

# **OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **MAELC Board Meeting**

**June 30, 2022**

### **South Central College (North Mankato)**

*The June 30, 2022 MAELC board meeting was called to order by Sen. Dahms at 10:08 a.m.*

#### **Members Present:**

Val Aarsvold (on behalf of Val Velde), Rep. Paul Anderson, Patrice Bailey (via Zoom), Brian Buhr, Jessica Daberkow, Sen. Gary Dahms, Michelle Kamenov, Sen. Erin Murphy, Keith Olander (on behalf of Terry Gaalswyk), Chris Ovrebo, Christa Williamson

**Members Not Present:** Kristin Kovar, Rep. Todd Lippert, Sen. Scott Newman, Steve Olson, Rep. John Thompson

*Quorum was established.*

#### **Staff:**

Sarah Dornink and Kari Schwab

#### **Guests:**

Lindsey Fulton Loken (Keepin' It Rural), Guest of Senator Erin Murphy, Nathan Hanel (Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence), Natasha Mortensen-via Zoom (Keepin' It Rural), Rebekka Paskewitz (Keepin' It Rural), Dr. Megan Roberts (Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence), Brad Schloesser (South Central College), Dr. Zane Sheehan (MDE), Cliff Vrieze (retired)

#### **Welcome**

Dr. Megan Roberts, Executive Director of the Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence (SACE), welcomed everyone to South Central College which is the home-base for SACE.

#### **Teambuilding**

To reacquaint the board members as this meeting was held in-person for the first time since December 2019, Schwab asked the board and guests to break into small groups and discuss their favorite childhood game, the areas of MAELC's work that most excites them, and their favorite activity or part of their current job. Small groups then shared their responses with the full group.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

*Anderson moved to approve the agenda. Williamson seconded. Motion prevailed.*

#### **Approval of Minutes**

*Anderson moved to approve the minutes. Daberkow seconded. Motion prevailed.*

## **Financial Report**

### Operating Budget

Dornink reported on the operating budget, explaining there will be a few final additional costs that will show up at the end of the fiscal year, which closes on June 30, 2022. Overall, expenses are coming in slightly under budget due to COVID including saving money on budgeted travel expenses with virtual board meetings and Schwab not attending a national conference. These dollars will fall into carryover funds, which will be discussed and re-allocated during the September board meeting.

Dornink pointed out four sponsorship payments that were paid since the December meeting (line 21) including the Ag Policy Experience (APEX), FFA State Convention, MAAE Ideas Unlimited (AgTech), and MAAE Outstanding Teacher Mentor Award that will be given at the summer conference. Dornink and Schwab also received new laptops (line 23) due to the previous ones reaching the end of their useable life.

All eligible Undergraduate Scholarship awards have been sent out for 2021-2022; \$2,000 in awards will not be distributed due to students no longer majoring in Agricultural Education. This money goes into the carryover pot to be allocated in September. A diversity scholarship (line 39) was also paid out. Dornink noted these funds are only half of the available funds – an anonymous donor has provided matching dollars for this program and are in a University of Minnesota Foundation account. Diversity scholarship funds are encumbered and will carry forward into future fiscal years.

### MDA/Special Project Budget

Dornink reviewed the MDA/Special Projects Budget, explaining grants are awarded in two programs – Common Fund and Strategic Initiatives. Awardees receive 75% of funding up front and the remaining 25% upon the submission of a final report and invoice. Letters for the upcoming June 30, 2022 deadline (Round 24) and past due grant reports were sent in May.

After the grant committee met and tentative approval letters were sent out in May, noticed was received that Edison High School, which is part of Minneapolis Public Schools, will not be claiming their grant (Round 25; currently in line 70) as their instructor has taken an agriculture teaching position at a different school. Through email, the grant committee determined to split those dollars between two grants that had not received full funding in the 25-2 grant round (Fosston and St. Clair). These will be approved later in the meeting during the grant committee report.

The 2021-2022 grants (line 83) will be approved later during the meeting and entered into the FY23 budget. \$25,592.48 has been returned to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) (line 84) from nine grants in previous fiscal years. Nearly all these dollars are from grants that came in underbudget, so they did not request their full award amount, with one being unable to complete the project due to an instructor change. MAELC has been required to restructure the grant reallocation process based on rules set forth in Minnesota Statute 16A.28, and are unable to re-encumber grant dollars if they are returned in the following fiscal year. Dornink will be working with the MDA to include rider language in the next biennium to at least allow grant funds to be re-encumbered from the first fiscal year into the second fiscal year of the biennium. It was asked if MDA is allowing a “certification year” which allows funds to be used one year past the biennium. Dornink indicated that was discussed as part of adding the rider language going forward.

Dornink explained the conflict-of-interest process was updated based on recommendations from the Office of Grants Management. Those reviewing applications are the only ones required to complete the conflict-of-interest form, as opposed to having everyone who votes on the grants complete the form as was done previously. Board members should continue to abstain from the vote when appropriate.

Finally, Dornink reminded the board that funds from MDA are no longer received at the beginning of the fiscal year but are paid out on a reimbursement-basis. The first set of paperwork and an invoice have been submitted to MDA for reimbursement of the first 75% payments of those grants approved in Round 25; this payment has been received. It was noted that grant recipients are not affected by this change and will continue to receive funding the same way as the University of Minnesota, who serves as MAELC's fiscal host, allows for the reimbursement model.

#### FBM Budget

This budget includes funds for FBM Challenge Grants, FBM Additional Instructor grants, Mentor Program grants, and FBM evaluation. Dornink will be submitting a progress report to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in order to receive the second payment for the current biennium.

Progress reports for Challenge Grants and Additional Instructor grants are due July 8, 2022; reminders of the upcoming deadline have gone out. Upon submission, the Challenge Grant recipients can request their next 25% of funding; these payments will all appear in the next fiscal year. The Additional Instructor recipients will receive their second payment upon submission of a final report at the end of the 2023 fiscal year (July 2023).

Mentor Program final reports are due June 30, 2022. They will receive their final 25% of funding after all paperwork is completed. They will submit their proposal for FY23 funding in September and be able to request the first 75% of the next grant.

*Aarsvold moved to approve the financial report. Olander seconded. Motion prevailed.*

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

Daberkow provided a brief overview of the Common Fund applicants; there were four applicants and two were recommended for funding. Keepin' It Rural was recommended for funding at \$10,500, which is \$5,000 less than the original request due to the Grant Committee recommending partial funding for the audio-visual components. The Minnesota Department of Education was recommended for funding at \$16,000, which is \$8,000 less than the request and does not include the professional development and support staff components.

- **Keepin' It Rural** – *Classroom Networking through Podcasting* (\$15,500 request; \$10,500 recommended funding from MAELC Grant Committee)

Natasha Mortenson (zoom), Lindsey Fulton Loken and Rebekka Paskewitz provided an overview of their grant project. The "Keepin' It Rural" podcast has a goal of interviewing farmers, agriculturalists, government officials and everything in between to reach primarily 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. They will utilize social media to share knowledge and information about rural life, Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) and related careers. Minnesota agriculture teachers will have free access for two years, which includes lesson plans and videos that can be used in the classroom. Their format will include both audio and video, including a website with the podcast videos, information about the discussed topics, and resources for students and adults to navigate engaging supplemental information.

Their budget includes \$10,000 for the audio creation and podcast editing, \$2,000 for travel, \$2,000 for initial website development and \$1,500 for instructional technology. It was asked if they must work with the Minnesota Department of Education regarding lesson plans and curriculum. They are working with another person who regularly writes curriculum to help develop this information. It was also asked how their product will work with and be different than Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom and other similar resources. Mortenson explained

they are featuring agriculture from all over the US, not just Minnesota and they want to add to the available resources and are not duplicating efforts.

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

*Daberkow moved to approve the Keepin' It Rural Common Fund project for \$10,500. Buhr seconded. Motion prevailed unanimously.*

- **Minnesota Department of Education – Work-Based Learning & Leadership Development of Minnesota Agricultural Education; Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET)** (\$24,000 request; \$16,000 recommended funding from MAELC Grant Committee)

Dr. Zane Sheehan provided an overview of the grant project. AET benefits students, teachers and AFNR. There is a database for career exploration. AET also allows for teacher data collection with a separate teacher login, which provides for better data collection than the current MDE yearly supply and demand survey. Teachers can record their extended contract time and what they are doing, which is helpful for reporting for the MDE summer contract grants. Students set up their own profile and write journals about their experiences/reflections. AET can generate FFA State Degree applications, work-based learning portfolios at the end of class, proficiency awards, etc.

Dr. Sheehan noted this is year three of a phase-in plan. Most Minnesota AFNR teachers are using AET, and training has been offered to help the teachers through the adoption process. This year's focus is on helping agriculture teachers better use AET and strengthening SAE/work-based learning and FFA/Leadership Development, especially after COVID slowed the progress. A newer component is utilizing AET as a registration system, which was utilized for the Minnesota FFA State Convention in 2022.

Budget:

\$16,000 from MAELC

\$13,500 from FFA

\$10,000 from FFA Foundation

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

*Daberkow moved to approve the MDE-Work-Based Learning and Leadership Development of Minnesota Agricultural Education/AET Common Fund project for \$16,000. The motion was seconded. Motion prevailed unanimously.*

*\*Kamenov abstained.*

### **Grant Committee Report**

Ovrebo provided an overview of the 2021-2022 Strategic Initiatives grant winners (Round 25-2). There were 32 applicants requesting almost \$218,000. Twenty were recommended for funding, totaling \$105,762 which includes an additional \$5,958 from the original proposal due to a terminated grant that was awarded in FY22 for Round 25 (Edison/Minneapolis) and has been split evenly to add funds to Fosston and St. Clair.

*Ovrebo moved to approve the Strategic Initiatives grant winners as presented. Kamenov seconded.*

Further explanation was requested about the grant recipients who received less funding than requested, and if those projects would be able to complete their project without full funding. Ovrebo explained each applicant provides a detailed budget and, in most cases, those not receiving full funding was due to

a budget component the committee felt did not fit well with the grant priorities and knew the applicant would still be able to do certain components of their project.

*Motion prevailed unanimously.*

*\*Daberkow & Williamson abstained.*

### **Scholarship Committee Report**

Ovrebo presented about the 2022-2023 Undergraduate and Diversity Scholarship awardees. It was asked where the funds go if a recipient is no longer in Agricultural Education. Dornink explained funds come from the Operating budget, so unspent scholarship dollars are placed back into that pot and eventually fall into carryover funds.

### **2022-2023 Budget Approval**

Dornink reviewed the 2022-2023 Operating, MDA/Special Projects and FBM budgets.

#### Operating Budget

Dornink explained the funds for the operating budget come through the House and Senate's Higher Education committees to the University of Minnesota-College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), then to MAELC. The budget increased approximately 8% to cover salary and fringe increases. Budgeted per diems and expense reimbursements were kept the same as previous years with planning to have the June and December board meetings in person. \$10,000 has been budgeted for 2023 Graduate Scholarship (line 37), knowing there will be two eligible students.

#### MDA/Special Project Budget

\$250,000 comes through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to MAELC for grants and special projects.

#### FBM Budget

Funding comes through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for this budget, which runs over the FY22/FY23 biennium. \$4,000,000 has been allocated based on approval at the beginning of the biennium (July 1, 2022).

*Daberkow moved to approve the 2022-2023 budgets as presented. Murphy seconded. Motion prevailed.*

### **Post-Secondary Presentation**

Dornink explained she requested representatives from both Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota provide an overview of the status of post-secondary education in Minnesota.

#### Minnesota State

Keith Olander, Executive Director of AgCentric – the Northern Agricultural Center of Excellence, and Dr. Megan Roberts, Executive Director of the Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence (SACE) provided an overview the two Agricultural Centers of Excellence.

Since 2005, the Minnesota State Centers of Excellence have driven workforce innovation through education and industry collaboration, and provided thought leadership on workforce development in their respective industries. The Centers serve agricultural education at the high school, post-secondary and Farm Business Management levels.

The Minnesota State system consists of 26 colleges and seven universities. All 33 offer one or more Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource (AFNR) education programs. There are over 4,000 students enrolled (based on Fall 2021), with over 1,150 graduates from AFNR programs in 2021. The largest AFNR education program within the Minnesota State system (based on enrollment) is Vet Tech.

To promote AFNR pathways, Minnesota State has a website: [minnstate.edu/afnrcareers](http://minnstate.edu/afnrcareers). They struggle to obtain accurate career data through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), which has limited information on what is included under the agriculture category. To combat this, the Centers have been working with Real Time Talent who works with employers to gather more complete and accurate data. There is also an initiative in conjunction with AgriGrowth called the Minnesota Ag Talent and Workforce Coalition, which MAELC is a member of, working to promote careers in AFNR and lessen the employment gap (gap between open AFNR job positions and available AFNR graduates). The challenges of getting students into post-secondary education includes recruitment, enrollment, retention and convincing students of the long-term value. Low unemployment rates are typically correlated with lower enrollment in two-year programs. System-wide, enrollment is down 2.38% in FY22, although this is better than the previous year where COVID had a large impact on enrollment.

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

### University of Minnesota

Dean Brian Buhr provided an overview of the current status of post-secondary education in Minnesota at the University of Minnesota and its AFNR programs (across the system campuses).

New high school admits are up 16% over April 2021 and 29% over April 2020 in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS). Their challenge is gaining transfer students; lower enrollments in two-year colleges are impacting their transfers. Agricultural Education continues to see enrollment challenges. The demographic shift of the total number of students graduating high school is declining and will continue to decline over the next 10-15 years.

It was asked what strategies the UMN has implemented to attract Greater Minnesota students. Buhr explained they have a Land Grant Legacy Scholars program to provide funding to students from Greater Minnesota. Buhr noted the college still struggles with recruitment. The UMN largely recruits on a system level, so CFANS went the scholarship route to attract students. They also appreciate the State FFA Convention being on campus. In the future, CFANS wants to implement on-campus experiences for high school students to bring them in and help them think about coming to campus before they make a college and career decision.

Dornink added the UMN is hiring a recruiter for Greater Minnesota along with the current CFANS recruiter. 4-H members also can apply at no cost.

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

### **Executive Director Report**

Dornink thanked everyone for attending the meeting in-person, including a special thank you to Dr. Roberts for hosting. Moving forward, the plan is to have a virtual board meeting in September and meet in-person in December (Twin Cities area) and June (outstate).

Dornink welcomed Lindsey Brockberg, an agriculture teacher from Mountain Lake High School, who will be joining the board in July; she will become president-elect for MAAE. Dornink thanked Jessica Daberkow for her service to the board; this will be her last meeting as she steps down in July as the MAAE President. Dr. Kristin Kovar from SMSU will also complete her service to the board (she sends her regrets for not being able to attend), with Dr. Amy Smith from the University of Minnesota-Twin

Cities becoming the next Higher Education Agricultural Education representative for the next two years. A certificate will be presented to both Daberkow & Kovar at the MAAE Summer Conference.

Highlights since the December board meeting include Dornink and Schwab attending the MAAE Ag Tech Winter Conference. Dornink also attended the National Team AgEd Inservice, which was held in Indianapolis in January. MAELC had a booth at the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals Conference where Schwab presented a workshop with Keith Olander about licensing agriculture teachers. MAELC also had a booth at the Minnesota School Board Association Conference where Dr. Zane Sheehan and Dornink put on a roundtable presentation about “Providing Art, Economics, Math, and Science Graduation Credit through Career & Technical Education.” Dr. Sheehan and Dornink also presented to the agriculture teachers in the Teacher Induction Program (TIP) about funding their programs, and Dornink provided an overview of MAELC to the University of Minnesota-Crookston student teachers. In addition, over the past months Dornink and Schwab have attended numerous advisory meetings where they serve as members including AgCentric, SACE, Southwest Minnesota State University, Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership, and Minnesota Ag in the Classroom. In addition, they have been part of meetings for the Ag Talent and Workforce Coalition and attended the MN Ag Talent and Workforce Forum held in March. Dornink and Schwab served as grant reviewers for the Minnesota Department of Education’s Agricultural Education Summer Program, and Dornink served as a grant reviewer for PELSB’s Teacher Mentorship grants. Meetings for the statewide strategic groups on teacher licensure, work-based learning and credit equivalency have also been organized, and staff have met with numerous individuals about the next round of Blueprint strategies.

MAELC was very involved with FFA activities during the legislative session. Dornink and Schwab assisted with the FFA Ag Policy Experience (APEX) conference. Thirty-two students participated in APEX, with 22 legislators and other government representatives at the legislative “Meet and Greet,” which was held in-person at the Capitol. In lieu of FFA Day at the Capitol, individual chapters focused on local activities, however, Dornink and Schwab went with the FFA state officers on 17 legislator visits (some virtual and some in-person), with officers providing greetings in four committees (two in-person), which staff assisted in coordinating and preparing their messaging. Prior to FFA State Convention, staff assisted with the FFA Star interviews. During the state convention, Dornink brought greetings to members, and both Dornink and Schwab helped coordinate the Teach Ag booth and signing event, which recognized 30 high school seniors who have committed to study agricultural education with the intent to teach in the classroom. One special recognition during convention included current MAELC board members Patrice Bailey, Dr. Kristin Kovar, and Chris Ovrebo receiving their Honorary State Degrees.

Minnesota renewed its commitment to participate in the State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program; MAELC serves as the chair. STAR is a statewide committee dedicated to addressing the agriculture teacher shortage and focuses on recruitment and retention strategies. This past winter, gift cards were awarded to Teacher of Teachers and a “welcome” gift was sent to all new agriculture teachers in Minnesota. “Survival” baskets were mailed to all Agricultural Education student teachers in Minnesota, with a gift card delivered to each of their cooperating instructors. During MAAE’s AgTech conference, MAELC helped sponsor the Midwest Regional FAST Symposium for 23 future agriculture teachers from four neighboring institutions. The Teach Ag Ambassador program was paused due to lack of applicants; the program will be re-evaluated later this summer.

The Agricultural Education internship program is in its eighth year and is up and running; six students are currently out at high schools, working with their AFNR programs. Dornink and Schwab had the opportunity to meet with them on an AgEd program tour in mid-June; they will also meet with them during the MAAE Summer Conference. Each intern will be “taking over” MAELC’s Facebook page where one intern each week posts about their experience as an intern and student in Agricultural Education. Finally, Minnesota’s STAR committee has continued their focus on the creation of a

statewide “AgEd for All” plan. This plan will assess Minnesota’s diversity, inclusion and equity practices throughout the various sectors of AFNR. The report has been reviewed, and steps are being taken to create an inclusion working group that will collaborate with Minnesota Team AgEd about teacher diversity, professional development, student access, policies, and in general, building a welcoming environment for both teachers and students.

Going forward, MAELC will be the permanent facilitator for Team AgEd. The group previously rotated between different organizations to chair for a one-year term, however it was quite ineffective and lacked focus between discussion topics, so it was requested that MAELC take the role as permanent convener. MAELC is still a member of the group but will take leadership in coordinating meetings and the agenda.

MAELC is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Schwab created a special logo for the anniversary year (included on the celebration cake as part of the lunch during the meeting). A group photo was also taken. Dornink explained there will not be a large celebration event this year, however, she and Schwab will be highlighting MAELC’s history and successes from past years throughout the next six months in various communications.

#### Blueprint Update

Dornink provided an overview of current Year 5 blueprint strategies. This is the first-time reporting on these as the Year 3 were reported on through December 2021.

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

#### **MAELC Input Discussion**

Dornink facilitated a discussion regarding priorities for MAELC, including what is done well, what should be pursued or moved higher in priority, and what should be stopped to better focus on other priorities. Overall, the group felt supporting AFNR programs and students is a high priority; there were limited suggestions for an activity or program to stop doing. It was noted that MAELC’s funding and staff structure are the same, or lower, than when it originated 25 years ago, so it really is time for increased funding and staff to allow for greater capacity to continue MAELC’s important work supporting agricultural education.

#### **Legislative Update**

Representative Anderson explained the tax and bonding bill did not get passed during the 2022 legislative session. There is potential support for passing these pieces during a special session, however a special session is looking less likely to occur. Senator Dahms noted that the agriculture bill did pass, which includes a lot of support for production agriculture and money for broadband for rural Minnesota. The veterans bill and health re-insurance bill also passed, which provides farmers and ranchers the opportunity to buy insurance at a reduced rate. There may be a bonding bill passed right away at the start of the next session. Finally, Senator Dahms explained there will be a large change-over in legislative members, the largest since the 1970’s.

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

Dornink provided a brief update based on the submitted report. Bailey was unable to provide report due to having to leave early.

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



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

Olander explained the new FBM Urban and Specialty Crops instructors have been hired through Central Lakes. Names will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

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

### **University of Minnesota Update**

Buhr explained that CFANS is seeing a “Great Transition” – 33 faculty positions are open across the college, and they have some changes in leadership as well. Dr. Frances Homans, former Department Head of Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing / Applied Economics, is becoming the Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate programs. The Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Greg Cuomo, leaving for another college. In Agricultural Education, Dr. Becky Haddad is leaving for a new position in Nebraska. They are in the process of hiring another Agricultural Education professor, with interviews held during last week of June. There is a new initiative of President Gabel in partnership with the University of Minnesota-Crookston called “Next Gen Ag.” Its focus is figuring out how to deliver education in a new environment, including hybrid options. It could help determine how to re-define teacher licensure options between UMN and UMC. FAARM – Future Advanced Agriculture Research in Minnesota received some legislative funding and has support from the Hormel Foundation; they are moving forward with land acquisition. There will be some education components with it as well. CFANS does K-12 programming across the college and brings it into communities; their goal is getting young people excited about innovation and technologies.

### **University Agricultural Education Updates**

Dornink is concerned about all Agricultural Education Teacher Licensure programs. They all have a lot of undecided components at the moment, and all have some level of transition happening.

#### Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU)

Dornink provided information on SMSU’s behalf as Dr. Kovar was unable to attend the meeting. They have 10 students in the Agricultural Education major (five are Ag Ed, five are pre-Ag Ed). They will have four students starting in the Fall 2022 semester. Dr. Kovar is going on sabbatical for the 2022-2023 school year, with hopes of making programmatic improvements for the Agricultural Education degree as well as conducting research on the supply of teachers in rural Minnesota.

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

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

Dornink provided information on UMC’s behalf as Nathan Purrington was unable to submit a report for the meeting. UMC had a professor search, which is to replace a retired instructor and support Mr. Purrington, however it failed. They are looking to re-post, but it has been on pause. Mr. Purrington is the sole person in the department and needs assistance.

*\*No written report was available.*

#### University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Dornink provided information on UMN’s behalf. They have expanded graduate-level course offerings for distance delivery. Unfortunately, no one has been hired to fill the vacant Recruitment and Communicators Coordinator position which has been open since last fall. They are still exploring solutions and opportunities related to this role.

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

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

Daberkow provided update about MAAE. There were 45 new agriculture teachers for the 2021-2022 school year; there is likely a similar number of incoming first year teachers for 2022-2023. The demand

for teachers is due to program growth (either in new or in size). The MAAE Summer Conference will be held in Morton, MN the second week of July. Career and Technical Education-Teacher Induction Program (CTE TIP) is up and running. They are modeling it after the Agricultural Education TIP program and incorporating it into larger CTE. There were 25 instructors participating in the pilot year. Minnesota is hosting the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Region 3 conference in 2023 (June 19-21, 2023) in Alexandria.

MAAE has concerns about the agriculture teacher shortage caused by an increase in demand for new programs and/or adding additional teachers to an already established program. They are also concerned about the potential burnout of teachers and assessing how to serve and aid all their members.

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

### **Other Business/Announcements**

The next board meeting will be held virtually in September 2022. Upcoming dates of events and activities were highlighted (included on the back of agenda).

Dr. Sheehan presented Ovrebo with an FFA Honorary State Degree. Ovrebo was recognized as part of the 2022 FFA State Convention, however he was unable to attend the ceremony to receive his award.

Val Aarsvold provided a brief update on behalf of the FFA Foundation. Their scholarship program has increased, with over \$75,000 awarded to students pursuing agriculturally related careers. The Ag License Plate is available; 500 plates have already been purchased! The Foundation purchased 250 sample plates to present to their local DMV's as well. The FFA Telethon will take place the first Sunday of the Minnesota State Fair; it will showcase FFA members and teachers while raising funds. Individuals can also sponsor an FFA Jacket through the Blue Jackets, Bright Futures program.

*Sen. Dahms adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.*