

Minutes: Yahara River Grocery Cooperative Board Meeting

**Giles Dow Room, Stoughton City Hall, 401 East Main St., Stoughton, Wisconsin
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 29, 2009**

Board Members Present:

Norma Sampson, Warren Kmiec, Deb Piper, Laura Anderson, Kristine Vaughn, Jonathan Lewis,
David Sharpe, Regina Hirsch, Spencer Warren

Also Present: Wynston Estis (Interim General Manager)

Deb Piper called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. She noted that minutes for recent meetings have not yet been completed.

RECAP OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – NORMA SAMPSON

Norma reported that 100-110 members attended the annual membership meeting. The board noted that the membership raised great questions regarding the store's operations and budgeting and that it was beneficial to have the co-op's CPA (Peg Sheldon) at the meeting. She and Wynston Estis were able to answer those questions. More interest was generated in the \$30,000 matching capital campaign and over \$2200 was collected in pledges that evening. Several people volunteered to assist with making phone calls for the pledge campaign. Discussion also ensued regarding ideas to bring more shoppers into the store. Those ideas included flyers to go in area businesses such as Laundromats and banks, sharing the weekly e-blast with friends, "bring a friend to the Co-op" promotions, referral discounts, etc.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – NORMA SAMPSON

Discussion ensued of the board officer duties and interest from the board in those positions. On MOTION (Lewis/Anderson) and unanimous vote, the slate of officers that was offered at the annual membership meeting was accepted. The 2009 board officers for the Yahara River Grocery Cooperative are: President, Norma Sampson; Vice President, Deb Piper; Treasurer, Warren Kmiec; Secretary, David Sharpe

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS – DEB PIPER

Deb shared with the board the options for dates and times of regular board meetings. She noted that there are few options where all board members are available for meetings. The board decided to meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

REPORT ON FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR THE \$30,000 MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE DANE COUNTY LOAN – DEB PIPER

Deb reported that the fundraising continues and, as previously mentioned, there was good response at the annual membership meeting. A dozen members made pledges that night, including two who increased their original pledges by \$400.

PRIORITIES AND TIMELINE FOR RLF COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13. – NORMA SAMPSON

Norma discussed the documents required by the RLF committee for YRGC to bring to the February 13th meeting. The committee wants to see the pledge forms that have been collected so far, a database of all those pledges, current financials and applications/resumes for the general manager position. Discussion ensued regarding the best way to present the pledge information to the committee. Concern was raised regarding the database of pledge information to give to the committee. If this is part of a public document, the board has a policy to not share members' information. It was decided that if acceptable, the database would include a member I.D., first name only, and the amount of the pledge. Norma would check with the RLF committee to see if that information would suffice.

A new personnel committee is needed to process the general manager applications and conduct interviews. The new committee consists of: Regina Hirsch (Chair), Laura Anderson, Norma Sampson, Jonathan Lewis and Warren Kmiec.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at a location yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Piper
Vice President
Yahara River Grocery Cooperative