

**Draft Minutes of the TAFM Board of Directors Meeting  
April 12, 2018 Via Zoom Conferencing**

Attendees: Steve Brehm, Richard Gallagher, Greer Gill, Kasi Haire, Channel Lemon, Hal Pepper, Joni Roberts, and Charlotte Tolley.

Charlotte as President called the meeting to order.

Barbara could not attend, so Joni as Vice President took minutes.

The minutes of the March Board Meeting were passed on a motion by Kasi, seconded by Steve Brehm.

Charlotte mention that Barbara had communicated with the FMC regarding membership and Steve Brehm confirmed. TAFM members are all members of FMC.

Charlotte talked about a survey of TAFM members regarding Pick TN Conference feedback, and mentioned that she had sent out photos of the Post –it notes with comments on them.

Kasi noted that we received Pick TN Conference survey results, but the results do not gauge how the conference helped market managers. The surveys will open up a dialogue between TAFM and market managers. The Pick TN Conference feedback was positive and the classes provided were well-received. Our survey will be more specific to what we need to do.

Steve suggested putting a box on next year's conference to indicate the organization.

Kasi will ask to see if a box can be put on next year's conference surveys. The surveys are created by UT and ? and the surveys must include certain information and format.

Charlotte is working on transferring the website over from Hip Donelson.

Greer gave an update on the Specialty Block Grant. TAFM received the grant. The committee saw the potential and the need for support. We must go to USDA for approval now that approved by TDA. A team of 3 people must approve and it probably won't be until August. The contract will not be issued until late August or early September, but we can start planning on the type of person to fill the role and begin vetting people.

Charlotte noted for the new members that the grant is for \$25,000 and the bulk of the money will pay for the person to work 10 hours/week with more hours during the Pick TN Conference and biannual meeting. The person will handle social media, the website, outreach table, and recruiting membership as well as data collection for grant reporting. 80% of the money is for salary and the remaining 20% is for travel and hotel fees and website design and updates. We should keep in mind people who might be interested in the position.

Kasi mentioned that the Pick TN Conference will be in Franklin for the next 3 years.

Charlotte indicated that the person selected must be willing to travel, so their location is not an issue.

Greer talked about coming up with the criteria of what/who we want for the position.

Charlotte mentioned that Barbara, Steve Guttery, and Charlotte had talked about the criteria and will share what they came up with. We should keep a list of prospective people.

Greer offered to help Charlotte in navigating the grant.

Charlotte is working on the newsletter in May. Contribute things for the newsletter with educational events and market events, etc. After May, Charlotte will transfer responsibility for the newsletter to someone else.

Greer provided update on the biannual meeting in East Tennessee. She spoke with Lee Manning of Mountain Harvest. There is a museum/home next to a commercial kitchen. The room is available for free before 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., there is a \$50 fee. There are preferred caterers available to cook for us in the commercial kitchen. Jonesborough received a Specialty Crop Grant. They are happy to have us. Their market might be winding down but Booneville market will still be going.

Charlotte discussed possible dates in late August or September and will send out poll to see what dates work best for everyone. Charlotte will include September 7 and 8 and September 20 and 21 and choices in the poll.

Steve Brehm asked what days of the week would work best.

Richard and Joni indicated that a Friday/Saturday would be best for people who have to travel.

Greer noted that last year's meeting was on Thursday, September 21 and she will check with venues in East Tennessee regarding our tentative dates.

Kasi requested that Greer share information about the Food Safety meeting on value added products she attended with Hal. Greer spoke with the regulatory people and they want to be partners with TAFM and market managers to spread the word about the regulations. Mike Brown understood but other leadership needs reinforcement of our message. The leadership didn't realize market managers' role in enforcing regulations and food safety.

Charlotte asked whether there was a replacement for Mike Brown yet and Greer indicated no.

Charlotte indicated that a coffee roaster vendor at her market never got a permit because no one was coming out to inspect them. Many vendors are trying but do not have permits because of delays in inspections.

Greer indicated that no one will be penalized due to lack of inspection and there are open positions for inspectors at TDA.

Kasi mentioned a Facebook comment about a member not knowing about the benefits of the FMC and how to handle it moving forward.

Charlotte talked about wanting to keep people aware of the benefits and will request a blurb from FMC to detail the benefits of membership that we can include in the newsletter and website.

Hal spoke about upcoming market manager workshop and Greer suggested conflict management for a topic. Hal mentioned that the UT person available is expensive to pay to teach, so it would need to be a

between 4 to 6 hours to make it worthwhile. Hal asked whether market managers would attend a workshop about conflict management as a standalone or whether it would be better suited for a Pick TN Conference class. Hal cannot offer 2 trainings and must do 1 day – maybe in middle Tennessee. Tasha, Kasi and Charlotte usually plan the conference so Hal needs to know whether to go forward or offer it at the Pick TN Conference. Hal asked whether it could be included in the survey and he would formulate the question for Charlotte.

Steve Brehm indicated that it would be better for a Pick TN Conference to get the necessary attendance.

Joni added that it might help to include regulatory updates along with the conflict management.

Hal will be offering a Record Keeping Workshop in Sullivan County on Tuesday, July 17 and will get information to Charlotte for newsletter in late April or early May.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Steve Brehm and seconded by Richard.

Charlotte adjourned the meeting at 10:14 CDT to our next Zoom conference on second Thursday of May at 9:30 AM CDT (May 10<sup>th</sup>).