

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
PA State Council of Farm Organizations
Harrisburg, PA
November 21, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by President Huber at 1:06 p.m.

Fred Brown and Vince Phillips were introduced as PSCFO's association management team. Each stressed their background in agriculture and how they were honored to be able to help PSCFO achieve its goals.

Minutes were reviewed and were approved by the Council.

Treasurer's report was reviewed and after a minor correction, received by the Council. Checking balance is \$17,069.

President Huber recognized the value of PSCFO hiring F. C. Brown & Associates (hereinafter referred to as contract staff) and that she was glad to see contract staff take over association management duties. She mentioned that contract staff was charged with developing new sources of revenue and that it would be instrumental in improving the reputation and value of PSCFA to the agricultural community and to legislators. She also passed around a sympathy card for Beverly Gruber on the loss of her husband.

Committee Reports

- *Consultant Services*: The committee was dissolved since the search was completed with the hiring of F. C. Brown & Associates.
- *Revenue*: The Council was informed of the Board's decision to increase dues from \$100 to \$150 and to continue to provide two Cornucopia tickets. Contract staff will sell ads on the PSCFO web site and will go after grant opportunities. Given the dues increase, PSCFO must see what we can offer more in return for dues in order to "have a more vibrant and useful Council". (B. Huber)
- *Farm Show*: The 2012 Farm Show will have a large new exhibit put together by the Alliance for Livestock Care and Well-Being and supported by Penn Ag Industries and others. (C. B. Blakeslee)
- *Yellow Book* is worthwhile to continue but is too late for this Budget Cycle. Active work should accelerate in summer 2012 for the next FY with PSCFO meeting with PDA this December about the Budget for FY 2012-13.
- *Bylaws* need to be examined and updated. For example, the words "active" and "regular" both describe the same class of members; the amendment process needs to be clarified; there needs to be a provision for conference calls and e-notices. The Bylaws Committee should also take up developing an Antitrust Statement to be read at the start of each meeting.
- *Cornucopia* will take place February 7, 2012, in the East Wing Rotunda, its traditional locale. Location for the Council meeting is shaping up to be a problem but there are back-up options available. Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the

Reception will take place at 4:30-6:30. It must be self supporting in 2012 since PSCFO lost \$2700 in 2011. Contract staff is charged with reducing costs and increasing sponsorships. Volunteers for this committee are K. Hetherington, C. Newton, Farm Bureau. A suggestion was made to arrange for shuttle service between PDA and the Capitol to help out of town attendees get to the Cornucopia.

- *Membership:* No report
- *Audit:* The successful audit was noted in the September 19 minutes.
- *Nominating:* Officers and those elected in 2009 are up in 2012 – S. Connelly, R. Diebold, C. Herr. Volunteering to serve on the committee are G. Robertson, B. Leiby, and K. Pautler.
- *Communications:* (G. Robertson) Major changes on the website will be forthcoming following conversation between the committee and contract staff. Agreed to by consensus is elimination of the listing of non-members on the web site required under terms of a former PDA grant and selling advertising space on the web site as a source of non-dues revenue. NOTE: Listing of non-member groups will still be included in the Agricultural Directory.

Old Business

The anti-trust statement mentioned in the minutes will be taken up by the Bylaws Committee.

New Business

- Contract staff presented the inaugural edition of AG ONE Newsletter as an attempt to provide more value from PSCFO to members and prospective members. (V. Phillips)
- Announcements:
 - Professional Crop Producers Conference will be held in Lancaster February 22-23 with a special emphasis on how Agriculture can give its message more effectively.
 - Farm Show: January 12 is an 11:00 a.m. Legislative Brunch, opening reception is Thursday in the VIP Room, Friday is Taste of the Farm Show from 4-9. PCN continues its replay of the 2011 Farm Show on cable this week.

Dates for 2012 meetings are February 7, June 18, September 24 (moved from the original Sept. 17) and November 19.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Speaker was **Steve Taglang, Environmental Program Manager, Office of Water Management, Bureau of Watershed Management, PA Department of Environmental Protection.** *Synopsis of Program:* Steve discussed a range of agricultural compliance issues including Chesapeake Bay issues. He also presented DEP rules on concentrated animal feeding operations and the regulation of digesters.

Respectfully submitted, Vince Phillips