



International Farm Transition Network
Annual Membership Meeting
Thursday, June 10, 2021
11:00 AM

Call to order By Allan Vhynalek at 11:03.

Members present included: Allan Vhynalek, Brandon Dirkschneider, Darlene Livingston, Dave Marrison, Gary Linkous, Heather Gessner, Jennifer Zahradnik, Jim Ostlie, Jon (Rick) Linkous, Joy Kirkpatrick, Kaitlyn Davis, Kevin Plante, Marlene Kaltenbach, Megan Roberts, Michelle Kirk, Paul Goeringer, Renee Thompson, Ron Dvergsten, Russ Tweiten, Shane Conway, Tomas Russell, Wesley Tucker.

Secretary's Report:

Allan shared the minutes from the 2019 Annual meeting were approved by the board and are available on the IFTN Website Resource page. He also provided link in chat for people to reference.

Due to a technical challenge Treasurer's report was delayed until Dave could join the call.

Old Business:

Continued Education Recertification proposed requirements were reviewed with use of the flow chart. Heather introduced the flow chart on Tuesday during the Welcome session. Allan called for any questions, concerns or comments.

Gary Linkous asked for clarification on the "family work" category, was that per family or per family visit. Heather answered the question, it was 1 per family. Allan confirmed it was per family.

Kevin Plante asked how confidentiality would be addressed. Heather and Joy answered the question. It is a big issue to set up reporting option on the website. Heather stated it would be on the honor system and IFTN would not contact the families to verify. Hopefully everyone will be honest. It will take more items than only the family meetings to meet the requirements. IFTN organization has the same confidentiality agreement and information will not take any information beyond the reporting needs. It was also stated the families could be referred to by number or other reference point without disclosing names. Allan suggested what they did could be shared without sharing the family name. Joy shared, the Board will not follow up but we hope you will be honest and report in a way that does not breach confidentiality. IFTN Board members also work on a basis of confidentiality and will not share the names or information with others. It will strictly will be used for recertification purposes.

Gary Linkous asked for more guidance on the 1-3 credits each **CEU's for submitted educational programs**. He asked if we could make a list of general categories that would potentially be approved for that category. Joy confirmed it was a great idea and confirmed the Board would think through some examples. Gary L will also share some examples with Heather (Board lead on the CEU work.) Heather's email was provided. Allan confirmed it was a great idea.

Wesley Tucker shared it would be awesome to share tough cases for 2nd opinion. Heather suggested that could be another **further networking component**, one potential initial thought was via a private Facebook group page. There are a lot of options. The Board will consider the best options.

Allan asked for any other comments and questions for the **certification continued education** requirements. Seeing no further questions, Allan called for a motion. Gary Linkous moved to adopt the outlined CEU plan and Brandon 2nd the motion. Allan initiated a poll for member votes. **Motion unanimously passed, CEU program as listed in flow chart has been accepted.**

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Dave Baker reported the IFTN bank account is held in Raccoon Valley Bank, Minburn, IA and has a current balance of \$86099.31. Interest earned approximately \$3.30/month. No deposits or expenses were occurred in the past year. (Last check #1433 Donor Snap \$550, July 2020.)

Dave reported the balance is very strong, a lot of the funds were from the BFRDG grant program, the trainings led by Joy have been very successful. Joy responded 2019 & 2020 trainings in WI and ND there was an amount per person to be paid to IFTN. She will follow up to ensure the payment from Univ of WI is received by IFTN. Dave stated he had submitted several required forms for payment but has not received the check to date. Joy will follow up.

Dave looks forward to working with the new treasurer to transition the records.

Allan entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Brandon made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Gary Linkous 2nd the motion. **Motion unanimously passed.**

Back to Old Business:

Bylaws are available on the IFTN website Resource page. They were approved at the 2019 annual meeting.

New Business:

IFTN Board – Allan shared he and Dave Baker are stepping down as their terms are up. So there are two positions open and they are three year positions. IFTN has six extremely well qualified candidates for the two Board positions. Everyone received a link to the candidates' applications.

Allan asked each board candidate to give a brief talk about why they are interested in serving on the board and a goal(s) they have for the Board.

Allan provided opportunities for candidates to share in random order.

Board candidates included: Dave Marrison, Shane Conway, Tomas Russell, Renee Thompson, Wesley Tucker and Jim Ostlie.

IFTN members at meeting each selected two members by online poll. **New Board members are Shane Conway and Wesley Tucker.**

Allan also asked **for input regarding desired platform for IFTN meetings**. Options included 1) all virtual, 2) all face to face 3) hybrid mix of both. Brandon suggested holding an in-person conference every other year and virtual the opposite year, which would fall into the hybrid category. Dave supported that

thought. Dave suggested a committee from the host state work with the IFTN Board to decide how the conference should be handled. Poll results **unanimously selected a hybrid mix** and the Board will take that into consideration as they plan future events.

Allan asked for future programming ideas and topics, please email your ideas to Board members or Allan.

Darlene thanked Allan and Dave for their years of leadership and support of the IFTN and wished them well in their future endeavors. Dave is retiring on June 30, he has asked to keep his Iowa State email for at least six months. He will continue to support families he's been working with who request for him to do so. He challenged the IFTN membership to keep the group strong, relevant, and expand its reach.

Dave stated Raccoon Valley Bank is easy to work with online. However, the Board may choose to move the account as well. Darlene reminded the membership the account must remain in Iowa due to the non-profit registration of the organization. Dave will be happy to work with the new treasurer to update records. Financially IFTN is in great shape. He also encouraged application for ongoing grants, possibly have a Board position, for grants coordinator. He and John will be around a while to make in person contacts if required.

Allan shared he plans to retire within the next 3 years. Likely in 2022 he may go part time or retire. He will see how things fall into place.

Allan asked the Board with the first items to be addressed being the website upkeep and Donor Snap database. Allan will pass board applications on to the new board and asked them to consider the applicants next year. Allan tasked Heather as Vice President to plan first meeting of the new Board and election of officers and adjourned the 2021 annual IFTN meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Livingston
Secretary

IFTN Board Members, three-year terms:

Shane Conway and Wesley Tucker, 2024

Russ Tweiten and Brandon Dirkschneider, 2023

Joy Kirkpatrick, Heather Gessner, Darlene Livingston, 2022 (Last year of the initial staggered terms.)