

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

MAELC Board Meeting September 22, 2022 Zoom Virtual Meeting

The September 22, 2022 MAELC board meeting was called to order by Sen. Dahms at 1:03 p.m.

Members Present:

Rep. Paul Anderson, Patrice Bailey, Lindsey Brockberg, Brian Buhr, Sen. Gary Dahms, Terry Gaalswyk, Michelle Kamenov, Steve Olson, Chris Ovrebo, Amy Smith, 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, Kari Schwab, and Kelsey Biel (student-worker)

Guests:

Winona Anderson (MN Farmers Union), Phil Arellano (MN State), Stephanie LeDuc (NCTC), Keith Olander (AgCentric), Lavyne Rada (MN FFA/TIP), Dr. Laura Rice (UMN Ag Ed), Dr. Megan Roberts (Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence), Dr. Zane Sheehan (MDE), Amanda Sommers (MN FFA Foundation), Ann Marie Ward (MAITC)

Welcome

Dornink welcomed everyone to the virtual MAELC board meeting and provided a few, general zoom-meeting tips.

Approval of Agenda

Olson moved to approve the agenda. Ovrebo seconded. Motion prevailed.

Approval of Minutes

Smith moved to approve the minutes. Gaalswyk seconded. Motion prevailed.

Financial Report

Dornink provided an overview of the three budgets.

Operating Budget

Kelsey Biel, a junior in Agricultural Education has again been hired to serve as the MAELC student worker; her salary will start coming out of the budget this month (line 6). Karli Knopf, a junior in Agricultural Education, will continue to serve as the Teach Ag Communications Intern. These dollars come out of the STAR grant, which is not shown on this budget. Most expenses have been incurred from the June board meeting, with a few yet to show up in the accounting system (lines 7 & 8). All Minnesota agriculture teachers received a Teach Ag branded notepad, along with Tagged to Teach Ag stickers as part of National Teach Ag Day celebrations (line 16). Under advertising (line 20) is an article submission for the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) magazine about credit equivalency and the strategic working group MAELC has been leading. Undergraduate scholarships (line 36) have been paid out with half going out this fall and half being paid in January. One student determined not to pursue Agricultural Education, so their scholarship has been withheld. The payments to the UMN-Crookston's financial aid office will be going out soon. Diversity scholarships (line 38) have been paid to three individuals, and one more is waiting to be sent out. These are also split between the semesters, with the other half of their scholarship coming out of the donor account. Unique this year, a \$500 donation was received from AgriBank for scholarships through an employee program where individuals can direct investments to their area of choice; this will be available to award for the 2023-2024 scholarship program. Finally, the budget for the 2022 Agricultural Education Internship program has been finalized, however one payment for \$250 has not yet gone out (line 39). Dornink noted there is \$8,660.50 in carryover funds (line 43), which will be addressed later in the meeting.

MDA/Special Project Budget

Contracts were sent out for the grants approved during the June meeting, and all paperwork has been returned and submitted to accounting (lines 9-10, 41-60). The Isle Public Schools grant from Round 24 (line 14) was underspent and the Crookston High School grant from Round 24-2 was terminated due to a new instructor taking that position and not wanting to pursue the project (line 19). These underspent/returned funds will be sent back to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (line 62), and eventually returned to the General Fund. The \$250,000 for 2022-2023 grants (line 61) will be split between two grant rounds in November 2022 and April 2023 for both the Common Fund and Strategic Initiative grant programs. Dornink will be submitting the next round of paperwork to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by September 30 to receive reimbursement for the grant funds already disbursed.

FBM Budget

All colleges submitted their progress reports in July for the FBM Challenge Grants and received their second payment. Central Lakes College submitted their FBM Targeted Additional Instructor grant progress reports for Urban and Specialty Crops, however, no payments are made at this time due to how the program is structured. Final reports and invoices have been received for the remaining 25% payment from all the mentor programs for FY22. Applications and invoices are being collected for the next round of mentor program grants. The second of three payments went out to Doris Mold, the evaluation specialist (line 23). Mold will receive the last payment upon the completion of the final report in 2023. Dornink completed the required paperwork from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on July 1, however the next payment of \$994,583.34 has yet to be received. A third payment will be distributed upon receipt of a progress report due by May 1, 2023.

Williamson moved to approve the financial report. Ovrebo seconded. Motion prevailed.

FY22 Carryover

Dornink provided an overview of the proposed budget carryover use, which totals \$8,660.50. The proposal includes allocating \$791.93 to the 2022 Agricultural Education Internship line item, which was overbudget, \$5,000 for the Diversity Scholarship program, and \$2,868.57 for the 2023 Agricultural Education Internship.

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

Gaalswyk moved to approve carryover proposal as presented. Velde seconded. Motion prevailed.

Executive Director Report

Dornink thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded them that the September board meeting will be virtual moving forward, with December and June being in-person. Dornink welcomed Lindsey Brockberg to the board, who will be replacing Jessica Daberkow from the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators. Dr. Amy Smith, an Associate Professor of Agricultural Education at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, is also new to the board. She is replacing Dr. Kristin Kovar from SMSU as the agricultural education-teacher preparation representative.

On behalf of MAELC, a thank you note along with a “Teach Ag” notepad and four stickers and postcards to “tag” a future teacher were sent to every secondary agriculture teacher in the state as part of National Teach Ag Day celebrations. In the mailing, AgCentric also included a pathways to teaching AgEd in Minnesota poster. Governor Walz officially declared it “Teach Ag Day in Minnesota” and a proclamation was received from his office. Almost 40 nominations were submitted for the “Nominate a Future Agriculture Teacher” contest; five winners will receive a “Tagged to Teach AG” kit.

A few highlights since the last board meeting include several virtual and in-person meetings, including attending the MAAE Summer Conference and presenting a grant writing workshop, facilitating a Team AgEd meeting, providing sponsor remarks at the Minnesota Ag in the Classroom Annual Meeting, training the Minnesota FFA State Officers about MAELC and AgEd key messaging, attending Farmfest and the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership picnic, and presenting at the Farm Business Management Fall Professional Development Conference. In addition, both Dornink and Schwab attended the Elevate Teaching Network kick-off, with Schwab serving on the “Teacher Recruitment & Marketing/Elevate Teaching Advisory Council.” This is a short-term legislative project that is focused on all areas of teacher recruitment.

MAELC coordinates the recruitment and retention strategies with the State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program; the committee recently met and began planning the 2023 strategies. The 2022 Agricultural Education Internship program has been completed with six interns placed across the state. Applications will be posted soon for both students and hosting locations. Dornink is currently waiting to hear back from several sponsorship proposals, reminding the board that one large sponsor has changed their giving structure and no longer can support the internship program. Work continues with the Farm Business Management Challenge Grants and Additional Instructor grants. An FBM Instructor survey is in progress, and the next project is focused on evaluating the value of the database.

Upcoming events include attending the National FFA Convention, National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE), and the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council annual meeting.

As part of MAELC's 25th anniversary, Dornink reported that she and Schwab are working on a small history project to capture video and written testimony from key individuals connected to MAELC. Two past executive directors, Dr. Pat Plonski and Julie Tesch, have already been interviewed.

Blueprint Update

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

It was asked what comes next for the Blueprint after "Year 5." Dornink explained "Year 5" is an internal term with strategies being set in Year 1, Year 3, and Year 5 through 2023. In 2024, the current Blueprint will be reported on, then listening sessions will be conducted with a new five-year plan being created to be ready by 2025.

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

Scholarship Committee Report

Smith provided an overview of the three 2022-2023 scholarship programs. No significant changes were made to any of the scholarship programs or application materials.

Smith moved to approve applications as presented. Ovrebo seconded. Motion prevailed.

Grant Committee Report

Williamson provided an overview of both the 2022-2023 Common Fund grant application and the Strategic Initiatives grant application.

Williamson moved to approve the Common Fund and Strategic Initiatives grant applications as presented. Velde seconded. Motion prevailed.

Grant Program Impact Presentation

Schwab presented a "MAELC Program Grant Impact Update," detailing the data collected through grant final reports from Round 23-2 (FY20), Round 24 (FY21), and FY2021 Common Fund projects (both rounds). The data evaluation period was chosen from the two most recent grant deadlines for final reporting. Thirty-four reports were analyzed totaling \$320,962 in awarded funds. The largest category of funded grant projects is for Classroom Equipment (53%), followed by Greenhouse/Garden (17%) and Agricultural Literacy (9%). Direct grant impact total 83,704 people, with the highest category being almost evenly split between Elementary Students (K-6) and Middle/High School students. Indirectly, 67,751 people have been impacted (those impacted by project but not directly participating), with the highest category being Middle/High School Students. All final report data is all self-reported by the grant recipient.

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

Minnesota Department of Education – FFA & School-Based Agricultural Education Update

Dr. Zane Sheehan, Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource (AFNR) State Supervisor-Minnesota Department of Education, and Lavyne Rada, Minnesota AFNR Teacher Induction Program/Career and Technical Education Teacher Induction Program leader, presented about Minnesota AFNR education and its programs. Eighty-four AFNR programs (39%) have had changes in staffing for the 2022-2023 school year; 74 have been filled with 19 positions currently unfilled, including seven programs with no agriculture teachers. It was strongly stressed this is due to higher demand, not people leaving the profession. AFNR continues to grow in Minnesota with over 220 programs and approximately 326 AFNR teachers. There are more male than female students in AFNR programs and students tend to be mostly white, however programs are working hard to diversify the students they serve.

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

Minnesota Team AgEd Update

Dornink provided an update on Minnesota Team AgEd; MAELC has agreed to serve as the permanent facilitator of the group. The group is focusing in three main areas: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Teacher Recruitment and Retention; and Work-Based Learning (WBL).

Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Dr. Sheehan spoke to statewide work-based learning/Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE's), which falls under the WBL focus area. 64% of Minnesota AFNR programs are using the Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET) for WBL/SAE; 100% are using AET for social-emotional learning and FFA.

Statewide Equity and Inclusion

Dornink explained Minnesota will be one of ten states participating in a National FFA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) collaborative. Each state will receive \$5,000 to strengthen EDI work across FFA programming. At the same time, Minnesota will be starting an Inclusion Council for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, which came out of recommendations from the "AgEd for All" initiative as part of STAR.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

The focus is around exploring, becoming, growing, and thriving in agricultural education. This includes teachagmn.org and the Minnesota Teach Ag social media accounts; STAR; mentorship programs (Teacher Induction Program, Resources for Professional Learning, Post-secondary Instructor Mentoring, and Professional Excellence Program); and the Career and Technical Education TIP.

It was asked if there was any tracking done for students with disabilities, since AFNR has so many hands-on opportunities and, if so, how those are being addressed. Kamenov explained that some of that information is collected through Perkins data, with Work-Based Learning having the best data on students with disabilities. More students with disabilities are participating in WBL than in other areas; these are often related to transition programs (ages 18-21).

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

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Update

Bailey provided an update on MDA initiatives. Drought relief payments have all gone out in a short amount of time. MDA utilized a legislative portal for the general public to submit ideas for policy or funding recommendations going into the 2023 legislative session. They received 381 submissions from various groups and individuals that are being reviewed, with ideas eventually being submitted to the Governor for his proposed budget. High-path avian influenza is still an issue, especially entering the migratory fall season. MDA is offering a new down payment assistance programming for emerging farmers, with applications available in mid-October. Recently the MDA was awarded \$3.5 million for farm to school grants from USDA, essentially doubling the farm to school funding from the previous year. Dornink noted that MAELC submitted a proposal through the MDA legislative portal to increase the grants and special projects funding and mentioned that Keith Olander with AgCentric put in a proposal to increase funding for FBM scholarships.

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

Minnesota State & Farm Business Management (FBM) Update

Gaalswyk highlighted a few pieces from their report, including the work being done to support high school teachers and work in conjunction with the Midwest Council for Agriculture. FBM continues its work in supporting faculty and its student farmers.

For the Minnesota State system, enrollment challenges remain, as it does for all higher education, although it is not as significant as it was over the past two years. Nationally, there are 1.4 million fewer students in higher education than two years ago (pre-covid). Enrollment is strong and stabilized at highly selective private or land grant universities but not at the smaller and two-year technical colleges. Students coming from lower social-economic backgrounds are not participating at the same rates post-pandemic. Themes in regard to the growth fall in career and technical education, such as vocational trades, powerline programs, and diesel technology.

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

University of Minnesota – College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) Update

Buhr provided a brief overview of the handout included in the packet. Enrollment is strong and they are seeing increases since COVID. CFANS has approximately 1,800 students enrolled, which is higher than last year and includes 370 freshmen and 190 new transfer students. They have invested in additional Greater Minnesota recruiters. The Land Grant Legacy scholarship continues; it was originally launched in 2017. There are 21 incoming freshman recipients, with a total of 78 in the cohort (freshmen through senior). Each receives \$20,000 over their four years of school. Cargill Thrive Scholars is a new program and offered in collaboration with the Carlson School of Management and the College of Science and Engineering, with a goal of providing more equitable access for BIPOC students. CFANS has also had some leadership transitions including three new interim associate deans.

University Agricultural Education Updates

Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU)

SMSU submitted a written report.

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

University of Minnesota-Crookston (UMC)

No written report was available.

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Smith explained they have hired a new professor in the Agricultural Education Department - Dr. Laura Rice. They also have a new interim department head, Dr. Terry Hurley, as the former department head is now an interim dean with CFANS. They will be hiring a program and project specialist, however this role will not have any recruiting duties. At this point, there is not a plan to hire a new recruiter and they are exploring other solutions and opportunities to support recruitment as it is a priority effort. A new undergraduate minor called "Ag and Food Education" will be offered through the department. It is a four-course sequence for students interested in becoming better educators but are not interested in teacher licensure. There will be three student-teacher candidates in Spring 2023.

It was asked what ideas they had to support recruitment without a hired person. Smith explained that unfortunately funding does not go as far as it used to and no longer fully supports a replacement for that position. Smith is hoping in the short-term to leverage students and alumni to be ambassadors as well as CFANS admissions staff and Greater Minnesota recruiters to strategically collaborate for agricultural education recruitment.

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

Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) Update

Williamson provided an update about MAAE. There are 368 active members and 35 student members (based on May 2022); 111 have five years or less of experience. They are working on continuing to grow their relationship between secondary instructors and post-secondary instructors/institutions and increasing post-secondary membership levels.

MAAE's major concerns are the growth in agricultural education/teacher shortage, resources for Tier 1 and Tier 2 instructors, updating post-secondary facilities and equipment to industry standards, scholarships and funding for FBM programs, and funding growing programs.

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

Other Business/Announcements

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

Sen. Dahms adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.