA paperwork to Secretary. ***Honor will make copies so she has one and the store has one.**

Discuss Food Hub/Bush Grant Project further. Consensus that it's a good fit for the store. Discuss the effort by staff to figure out working with different vendors, and how that is going to benefit the store. ***Honor will share the grant proposal and updates with the board.**

Honor brings up Buckwheat orders and how members can get in on that without paying the full retail price. Honor suggests that the Board makes a policy to cover this, since this is likely to keep happening. Honor and Kaare acknowledge that they have a conflict of interest in this case because they are local chicken producers. Board discusses at length. Karl suggests "Local producer policy." Must be a member. Must be a preorder. Building a producer buying club essentially. Minimum order dollar amount to get at cost or discount. <Honor and Kaare leave while board discusses.>

Board needs more information. ***Karl will get more info from Speedee and work on a rough draft policy.** Tabled until the next meeting.

<Honor and Kaare come back.>

Discuss details of annual member drawing. Member has to be present at Annual Meeting to win. Cashier (who may also get a prize?) does not. This incentivizes cashiers signing in on POS and also to ask members to use cards. It also incentivizes members to use their cards. Idea to ask employees whether they want a big prize at the end of the year or to increase the monthly drawing prize. We need a meeting with the employees - Fridays are when everyone is there - needs to be early or later - 2pm would work. ***Karl will send possible dates - likely next Friday or the one after that.**

MSP Andy, Sue to adjourn at 9:12.