

## **Minutes: Yahara River Grocery Cooperative Special Board Meeting**

**Yahara River Grocery Cooperative, 229 East Main St., Stoughton, Wisconsin  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Sunday, January 25, 2009**

Board Members and Committee Chairs Present:

Norma Sampson (Interim President); Warren Kmiec (Treasurer); Deb Piper (Secretary);

Marlene Widra (Member-at-Large); Homer Howard (Senior Liaison)

Other Committee Members Present: Laura Anderson (Membership)

Also Present: Wynston Estis (Interim General Manager)

Norma Sampson called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Deb Piper reported that due to the hours spent on the pledge campaign, the minutes for recent meetings have not yet been completed.

### **REPORT ON FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO QUALIFY FOR THE DANE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND – DEB PIPER**

Deb reported that the callout list had been divided among 10 people. In the six days since the callouts began, members and customers have pledged \$11,035. The Cooperative Network reported that it has raised \$5,000 so far toward the pledge campaign.

Warren Kmiec suggested that during the annual meeting, the board should ask for more volunteers to make calls. Discussion ensued on the next steps. It was determined that the callout list would be extended to the next 100 people on the contact list and that more people are needed to make the calls. Wynston Estis stated that it also needed to be made clear that people are needed to shop “now” at the store to help the co-op survive for these next three to four weeks until the loan decision is made.

Deb also reported that it was discovered that while the RLF committee meets on February 13 to make its loan decision, that the final decision may actually be made by the full SBDG commission on February 19. Norma will call Olivia Parry of the RLF Committee to confirm the timeframe.

After a discussion of the fundraising efforts and the RLF application, Norma declared unanimous consent that YRGC agree to and proceed with the loan process and paperwork, should the committee award the loan. There was no objection.

### **REPORT ON THE GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH – NORMA SAMPSON**

Norma reported that she consulted with an employment agency regarding the general manager search, but that the cost to hire that agency would be between \$7-10,000. Norma is working with Sarah Dahl at Willy Street Co-op to create a new ad for the general manager position, which will be posted in as many places as possible. Norma sent the resumes of the three current GM candidates to the RLF committee for their review. A phone interview with new candidates will be held in the next week.

### **FINALIZE PLANS FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Norma reported that after the by-law revisions were posted for review, two members proposed additional changes. Unfortunately, amendments to the by-laws can be done only with proper notice, which is 7 – 30 days prior to the membership meeting. There is not enough time to post the new proposed changes before the January 27 meeting, but the board will work on those proposed changes in the near future. Wynston reported that she invited the co-op’s CPA, Peg Sheldon, to attend the annual meeting and answer questions from the membership.

Laura Anderson distributed a draft of the ballot, agenda and nominees’ bios for review. Discussion ensued regarding the format of the meeting and when to conduct the voting.

On MOTION (Anderson/Kmiec) and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Piper  
Secretary  
Yahara River Grocery Cooperative