

PENNSYLVANIA APPLE PROGRAM BOARD MEETING
Minutes of the November 13, 2019 Board Meeting
PA Department of Agriculture
Room 309
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Public notice of the November 13, 2019 Pennsylvania Apple Program Board Meeting was given on November 7, 2019 as stipulated by the Sunshine Law.

CALL TO ORDER

David Peters, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Board members in attendance included Gary Faulkner, Vice Chair; Mark Boyer; Carolyn McQuiston; Thomas Haas; and Ellie Vranich, Treasurer.

Patrick Andrews, Board Liaison to the Department of Agriculture; Lindsay Young, Senior Manager, McKonly and Asbury; Char Riley, Administrative Assistant; and Laura England, Secretary of Agriculture Representative were also present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2019.15-APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Presented by: Thomas Haas

Seconded by: Mark Boyer

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the July 9, 2019 meeting minutes.

Emily Weaver and Jon Johnson entered the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

FIELD WATCH

Emily Weaver, Research Technician, and Jon Johnson, Director of Pesticide Education, presented before the Board for discussion of initiatives with regard to Penn State's Pesticide Education Program. Mr. Johnson noted concerns with regard to the effects of the herbicide on the tick bug, vineyards, and specialty crops. He referred members to a brochure on the voluntary field watch program generated by the Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Weaver further referred to information located on the online database, including mapping tools for beekeepers and growers of specialty crops and organic farms. She discussed the process after registration on the website is completed. Mr. Johnson commented, after March of every year, Field Watch will contact those registered for a determination on maintaining

their registration. Those not responding will be asked to remove their site from the database. He noted the system has been very effective in other states. Board members had questions.

REVIEW FINANCIALS

Lindsay Young, Senior Manager, McKonly and Asbury, introduced herself to the Board. She referred to financial information in the packet for further discussion of the PA Apple Program Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2019. She discussed a recent problem with Citizens Bank's check reader, which she noted should be rectified for the month of November.

Ms. Young referred to the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual figures from July 2019 through June 2020 and detailed account transactions. Board members had questions, comments and suggestions.

APPROVAL OF U.S. APPLE INVOICE

RESOLUTION 2019.16-APPROVAL U.S. APPLE INVOICE

Presented by: Ellie Vranich

Seconded by: Carolyn McQuiston

Passed: Unanimously

To authorize payment of the U.S. Apple Invoice for the 2019-2020 assessment.

It was noted that payment would be made after January 1, 2020. There was further discussion regarding the assessment and projected incomes and other parts of the financial report.

RESOLUTION 2019.17-APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented by: Thomas Haas

Seconded by: Gary Faulkner

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the Financial Report.

Ms. Young will review money market interest rates and provide that information to Board members.

ASSESSMENTS/AUDITS

It was noted that Vincent Garcia would be joining the meeting later on for discussion of the audit process.

There was discussion among Board members regarding the Board's support of U.S. Apple.

SHAP FUNDING DISCUSSION

There was discussion regarding research projects. It was noted the first research meeting was held this date at 10:00 a.m.

CROP FUNDING/ANNUAL REPORT LETTER

There were comments and discussion regarding the grower match project, the apple competition, the demand for apples in Adams County, and amounts budgeted. Recommendations were requested for what to include in the annual report letter. It was suggested that last year's letter be updated and submitted.

Mr. Andrews exited the meeting to locate the file containing the annual report letter.

Ms. Vranich discussed the Farm Show during Mr. Andrews' absence. She itemized the \$5,000 budgeted for that event, including booth rental and printing of banners, and noted the addition of apple packers, processors, and fresh market apple growers to assist with the event.

Ms. Vranich discussed the Apple Board's meeting scheduled to be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in January of 2020. She will email additional information to Board members regarding that meeting.

FARM WORKERS MODERNIZATION ACT

Natalie Krak, Policy Director, and Nate Brague, Deputy Policy Director, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, presented before the Board for discussion and to receive feedback regarding the Farm Workers Modernization Act, HR 4916, which had the Board members' support. She noted the report was being reviewed by the Governor's Policy Office and outlining areas of support and concerns, which would be submitted to the Congressional Delegation.

Mr. Boyer noted a meeting was held with three congressional offices looking to acquire cosponsors for the bill, and also looking at the production in each region of the country to get both the conservatives and democrats on the bill so it would be a nice piece of legislation. He noted support from Congressman Smucker of Lancaster County. He also stated organizations in support of the act would more likely mean more support from local congressmen or senators.

Mr. Boyer discussed H-2A, a program which allows U.S. employers who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring aliens to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs. He noted in 2017 the pay rate was \$12.12 an hour, which is now up to \$13.15 per hour, which when housing and transportation is included adds up to approximately \$22 an hour. He stated if the H-2A wage increase is not stopped, "we're going to price ourselves right out of labor." He suggested that the bill be passed before wages are increased. He recommended that the Governor's Office review the Act with regard to the wages of H-2A workers and note the safety

net concerns. There was further discussion regarding HR 4916 and the H-2A program wage increase.

Mr. Haas commented that the wage increase was a concerning matter. Ms. Vranich commented on the hard work and that the underclass in the United States was not willing to do this type of work. Chair Peters suggested that Ms. Krak attend a few more meetings to in order to get the interests of the Board heard.

Ms. Vranich also expressed her disappointment that through miscommunication and oversight the Board missed its opportunity to have its voice heard. It was suggested that Congressman Glenn Thompson be contacted regarding the matter.

ASSESSMENTS/AUDITS (Continued)

Vincent Garcia, CPA, Garcia, Garman and Shea, P.C., presented before the Board to discuss the past and the future with regard to the assessment/audit process. He discussed the procedures for compiling and reviewing the audit information in the report. Some irregularities were discussed.

Mr. Andrews suggested an RFP for accounting services.

RESOLUTION 2019.18-APPROVAL OF REPORT

Presented by: Mark Boyer

Seconded by: Ellie Vranich

Passed: Unanimously

To approve the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Vranich stated the SHAP Board was totally fine with adding a letter to the registration packet in order to provide information about the PA Apple Board. If the Board could such a letter and get it to Maureen by January 5, 2020, she could include it in preregistration packets as well. Ms. Vranich suggested the information be placed in the PA Fruit newsletter.

The next PA Apple Program Board Meeting will be held January 2020 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION 2019.19-ADJOURNMENT

Presented by: Mark Boyer

Seconded by: Gary Faulkner

Passed: Unanimously

To adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amber Garbinski", is written above a horizontal line.

Amber Garbinski

November 13, 2019