

PENNSYLVANIA APPLE PROGRAM BOARD MEETING
Minutes of the February 1, 2022
Mid-Atlantic Convention

Public notice of the February 1, 2022 Pennsylvania Apple Program Board Meeting was given as stipulated by the Sunshine Law.

CALL TO ORDER

David Peters, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m. Board members in attendance included Ellie Vranich, Treasurer; Thomas Haas; Mark Boyer; Carolyn McQuiston; and Gary Faulkner.

Also present: Patrick Andrews, Chief of Marketing Development, PDA; Char Riley, Liaison, PDA and ACMA Boards; Laura England, Director, Bureau of Market Development; Lindsay Young, Senior Manager, McKonly and Asbury, CPAs; Holly Zarefoss, Clerk 2 (via telephone); and Adam Morris, Esquire, Assistant Chief Counsel, Legal Department (via telephone).

Destiny Zeiders, Executive Director, PA House of Representatives, was also present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2022.1-APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Presented by: Mark Boyer

Seconded by: Carolyn McQuiston

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the November 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

REVIEW FINANCIALS

Lindsay Young, McKonly and Asbury, CPAs presented financial information. Board members were referred to the Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison, Profit and Loss Comparison, and Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual Reports for further discussion. She thanked Ellie Vranich for her help this past week in regaining access online.

RESOLUTION 2022.2-APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Presented by: Ellie Vranich

Seconded by: Thomas Haas

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Financials as presented.

ASSESSMENTS/AUDITS

Holly Zarefoss, Clerk 2, provided the Apple Assessment Report as of 12/31/2021. Ms. Zarefoss stated she had mailed the first and second quarter assessment forms to all members. She stated the sales agent letters would be mailed, and once received, she would compare and audit the producers for 2020. Ms. Zarefoss noted 32 out of 52 have not responded.

She stated the 2016 through 2021 bushel reports would be compared with regard to fresh bushels and processing bushels for each year. Ms. Zarefoss reported on delinquent accounts in the amount of \$14,419.74. Ms. Zarefoss noted January amounts were not included.

There was further discussion regarding delinquent accounts, the market and apple production

RESOLUTION 2022.3-APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENT REPORT

Presented by: Ellie Vranich

Seconded by: Carolyn McQuiston

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Assessment Report as presented.

APPROVAL - GUNN MOWERY INSURANCE

Ms. Riley requested approval to pay the 12/22/21-12/22/22 annual insurance premium.

RESOLUTION 2022.4-APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INSURANCE PREMIUM

Presented by: Ellie Vranich

Seconded by: Thomas Haas

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the payment of liability insurance in the amount of \$886 to Gunn Mowery Insurance.

APPROVAL - U.S. APPLE INVOICE

RESOLUTION 2022.5-APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF U.S. APPLE INVOICE

Presented by: Thomas Haas

Seconded by: Ellie Vranich

There was discussion regarding the invoice based on a five-year average. Mr. Andrews suggested that the USDA person who determines the numbers should attend the next meeting in July. It was suggested that a letter be attached to the invoice indicating the PA Board's intentions including bushel assessments for the 2022 invoice.

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the payment of \$103,157 to U.S. Apple for the 2020-2021 State Crop Assessment.

(Whereupon, a break was taken from 9:13 a.m. until 9:20 a.m.)

SHAP FUNDED PROJECTS

There was discussion regarding the 2021 SHAP funded projects. Chairman Peters stated these projects have been presented but that the committee would meet tomorrow to vote on those approved and would then hear a full presentation of the projects.

There was discussion regarding the fact that PA is behind in learning how to store new fruit varieties. It was noted the Pennsylvania Farm Show numbers were more than anticipated.

RESOLUTION 2022.6-APPROVAL OF 2022 SHAP FUNDING

Presented by: Mark Boyer

Seconded by: Thomas Haas

There was discussion regarding the referendum and the placement of an ad in Lancaster Farming. It was suggested that the communications team review the matter first. Ms. Riley noted that the original date for mailing of the letter, ballot, and packets that producers would receive was moved to March 17, 2022. The referendum would begin on March 28, 2022, for three weeks and end on April 19, 2022, postmarked by April 22nd, 2022, and the final date to receive the ballots would be May 9, 2022. There was additional discussion regarding those dates, spoiled ballots, and the referendum period. Ms. England suggested discussion with the legal team to ensure the timeline is okay as is, after which it would be sent back to the Board for final review. Members discussed how any remaining funding would be disposed of.

Passed: Unanimously

To approve \$82,000 for research for the 2022 funded projects.

(Whereupon, a break was taken from 10:06 a.m. until 10:12 a.m.)

NEW ITEMS

There was further discussion regarding SHAP funding, a few questions that Ben Keim had regarding the referendum and also discussion concerning representation at the next FRAC meeting. The storage of honey crisp apples beyond five or six months in prime condition was noted to be a matter of concern.

Ms. Vranich commented that the success of this year's Farm Show was "carried on the backs of a very few people who worked incredibly hard" and opined that, as an industry, this Board needed to do better to get volunteers to help support that initiative moving forward. Members discussed options with regard to offering volunteer hours to a college or high school student to help with organization and presentation and also discussed having Board input concerning how SHAP funding was used.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 9:00 a.m. in person. A following meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2022 9:00 a.m. in person. Pastries will be included.

Members talked about the proposed rules for the apple crop insurance legislation and whether U.S. Apple was addressing that. The matter was noted to still be in the comment period.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION 2022.7-ADJOURNMENT

Presented by: Mark Boyer

Seconded by: Thomas Haas

Passed: Unanimously

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Hannah Bartkowski

February 1, 2022