

Conference Call Meeting Minutes

1.21.2020

**Present:**

*Megan Laudenschlager\* - StrengthenND*

*Karen Ehrens\* – Creating a Hunger Free ND*

*Jill Haakenson - USDA-RD*

*Holiday VanSciver - USDA-RD*

*Fayme Henry - St. Joseph* Social Care

*Keith Knudson\* – Dakota College at Bottineau*

*Petra OneHawk Harmon – Nutrition for the Elderly/Caregiver Support, Standing Rock*

*Holly Mawby – NDFMGA, Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture at Dakota College at Bottineau*

*Jamie Good – ND Department of Agriculture*

*Molly McLain\* - ND Farmers Union*

*Craig Burns - UND Department of Social Work*

*Stephanie Blumhagen\* - FARRMS*

*\*Board of Directors*

**II. Welcome & Introductions**

* 1. Laudenschlager opened the call. Ehrens led those in attendance through introductions on the conference call.

**II. Additions to the Agenda & Approval**

A. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

1. **Minutes**
   1. It wasmoved and seconded to approve the December 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried.
2. **Elections**

To expedite the forward movement of the Alliance, actions were taken to add an additional member to the Board of Directors and to elect a slate of officers during this call of the full Alliance. However, it was pointed out that this was not following the bylaws that were approved December 21, 2017. It was requested that a separate meeting of the Board of Directors be called to conduct this business.

NOTE - Additions to meeting minutes:

From the Bylaws (included in meeting summary materials): “The corporation shall initially have five (5) directors and collectively they shall be known as the Board of Directors. The number of directors may be increased by a majority vote of the Board of Directors to a maximum of 7.”

From the NDLFDA document, Minutes of February 8, 2018, Board of Directors:

“The following were listed at BOD members:

1. Megan Laudenschlager

2. Keith Knudson

3. Molly or other representation from NDFU

4. Karen Ehrens

5. Jessica Petrick

6. Stephanie Blumhagen

7. Ellen Knudsen

8. Petra One Hawk and Ruth Buffalo, *although not present, had indicated in the*

*past that they would be interested in serving.”*

1. **Member Organization Reports & Aspirations for 2020**
   1. Jamie Good| ND Department of Agriculture

“Cultivate” is the theme of the 16th annual North Dakota Farmers Market & Growers Association (NDFMGA) & Local Foods Conference, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28 and 29, at the Baymont Inn, 2611 Old Red Trail, Mandan, N.D. The conference is sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the ND Farmers Market and Growers Association. This year’s conference includes in-depth sessions on marketing, as well as production practices and business development. Agenda and registration available at:

<https://www.nd.gov/ndda/events/2020-ndfmga-local-foods-conference>

* 1. Stephanie Blumhagen | Executive Director, FARRMS

Stephanie at FARRMS has a fair amount of experience with Local Food Promotion Program and Farmers Market Promotion Program grants and is happy to provide input (and of course letters of support) for anyone working on these grants.

FARRMS will be applying for quite a few of the USDA grants listed and several not listed. Grant funders like to see community coordination and collaboration. Stephanie is always open to conversations about how we can work together. FARRMS is recruiting farmers and farmers markets. Most opportunities (except intern hosts) include a stipend for time and travel.

· Partner Farms share their expertise in many ways including hosting interns or mentorship. Apply here: http://bit.ly/FARRMSPartner

· We’re seeking six farmers markets who want to grow! Farmers markets will host an intern who will conduct a marketing and outreach campaign to grow the farmers market. Apply here: http://bit.ly/FARRMS\_farmersmarket

FARRMS is focusing on marketing to grow farm businesses and new opportunities in value-added production. We will be holding focus groups to identify farmers’ needs in these areas and also turning to our partners at NDLFDA for input on how we can best help farmers and ranchers grow.

FARRMS Aspirations for 2020

2020 is FARRMS’ 20th birthday so we aspire to 2020 vision, looking back 20 years at where we’ve come from and setting a vision that will carry us through 20 more years. FARRMS has set a fundraising goal of $202,020, and is conducting outreach to raise awareness among farmers that FARRMS exists and is here to help.

· Marketing and outreach to the public to elevate farmers’ stories and raise awareness that fresh local food is available in ND.

· Continue to offer Farm Beginnings, farm tours, workshops and other education.

· Grow our new one on one mentorship and peer networking/support programs (more farmer socials).

· Continue to offer internships on farms and at farmers markets. Find ways to increase funding so we can offer more internships.

· Continue to offer grants and loans.

* 1. Fayme Henry|Grand Forks Homes, Grand Forks

Fayme is working through GF Homes as Homeless Families with Children Case Manager. Is working on development of a collaborative (public health, farmers market, extension, et al) to produce/fund a local food systems needs assessment, and towards growth of a food policy council /agritourism / urban ag collective (like Fargo’s Metro Food Plan/MN Food Charter/Cass Clay Food Commission) as well as meeting to discuss Rx produce boxes through local community health clinic. Encouraging the remains of our food co-op to explore development of a local/regional food hub, along with exploration of any “Farm-to-“ Initiatives. Friendship Gardens and Community Orchard has been awarded another small grant that should provide some national reach from Rob Greenfield/Live Like Ally, an organization that has granted 10 organizations $400 towards fruit/food trees that will be publicly accessible and listed on fallingfruit.org. She was also accepted into the NDSU Rural Leadership Development Program.

* 1. Petra OneHawk Harmon|

Organizations of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe are planning a community shared- use kitchen. More details to be shared at a later time.

* 1. Jill Haakenson | USDA-RD

*Report shared December 2019:*

Four USDA agencies; Natural Resources Conservation Service, Risk Management Agency, Farm Service Agency and Rural Development are jointly working on a Beginning Farmer Rancher initiative to develop resources for outreach to beginning producers.  Each state has designated a State BFR Coordinator to lead the state team consisting of State BFR Champions from the other agencies.  Jill Haakenson has been selected to serve as North Dakota Beginning Farmer Rancher Coordinator.