

# **OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **MAELC Board Meeting**

**December 9, 2022**

## **Zoom Virtual Meeting**

*The December 9, 2022 MAELC virtual board meeting was called to order by Sen. Dahms at 10:03 a.m.*

### **Members Present:**

Rep. Paul Anderson, Patrice Bailey, Lindsey Brockberg, Sen. Gary Dahms, Terry Gaalswyk, Frances Homans (on behalf of Brian Buhr), Michelle Kamenov, Troy McKay (on behalf of Amy Smith), Steve Olson, Chris Ovrebo, Val Velde, Christa Williamson

**Members Not Present:** Rep. Todd Lippert, Sen. Erin Murphy, Sen. Scott Newman, Rep. John Thompson

*Quorum was established.*

### **Staff:**

Sarah Dornink and Kari Schwab

### **Guests:**

Val Aarsvold (MN FFA Foundation), Tom Appel (MAAE), Jessica Daberkow (MAAE), Cory Detloff (Central Lakes College), Nathan Hanel (Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence), Erik Heimark (Central Lakes College), Keith Olander (AgCentric), Lavyne Rada (MN FFA), Dr. Megan Roberts (Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence), Cliff Vrieze (retired)

### **Welcome**

Senator Dahms welcomed everyone to the virtual MAELC board meeting.

Val Velde provided a welcome on behalf of Land O'Lakes as well as some background on the company as they were to be hosting the board meeting. The meeting was moved to a virtual option due to inclement weather.

### **Approval of Agenda**

*Ovrebo moved to approve the agenda. Kamenov seconded. Motion prevailed.*

### **Approval of Minutes**

*Gaalswyk moved to approve the minutes. Ovrebo seconded. Motion prevailed.*

### **Financial Report**

#### **Operating Budget**

Dornink reported typical expenses have been coming in and are on target. Expenses in "Registration Fees" (line 19) were for the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) conference, Minnesota AgriGrowth, and the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) AgTech conference. The expense for Executive Director-Out of State Travel (line 32) was for National

FFA Convention/NASAE held in Indianapolis in October and parking at the airport for a National FFA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion meeting held in Indianapolis in November. Final expenses have been paid out for the 2022 Agricultural Education Internship (line 39). Final reports have been submitted and funding secured for the 2023 internship program. MAELC will be exhibiting at a few conferences in January (line 42).

#### MDA/Special Project Budget

Dornink and Schwab recently met with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and met the new contact for the \$250,000 grant funding. The grant process was reviewed, and they discussed the rider language change needed to re-encumber any grant funding from the first fiscal year into the second fiscal year of the biennium. Dornink noted that even when the rider language is added, grants cannot be re-encumbered past the biennium (similar to the FBM funding). If at the end of the biennium there are any remaining dollars, they will need to be returned to the MDA to be put back into Minnesota's general fund (line 62). Grant funding is now received through a reimbursement process; paperwork for the second reimbursement payment for FY22 has been submitted.

Four grants have submitted final paperwork since September (line 7, 22, 25 & 29). MAAE underspent their grant by \$916.64 (line 7). SLP Seeds (line 36) has completed their project and will not be receiving the final 25% due to challenges in tracking final expenses. The remaining MAAE and SLP funds were moved to "Funds to return to MDA" (line 62).

More of the first 75% requests for grants approved in June came in and all payments have been made (line 9 & line 40). Letters were sent out for those grants whose deadline is coming up on December 31, 2022. These grants are from FY22 Common Fund-Round 1 (line 6), Round 24-2 (line 17) and Round 25 (line 26). Grants approved for Round 26 at this board meeting will come out of funds listed on line 61.

#### FBM Budget

The only payments made since September were the four mentor programs that received their initial 75% of this fiscal year's grants (line 12).

*Rep. Anderson moved to approve the financial report. Olson seconded. Motion prevailed.*

#### **Common Fund Grant Committee Report**

Ovrebo provided a brief overview of the two Common Fund applicants. There were five applications; the committee forwarded two applications to the full board with a recommendation of fully funding each.

- **Central Lakes College – Farm Business Basics for Non-Traditional FBM Students (\$27,400)**  
Erik Heimark, Specialty Crops Farm Business Management Instructor, provided an overview of their grant proposal.

The project proposal includes designing a course to meet underserved populations in Farm Business Management specifically tailored to beginning and emerging farmers, direct market farms, specialty crop farmers, immigrant farmers and urban farmers. The curriculum includes three different courses – Farm Business Basics, Beginning Vegetable Production (rural) and Beginning Vegetable Production (urban). They will utilize an online learning platform for the Farm Business Basics course to allow for greater accessibility by potential students, and a cohort model for the Beginning Vegetable Production courses.

*\*See presentation for more information (included in board packet).*

- **Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) – Seven Professional Development Workshops for Agricultural Educators (\$29,032)**

Tom Appel, Executive Director of MAAE, and Jessica Daberkow, MAAE Professional Development Coordinator, provided an overview of their grant. Their proposed professional development workshop areas include Meat Processing, Small Engines, CDE Bootcamp, Greenhouse Management, Floral Design, Small Animal/Vet Science, and AgXplore CASE Middle School Curriculum. All are two or three-day workshops and have a maximum of 10-to-15 participants per event. These workshops are open to agriculture teachers, agricultural education interns, and undergraduate Agricultural Education-Teacher Licensure students. Stipends for attendees are to help cover hotel/transportation costs.

- Meat Processing (\$4,462.50) – teachers will learn about Food Safety, management of students in a lab, how to break down a carcass for primal and retail cuts, and how to properly use and maintain the equipment needed for meat processing in the classroom. There is a registration fee for participants of \$250 for the curriculum.
- Small Engines (\$4,830) – participants learn the basic principles of a two-stroke and four-stroke engine. They will complete engine disassembly and reassembly as a group. Teachers receive a full curriculum as well as access to the power portal and lessons within the portal from Briggs & Stratton. There is a registration fee for participants of \$250 for the curriculum.
- CDE Bootcamp (\$4,200) – content provides a deep dive into six career development event (CDE) contest areas, teaching rules, how to coach the CDE, and provides teachers the opportunity to learn about the contests in a non-competitive manner.
- Greenhouse Management (\$4,567.50) – this is a traveling workshop to visit three or four different greenhouses and learn about hands-on activities to do in the greenhouse.
- Floral Design (\$4,725) – participants will complete various floral arrangements to teach their students and how to purchase, budget and order floral material for schools
- Small Animal/Vet Science (\$4,200) – the focus is on small animal and veterinary science care and management techniques
- AgXplore CASE Middle School Curriculum (\$2,047.50) – this is an introductory course that provides 50 days of instructional materials geared towards middle school students, introducing students to plants, resources, energy and animals that are used and consumed. Instructors will be CASE certified at completion. There is a registration fee for participants of \$200 for the certification fee and will be held in conjunction with MAAE's summer conference.

*\*See presentation for more information (included in board packet).*

It was asked if this professional development helps teachers attain a step up in the licensure tiers. Olander explained there have been multiple discussions with UMN and Central Lakes College (CLC), along with other partners to help Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers transition to Tier 3. There is also a targeted effort on some workshops to use the content to assist in gaining college credit. There has been at least one teacher utilizing previous professional development workshops to adopt credits into their transcript and there is a plan to expand offerings going forward. Much discussion occurred around supporting teachers and making sure all populations are reached.

*Ovrebø moved to approve the Central Lakes College Common Fund project for \$27,400. Gaalswyk seconded.*

*Motion prevailed unanimously.*

*Ovrebø moved to approve the MAAE Common Fund project for \$29,032. Kamenov seconded.*

*Motion prevailed unanimously.*

*\*Brockberg and Williamson abstained.*

### **Grant Committee Report**

Williamson provided an overview of the 2022-2023 Strategic Initiatives grant winners (Round 26). She explained the grant committee divided the review process in half, then met together to review all applications and decide on funding. There were 27 applicants requesting \$215,562.69 in projects; thirteen projects were selected for a total funding recommendation of \$87,222.

*Williamson moved to approve the Strategic Initiatives grant winners as presented. Olson seconded. Motion prevailed unanimously.*

### **Scholarship Committee Report**

Olson presented about the two 2022-2023 Graduate Scholarship recipients: Monica Pinkerman and Krystal Viktora. Each candidate was interviewed, and it was decided to award the candidates with a \$3,000 scholarship each during their student teaching semester (Spring 2023). Awardees will automatically be considered for an additional \$2,000 upon successfully completed student-teaching, signing a contract to teach Agricultural Education at an approved Minnesota Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Education program within one year of completing student-teaching, and continued enrollment as a University of Minnesota-Twin Cities graduate student in an Initial or Additional Licensure program in Agricultural Education.

### **Farm Business Management Update**

Dornink provided an update on Farm Business Management (FBM), including the mid-biennium FBM Challenge Grant progress reports and the recent FBM Faculty survey. Seven of the eight colleges are currently meeting the minimum number of required parameters, with one very close to meeting those requirements. For the FBM Instructor Survey, 54 of 57 invited instructors completed the survey (anyone with less than one year of experience is not included in the survey). The next evaluation project is studying the value of the database and will be going to agriculture lenders.

*\*See presentation for more information (included in board packet).*

### **Executive Director Report**

Dornink thanked everyone for attending the meeting and being flexible with the winter weather causing a change from in-person to virtual a day ahead of the meeting. She thanked Val Velde for her two years of service as the Minnesota FFA Foundation representative on the MAELC board; Pat Dingles will be replacing Velde. Dornink also recognized the six legislators who serve on the MAELC board and thanked them for their service and dedication. She will be working with the appropriate individuals to determine the new appointees to the board once legislative committee membership has been finalized.

Highlights since the last board meeting include Dornink and Schwab attending the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Annual Meeting and the statewide Ag Literacy Networking Group meeting. Dornink attended both the National FFA Convention and the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) in October, where she received recognition for ten years of professional membership. She also went to Indianapolis for the National FFA Equity, Diversity & Inclusion state collaborative. Minnesota was selected as one of ten states to participate during the inaugural year, and this initiative helps individual states develop and begin implementing a clear, comprehensive, peer-reviewed plan to support EDI efforts within the state FFA and those strategies will then be shared with

other states. Minnesota will receive a \$5,000 grant to help support the plans and activities, which includes focusing specifically on the Minnesota FFA State Convention.

The Agricultural Education internship will again be offered for the summer of 2023. Interviews have been completed and offers will be made soon. The largest sponsor is no longer able to continue supporting this program, and costs have increased, therefore at this point, only four interns will be hired. Current sponsors include MAELC, AgCountry Farm Credit Services, CHS Foundation, Christensen Farms, and Compeer Financial.

Upcoming events include sharing a booth with Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MATIC) at the Minnesota School Board Association from January 12-13. Dornink will present a roundtable about the basics for successful Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource (AFNR) programs. Dornink and Schwab will be attending the MAAE Ag Tech Conference in St. Cloud from January 20-21. Unfortunately, there is no longer an option to exhibit at the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals; they are looking for other opportunities to connect with this organization.

For legislative events, a new legislative event will be hosted - AFNR Education Day at the Capitol. This event will highlight the instructors and student success stories for all areas of AFNR including school-based agricultural education, post-secondary education, and Farm Business Management. Specific details and registration will come after the winter break; however, this event will include a breakfast meet-and-greet in the Capitol and legislative meetings focused on MAAE and MAELC's requests and building relationships with legislators. An emailed save-the-date has been sent to instructors and invitations to legislators will be sent in early January. Dornink and Schwab will continue to be involved with FFA activities at the capitol including Ag Policy Experience, February 26-28, with the Legislative Meet & Greet being on February 27 and FFA Day at the Capitol on February 28. Finally, both Dornink and Schwab plan to attend the Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) National Policy Seminar in Washington, DC in March.

Dornink thanked Schwab her efforts over the past six months highlighting MAELC's 25-year anniversary, including a snapshot of MAELC's history in the recent print newsletter and highlighting MAELC history each month as part of the e-news. Interviews with past MAELC Executive Directors, Dr. Patrick Plonski and Julie Tesch were conducted and recorded over the fall, along with Jim Molenaar and Jerry Schoenfeld (upcoming) who were critical individuals from the agriculture teachers' association that initiated the legislative initiative.

Dornink reminded everyone the MAELC office will be closed December 23-January 2.

#### Blueprint Update

Dornink provided an overview of current Year 5 blueprint strategies, with new updates since September listed in red. Status notes have also been added under the strategies (ongoing, in-progress, and completed).

#### **Legislative Discussion**

Rep. Anderson explained the DFL will control both legislative chambers and the governor's office. His hope is there will be good balance around the legislature and that many initiatives can be accomplished. There are many new legislators as well, including many suburban legislators being appointed to the agriculture committee which means there will be a lot of education and catching up for those members. Dahms noted he will be meeting with the Majority and Minority leaders in the

Senate to encourage the appointed legislators to the MAELC board to understand the importance of participation in meetings.

Dornink noted she has had discussions with MAAE's lobbyist, AJ Duerr, about the idea of asking for an increase in legislative funding for MAELC as there is quite a large state budget surplus. MAELC receives funds through three budgets including operating, MDA (grants/special projects), and FBM. The operating budget comes through the Higher Education Committee to the University of Minnesota so it is not easy to increase. MAELC receives \$250,000 from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for "grants and special projects." Currently, all these funds are spent on the Strategic Initiative and Common Fund grant programs. Dornink did put a request in to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to increase funding, however it did not include specific allocation requests. Dornink presented four priority areas for funding if MAELC were to receive an increase of an additional \$250,000:

**1. Teach Ag - \$100,000**

Funding to cover a contract position to focus on the recruitment and retention of agriculture teachers, including relationship building and communications. Minnesota continues to have a shortage of agriculture teachers due to high demand for new or expanding programs.

**2. Additional Grant Funding - \$100,000**

MAELC is unable to meet the needs of the funding requests for agricultural education projects due to an increase of programs and the cost of equipment needs. Since receiving the initial grant appropriation in 2007, the average amount of unfunded grants is approximately \$288,000 per year. Applicants may also be conservative in how much they request knowing MAELC has limited funds available.

**3. School-Based Agricultural Education Instructor Professional Development - \$30,000**

Since 2016, MAELC has supported agriculture teacher professional development through the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE). Finding sustainable funding is critical to maintain this important opportunity for instructors and will allow for more funding within the competitive grant program.

**4. Agricultural Education Internship Program - \$20,000**

MAELC has hosted the Agricultural Education Internship Program for the past eight years. To stabilize the funding of this program, this request is for half the amount needed to support six interns. Other funding support will continue to be sought out for the other three internship positions.

Overall, board members were supportive of requesting an increase in funding. It was suggested to decide a priority focus area if the full amount being requested was not available. Another suggestion included connecting with MAAE for more data related to the impact of the summer professional development to help build the case for increased funding.

Dornink met with the Minnesota Department of Education to explain some other For other agricultural education and Career and Technical Education (CTE) legislative priorities. She has also been partnering with Steve Olson, who is leading an effort around one-time funding for AFNR program equipment with a future plan to look at incentivized funding.

### **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Update**

Bailey provided an update about MDA initiatives. They recently wrapped up the farm to school applications. There were over 120 applications requesting \$4.1 million, with approximately \$3.5 million available. On January 4, MDA is releasing a down payment assistance grant matching up to \$15,000 per producer on a first-come, first-served.

*\*See handout for more information (included in board packet).*

### **Minnesota State & Farm Business Management (FBM) Update**

Gaalswyk explained FBM is leveraging several grants to support their work. FBM is in the midst of a curricular review to make sure their curriculum aligns with producer and industry needs, as well as across the state with all FBM programming.

The legislative agenda for MN State includes a “BOLD” ask of \$350 million with some of those dollars being requested for their Centers of Excellence, which includes the two agriculture centers. The MN State Chancellor will be retiring in August 2023. The Chair of the Board of Trustees has encouraged individuals to submit feedback about the replacement hiring process. Riverland Community College’s president will be retiring soon as well. Gaalswyk will be chairing the search for their replacement.

### **University of Minnesota-College of Food, Agricultural, & Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) Update**

Homans reported that much of the enrollment in CFANS are students from across Minnesota. The Land Grant Legacy Scholars program has been a great success in supporting students from Greater Minnesota. They also now offer the Cargill Thrive Scholars program. Homans highlighted current agriculture teacher, Joshua Muñoz, who was featured recently as a CFANS and Agricultural Education alum in a publication. Dr. Laura Rice will be joining the Agricultural Education faculty on campus this month; she has been teaching remotely since the fall semester started while she moved to Minnesota.

### **University Agricultural Education Updates**

#### Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU)

*\*See handout for more information (included in board packet).*

#### University of Minnesota-Crookston (UMC)

*\*See handout for more information (included in board packet).*

#### University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

McKay noted they are looking forward to having Dr. Laura Rice on campus as she has been teaching remotely for the Fall semester and is moving to Minnesota in December. The Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Student Showcase was held earlier this week and there was a great turnout. There will be three student-teacher candidates for Spring 2023.

*\*See handout for more information (included in board packet).*

### **Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) Update**

Williamson noted almost half of secondary AFNR programs have at least two teachers in their program. There are 42 instructors who are Tier 1 or Tier 2, meaning they have not completed a traditional teacher education program. Thirty percent of secondary instructors are under 25 years of age. MAAE is concerned about agriculture teacher turnover and unfilled agriculture teacher positions. Job openings for the 2023-2024 school year are already being posted. Their legislative priorities include funding for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Revenue formula, funding for the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO), and funding for post-secondary updates of curriculum and equipment.

*\*See handout for more information (included in board packet).*

**Other Business/Announcements**

The next board meeting will be in June 2023, in-person. Upcoming dates of events and activities are included on the back of the agenda. Dornink thanked the retiring board members again for their service to the board over the years.

*Sen. Dahms adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.*