

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

MAELC Board Meeting June 26, 2023 Redwood Valley High School (Redwood Falls)

The June 26, 2023 MAELC board meeting was called to order by Sen. Putnam at 10:09 a.m.

Members Present:

Rep. Paul Anderson, Patrice Bailey (via Zoom), Lindsey Brockberg, Sen. Heather Gustafson (via Zoom), Frances Homans (on behalf of Brian Buhr), Sen. Gary Dahms, Terry Gaalswyk, Michelle Kamenov, Steve Olson, Chris Ovrebo (via Zoom), Rep. Kristi Pursell, Sen. Aric Putnam, Amy Smith, Amanda Sommers (on behalf of Pat Dingels), Rep. Brad Tabke, Christa Williamson

Members Not Present: (all were present either in person or via Zoom)

Quorum was established.

Staff:

Sarah Dornink and Kari Schwab

Guests:

Tom Appel (MAAE), Dr. TJ Brown (South Central College)*, AJ Duerr (lobbyist-MAAE), Betsy Jensen (FBM/NCTC)*, Dr. Kristin Kovar (SMSU), Keith Olander (AgCentric), Lisa Orren (Redwood Valley High School), Dr. Lavyne Rada (MN FFA), Dr. Megan Roberts (Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence), Kari Slinden (Ridgewater College; via Zoom)*, Cliff Vrieze (retired)

**via Zoom*

Welcome

Lisa Orren, agriculture teacher, welcomed everyone to Redwood Valley High School. She noted appreciation for MAELC's support of agriculture, food and natural resources (AFNR) education, as well as support through grants for their local AFNR program. The Redwood Valley district serves about 300 students at the high school, with an approximate 25% Native American student population so they try to incorporate Native American culture into the classroom. Orren noted they recently received a MAELC grant that supported the development of a Native American Medicine Garden on school property. The Career and Technical Education (CTE) wing was established with a large investment through Oren Estebo and opened around January 2019.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Tabke moved to approve the agenda. Olson 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, 2023. Sponsorships (line 21) include the Ag Policy Experience (APEX), FFA State Convention, Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators' (MAAE) Ideas Unlimited contest, Red River Farm Network for National FFA Week, and MAAE

Outstanding Teacher Mentor Award that will be given out at their summer conference. The travel line items (line 32 & line 33) are slightly over budget. All travel was for normal events, however both Dornink and Schwab attended a conference in Washington, DC and the expenses for that location were higher than in the past.

All undergraduate scholarship dollars have gone out (line 36), except \$2,000 in awards not being distributed due to a student that did not continue studying Agricultural Education. Two graduate scholarships were awarded (line 37). These are \$5,000 awards; they receive \$3,000 during their student teaching semester and the remaining \$2,000 when they sign a teaching contract. Both have qualified for the additional \$2,000 with one already paid out. The other has been submitted to accounting but has not shown up on the books yet. There were no spring Diversity scholarships awarded (line 38); the next application deadline is July 1. It was noted this is only half of the pot of funding for the Diversity scholarship as there is a donor who has matched the funding and those dollars are sitting in an account with the University of Minnesota Foundation. These dollars are encumbered and carry forward into future fiscal years.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (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, 2023 deadline (Round 25-2; lines 43-63) and notice of past due grant reports were sent in May.

All requests for the initial 75% payment from grants approved at the December board meeting have been received (Line 12 & 13; Round 26; lines 64-77). Dornink noted United South Central's 75% request has been submitted (line 77), however it has not shown up on the budget yet.

\$18,013.73 will be returned to or not requested for reimbursement from the MDA (line 79). Any dollars on that line since the December meeting are from grants that came in underbudget and they did not request the full total amount (Cleveland-line 31, LCWM-line 35, and SMSU-line 62). This also includes Blooming Prairie (line 67), however, since it was within the same fiscal year, those dollars were able to be spent in the spring round of grants. If at the end of the biennium there are any remaining dollars, they must be returned to the MDA to be put back into Minnesota's general fund.

A clarifying question was asked about the organizations receiving grants that are not high school AFNR programs. Dornink explained that agricultural literacy projects do qualify to apply, however they typically are partnering with a school or working to expose students to AFNR education.

FBM Budget

This budget includes funds for FBM Challenge Grants, FBM Additional Instructor grants, Mentor Program grants, and FBM evaluation. Dornink submitted a progress report in May to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in order to receive the third payment for the current biennium. The last payment will be received after submitting a final report by September 30.

Two payments, under Challenge Grants, have been paid out since December. Riverland has completed their report and invoice, which has also been submitted but it has not yet shown up on the account. Final reports for FBM Challenge Grants and the Targeted Additional Instructor grants are due July 7. Upon submission of the final reports, each college can request their final payments, however, the rest of these payments will appear in the next fiscal year. Final reports are also due from the four mentor programs by June 30. Upon receipt they can request their final 25% of funding.

Dahms moved to approve the financial report. Gaalswyk seconded. Motion prevailed.

Common Fund Grant Committee Report

Ovrebø provided a brief overview of the Common Fund applicants. There were four applicants with one recommended for funding. The Minnesota FFA Association was recommended for funding at \$20,000.

- **Minnesota FFA Association – Work-Based Learning & Leadership Development of Minnesota Agricultural Education; Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET) (\$20,000)**

Dr. Lavyne Rada, Executive Director of Minnesota FFA Association, provided an overview of the grant project. AET benefits students, teachers and AFNR through several resources, including a database for career exploration, a separate teacher login which provides for better data collection for the yearly supply and demand report, and has the ability to generate FFA State Degree applications, work-based learning portfolios at the end of class, proficiency awards, and much more. It also allows for tracking of student participation and analysis of who is showing up and who may not be so programs can determine how to better reach more students. AET is currently working to add Minnesota tests for students (ex: shop safety). Teachers can also enter and track their extended contracts online, which assists with the Minnesota Department of Education Summer Extended Contract Grant. Dr. Rada noted this is year four of a phase-in plan.

It was asked if there is any duplication from AET and other work-based learning (WBL) tracking systems that some Minnesota Perkins consortiums are utilizing. Dr. Rada is not aware of any duplication.

It was asked what this project looks like after this year four funding. Dr. Rada explained it is up to the Minnesota FFA Adult Board. She thanked the legislature for an increase in funding to the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO), which includes FFA. They have been considering adding a small increase to the FFA State Convention registration to help support AET and other options. They are aware it will be their responsibility to fully fund AET moving forward after this year.

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

Ovrebø moved to approve the Minnesota FFA Association project for \$20,000. Smith seconded. Motion prevailed unanimously.

Grant Committee Report

Williamson provided an overview of the 2022-2023 Strategic Initiatives grant winners (Round 26-2). There were 17 applicants requesting almost \$131,000. Eleven were recommended for funding, totaling \$86,477. The committee looked at each application's long-term plan, if they had been funded previously, and how well the project aligned with MAELC initiatives to select the best projects.

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

Grant Committee Authority to Announce Temporary Awards

Williamson moved to allow MAELC staff to send preliminary letters to grant applicants to notify them of their award status immediately following the grant committee meeting, with grant awards not being officially approved until voted upon at the next full MAELC board meeting. Olson seconded.

Williamson explained the committee meets in the spring; however, grants are not approved until the June board meeting. The current process includes sending emails to board members to ask for their approval for notification to allow schools to plan ahead, which delays the notification process.

Motion prevailed.

Scholarship Committee Report

Smith presented the 2023-2024 Undergraduate awardees. The previously awarded graduate scholarship recipients, presented at the December board meeting, both met the requirements to receive the additional \$2,000 scholarship. There was one application received in the Diversity scholarship category, however they did not meet the program criteria to even be considered for an interview. The Scholarship Committee discussed and approved opening eligibility to all undergraduate students for the Diversity scholarship, not just those entering year one or year two of the program. Gender was also discussed by the committee as a possible area to consider in the future. Eligibility on the application has been updated and shared with the Minnesota Agricultural Education Teacher Education programs. Dornink noted the scholarship program for 2023-2024 will be presented in September.

Presentations from Mentor Program Grant Recipients

Teacher Induction Program (TIP)

Dr. Amy Smith and Dr. Lavyne Rada, with the Minnesota Teacher Induction Program (TIP), provided an overview of the program and how it serves first-year agriculture teachers. TIP started in the 1999-2020 school year, supporting nearly 500 new agriculture teachers throughout the life of the program. They have a high retention percentage throughout its history.

TIP functions as a professional learning community for new AFNR education teachers and supports their development and success. In the past biennium, they have served 93 new teachers, supported by 13 instructional coaches and regional mentors, and engaged in 1,190 hours of professional development with 84 new teachers being retained in AFNR (90%). The program provides each new teacher with an instructional coach (a seasoned or retired AFNR educator) and a regional mentor, who are often the agriculture teacher in a nearby community. Teachers also receive monthly professional development.

Smith highlighted that MAELC's funding support primarily goes toward resources for new teachers, stipends for participation with in-person programming, and stipends and expenses for mentors. They were also able to provide the CASE AgX Course, which is a two-day professional development related to providing curriculum for an intro to agriculture middle school course. The number of participants in TIP has been steadily increasing over the past several years. They are also serving more Tier 1 and Tier 2 AFNR educators, who have not gone through a traditional teacher preparation program. New this next year, they will be offering two different kick-offs to tailor their programming to the various needs of agriculture teachers based on their previous training.

It was asked if there is any tracking as to why AFNR educators leave the classroom. Dr. Rada explained she typically knows where they are going and the story behind it, but they plan to start doing exit

interviews to better track that data. It was suggested they connect with PELSB, who have started to investigate why teachers are leaving the profession as well.

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

Resources for Professional Learning (RPL)

Dr. Lavyne Rada and Tom Appel, Executive Director of MAAE, presented about RPL on behalf of MAAE. MAAE supports the coordination for RPL, which was established to help high school agriculture teachers who are in need of the next level of support in their career. RPL professional development includes the DELTA conference, Collaborative Inquiry Groups, an Ideas and Innovation for Instruction (I3) retreat, Inquiry Institutes, a Multiple Person Program Retreat, and content-specific professional development (ex: meat-processing).

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

Postsecondary Instructor Mentoring (PIM)

Dr. TJ Brown, instructor at South Central College, and Kari Slinden, instructor at Ridgewater College, are the co-facilitators of the PIM program. PIM started in 2016 and focuses on supporting post-secondary agriculture, food and natural resources educators. Typically, they meet every other month and share challenges and opportunities, technology resources, classroom management strategies, discuss hands-on activities, and more. Many of these instructors have industry experience but do not necessarily have teaching experience.

PIM had an opportunity to partner with TIP for their November meeting where they discussed mental health for instructors, students and farm families. They also offered topics specific to post-secondary instructors during the MAAE Ag Tech Winter conference and have planned several workshops for the upcoming MAAE Summer Conference. During the AgTech conference they also host a Postsecondary Summit. Every other year they offer a Reverse College Fair where colleges and instructors provide information to secondary AFNR instructors about opportunities for their students to further their education in AFNR beyond high school.

AFNR post-secondary instructors are the smallest group in the MAAE membership. In the past, it was common for high school agriculture teachers to transition into post-secondary AFNR teachers. This is no longer the case – a majority are coming from industry and need more assistance and prompting to participate in MAAE. A challenge has been trying to help instructors feel included who may not originally view themselves as AFNR instructors (for example, Vet Tech instructors). This is a challenge, along with instructor and administration turn over, and not knowing who to contact at each college. The PIM program has been working hard to address these challenges.

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

Professional Excellence Program (PEP)

Betsy Jensen, Director of PEP, provided an overview of the program, which provides professional development for Farm Business Management (FBM) instructors in their first four years of employment. PEP meets at least four times per year, supporting teachers in designing their programs and focusing on the retention of instructors. FBM is seeing more new hires coming from industry (previously it was a majority of high school instructors transferring into FBM). During meetings, they bring in faculty and other guest speakers and spend time with the Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM) on topics like FINPACK and FBM/farmer-student data.

FY24/FY25 Biennium Legislative Funding Proposal

Dornink reminded the board she presented a plan at the December 2022 board meeting to go to the legislature and ask for an increase in funding for FBM and MAELC initiatives. Dornink provided an overview of the source of \$4.5 million in legislative funds received along with proposed components, which include support for Farm Business Management (FBM) Challenge Grants, FBM Instructor Capacity Building grants, Mentor Program grants, Challenge Grant program evaluation, and Professional Development:

- \$2,000,000 per year for FBM Challenge Grants
- \$140,000 total for FBM Instructor Capacity Building Grants
- \$125,000 per year for Mentor Programs
 - Teacher Induction Program (TIP) - \$70,000
 - Post-Secondary Instructors Mentor Program (PIM) - \$10,000
 - Professional Excellence Program (PEP) - \$45,000
- \$10,000 per year for Evaluation
- \$45,000 per year for Professional Development
 - Secondary - \$32,500
Professional development workshops and activities
 - Post-Secondary - \$5,000
Post-Secondary professional development conference
 - Farm Business Management - \$7,500
Farm Business Management professional development conference

Dornink provided an overview of each of the proposed areas of funding (see board packet for more information). She noted the professional development funds are a new component that MAELC has not set aside specific funds for in the past. This will provide stability to the three areas (secondary, post-secondary and FBM instructors), so they know each year what they can count on for continuing education and support. The Resources for Professional Learning (RPL) mentor program funding will be discontinued as other funding sources have been identified and utilized to serve a similar purpose for those secondary teachers.

MAELC Grant and Special Initiative Funding

Legislative language includes \$350,000 the first year and \$350,000 the second year for grants to the MAELC for programs of the council under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 41D. The base for this appropriation is \$250,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each year thereafter.

Dornink provided an overview of the proposed use of funds per year:

- \$300,000 - Common Fund and Strategic Initiative Grants
 - Additional funding for MAELC two grant programs: Common Fund (statewide) and Strategic Initiatives (local school districts and organizations)
- \$30,000 - Teach Ag Communications
 - Funding to cover a communications contract position to focus on the recruitment and retention of agriculture teachers. Minnesota continues to have a shortage of agriculture teachers due to high demand of new or expanding programs
 - Position will support the Teach Ag efforts, as well as general communication materials that can be utilized by MAELC staff to promote and expand agricultural education
- \$20,000 - Agricultural Education Internship Program
 - MAELC has hosted the Agricultural Education Internship Program for the past nine 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.

If any funds need to be reallocated, they will be utilized in the grant programs.

Pursell moved to approve the legislative funding proposal as presented. Anderson seconded.

Motion prevailed.

**Gaalswyk, Homans, Smith, Williamson, and Brockberg abstained.*

2023-2024 Budget Approval

Dornink reviewed the 2023-2024 Operating, MDA/Special Projects and FBM budgets.

Operating Budget

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 went down by \$1,000 in operating however CFANS covered staff salary increases. The student worker salary line item increased as the current worker will be student teaching in Spring 2024, so a second student will be hired to train in and to have more staff on hand to cover Schwab's maternity leave. The Executive Director's out-of-state travel line item was increased to better match the current cost of planned travel to conferences.

MDA/Special Project Budget

\$350,000 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 FY24/FY25 biennium. \$4,250,000 has been allocated based on approval at the beginning of the biennium (July 1, 2023).

Williamson moved to approve the 2023-2024 budget as presented with pending updates (previously approved under legislative funding). Olson seconded. Motion prevailed.

Legislative Update

AJ Duerr, lobbyist for MAAE, provided an update on agricultural education initiatives that were accomplished during the 2023 legislative session. Within the agriculture budget, MAELC grants increased by \$100,000 each year for this biennium and was carried by Rep. Tabke and Sen. Dahms. FBM Challenge grants also increased by \$250,000 each year, which is included in the base budget so it will continue beyond this biennium. There was also a large investment in agricultural education in urban areas.

In the education budget, there was an increase to the Minnesota FFA Association through Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO). There was a bill to increase the CTE levy from 35% to 50%, however it did not pass. Challenges included increased graduation standards, which can take away electives such as AFNR classes. New graduation standards were also approved; however, they did not take away from elective credits. There is a new personal finance graduation standard, which is still being figured out and may still fit under AFNR to offer. MAAE continues to monitor teacher licensure changes to make sure agriculture teachers can still get through Tier 1 and Tier 2.

In higher education, loan forgiveness for agriculture teachers received continued funding at \$50,000 per year, both to support future teachers and entice them into the education profession instead of business and industry. Sen. Putnam noted there is \$27 million in the Higher Education budget with half being for scholarships and half for infrastructure improvements for Minnesota State institutions.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Update

Bailey thanked legislators and everyone who worked on agriculture policy this past session. MDA utilized a portal for people to submit ideas, which was incorporated into building the MDA budget. This was new for the past year, and they continue to keep it open. The Emerging Farmer office received funding to hire two more people. The Emerging Farmers working group no longer has a sunset date, so their work can continue.

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

Executive Director Report

Dornink thanked everyone for attending the meeting, including a special thank you to Lisa Orren and Redwood Valley High School for hosting the meeting. The next meeting will be held virtually in September and an in-person meeting in December.

Dornink welcomed and thanked the legislators who have been appointed to MAELC, including Senators Putnam, Gustafson and Dahms, and Representatives Tabke, Pursell and Anderson. She also welcomed Pat Dingels, who is the Executive Director of the Redwood Area Development Corporation and Redwood Area Communities Fund and is representing the FFA Foundation. Finally, she thanked Christa Williamson for her service to the board as this will be her last meeting as she steps down in July as the MAAE President. Nikki Flaaen, an agriculture teacher who is moving from Lake City to Zumbrota-Mazeppa High School, will replace Williamson once Flaaen becomes MAAE President-Elect.

Highlights since the December board meeting include Dornink and Schwab attending the MAAE Ag Tech Conference and having a booth at the Minnesota School Board Association conference where Shelli Sowles from the Minnesota Department of Education and Dornink put on roundtable presentations about “Back to the Basics: Lessons for Successful Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Education Programs.” Dornink also presented to the agriculture teachers in the Teacher Induction Program (TIP) about finding funding for their programs and provided an overview of MAELC to the University of Minnesota-Crookston student teachers. In addition, over the past months MAELC staff have attended numerous committee meetings where they serve as members including AgCentric, Southern Agriculture Center of Excellence, Southwest Minnesota State University, Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership, Minnesota Ag in the Classroom, Elevate Teaching, MN Ag Talent & Workforce Coalition, U of MN Extension Plant Science committee, and helping with the FBM 70th Anniversary event.

MAELC was very involved with FFA activities during the legislative session. MAELC coordinated with MAAE to co-host an inaugural AFNR Education Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 2. The 42 individuals registered from all sectors of AFNR education connected with 75 individual legislators throughout the day in various formats. MAELC also facilitated the FFA Ag Policy Experience (APEX) and FFA Day at the Capitol, February 26-28. At APEX, 52 students participated and were joined by additional members for over 200 individuals attending FFA Day at the Capitol. Dornink had the opportunity to testify in both the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development Committee about MAELC’s funding and the legislative bills discussed earlier in the meeting. Dornink thanked Senator Putnam for hosting a separate informational hearing in the Agriculture Committee where she testified about the status of Agricultural Education in the state. The

Omnibus Agriculture bill passed and was signed by the Governor, which included MAELC funding. She recognized and thanked the MAELC legislators and AJ Duerr who helped shepherd all the agricultural education items through committees and into law.

MAELC was also very involved with other FFA activities outside of APEX and FFA Day at the Capitol. Staff coordinated the Minnesota team for the National FFA Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) State Collaborative (one of ten states selected). Minnesota received a small grant to implement an EDI plan and chose to focus on the 2023 FFA State Convention in three areas: Special Education, Experience & Belonging, and Socio-Economic Access. During the state convention MAELC also brought greetings to members and helped coordinate the Teach Ag booth and signing event, which recognized 25 high school seniors who have committed to study agricultural education. Recently, Dornink chaired the FFA Executive Director Search Committee and Schwab is currently on the Leadership Development Coordinator Search Committee. Finally, Dornink has been part of the 4-H & FFA Ag Academy planning committee, which was held last week at Ridgewater College and focused on careers in AFNR.

Schwab shared that she is expecting a baby in October 2023. Dornink and Schwab have started making plans for her maternity leave and will utilize two student workers along with Dornink to cover Schwab's responsibilities.

The MAELC offices will be moving upstairs from the current location (moving from 146 Ruttan to 218 Ruttan), getting settled in July.

Blueprint Update

Reporting on Year 5 goals was completed in December. Dornink and Schwab met recently to complete a status update of those strategies that were not originally selected and started sketching out a strategy for creating the next Blueprint, with a plan to complete listening sessions in Summer 2024. Besides planning, staff hope to use the next year to continue to implement and track strategies and looking back through all the strategies to report on the progress made since the beginning.

State Teach Ag Results (STAR) Update

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" gifts 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 31 future agriculture teachers from three neighboring institutions. A "Teach Ag" workshop was held in March in Staples, as well as two workshops offered at the FFA State Convention.

The Agricultural Education internship program is in its ninth year and is up and running; four 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" Teach Ag Minnesota's social media pages where one intern each week posts about their experience as an intern and student in Agricultural Education.

Dornink thanked Schwab and the Teach Ag Intern, Karli Knopf, for their work keeping up the Teach Ag Minnesota website and social media, attending events, and sending messages to Minnesota's database of potential future teachers.

Team AgEd Update

MAELC recently started permanently facilitating Minnesota's Team AgEd group. The first in-person meeting was hosted by MAELC on March 30, 2023 at the University of Minnesota. For the last year, the main focus has been on three priority areas, including: Teacher Recruitment & Retention, Work-Based Learning & Internship, and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion. During the most recent meeting, attendees split into working groups within these categories and selected one goal to address in the next 12-18 months. They then developed two-to-three action steps to help accomplish the selected goal.

Priority Area: Teacher Recruitment & Retention

Goal: Develop a systematic process to aid Tier 1, Tier 2 and out-of-field permission AFNR teachers in meeting PELSB licensure requirements.

Priority Area: Work-Based Learning & Internship

Goal: Create a video series focused on AFNR careers, highlighting the educational and employment path, both traditional and non-traditional, that individuals took to get into their career (ex. careers in veterinary technology, agronomy and mechatronics).

Priority Area: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Goal: Expand and grow Minnesota AFNR instructor's competency around equity, diversity & inclusion through assessment and professional development.

Each group has been working on their action steps and will provide an update at the next Team Ag Ed meeting, held virtually July 25, 2023 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Minnesota State & Farm Business Management (FBM) Update

Gaalswyk noted the Minnesota State Chancellor is retiring. Scott Olson has been named as the replacement, starting in the role on August 1, 2023.

Minnesota Farm Business Management is celebrating 70 years! An overview of accomplishments and history were provided in a brochure, included in the board packet. The FBM 70th anniversary celebration will be held September 11, 2023 in St. Cloud.

Duerr offered to facilitate a tour or ride-along with an FBM instructor for any MAELC board members.
**See handouts for more information (included in board packet).*

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

Dr. Homans provided an update about the University of Minnesota and CFANS. The Future of Advanced Agricultural Research in Minnesota (FARRM) initiative continues to move forward with land now purchased in Mower County; the University appreciates the legislative support.

The Minnesota Youth Institute was held in May, with students presenting research around food security. Every student who participated received a \$1,000 CFANS scholarship to encourage them to study AFNR after high school.

University Agricultural Education Updates

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Dr. Smith provided an update about the Agricultural Education program at the UMN-Twin Cities and referenced highlights listed on the handout. The professional studies master has been re-established, with a communication component being added. Smith encouraged promotion of the master's program among extension educators and current teachers. The next Ag Ed Connectors Coffee Chat will be held August 15 from 12:00-1:00 pm.

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

Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU)

Dr. Kovar provided an update about the Agricultural Education program at SMSU. Pre-covid, they had 100 students in the School of Agriculture, however they now have about 50. There is a definite struggle to get students into higher education. SMSU will be adding a minor in Animal Science starting Fall 2023. The Agricultural Education major has no student teachers for Fall 2023 and likely two in Spring 2024. The School of Agriculture recently completed a strategic planning session thanks to a MAELC grant. Dr. Kovar is completing her sabbatical with some programmatic updates and adding work-based learning (WBL) certification into their Agricultural Education curriculum.

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

University of Minnesota-Crookston (UMC)

**No written report was available.*

Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) Update

Williamson provided an update about MAAE. The summer conference will be held July 10-13, 2023 at Treasure Island in Red Wing. She highlighted the 59 FBM members under the listed membership numbers noting it is the highest percent of involvement among the various levels/types of instructors.

MAAE's concerns include the restructuring of Minnesota FFA/staffing as it has taken a long time to implement, continuing to work to foster a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education, and continued fast growth in secondary AFNR. There are currently 40 open positions of schools looking for AFNR teachers, with some being single person departments. Williamson also noted she is concerned about loss of identity in agricultural education, especially related to expanding to fit into other graduation standard areas. It is essential agricultural education does not get too far away from its roots to fit other needs like science, math, etc.

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

Other Business/Announcements

The next board meeting will be held virtually in September 2023. Upcoming dates of events and activities were highlighted (included on the back of agenda).

Sen. Putnam adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.