

GACAA BOARD MEETING

Minutes

March 14, 2016

Rock Eagle

In Attendance – Paula Burke, Phillip Roberts, Brian Cresswell, Brock Ward, Steve Morgan, Brook Jeffries, Jennifer Miller, Tripp Williams, Andrew Sawyer, Joel Burnsed, Katie Hammond

Called to Order at 10:15 am. Invocation by Phillip Roberts.

Next meeting will be July 19 at 8:30 am as a video conference call. This is a change from September. There will be no September meeting.

Secretary's Report – Approved the minutes from February 22, 2016 with the change to add Holly Anderson from Ben Hill County. Motion by Brock Ward, second by Brian Cresswell to approve the minutes and passed.

Treasurer's Report – no report as Keith Fielder was not able to attend. Paula will ask Keith to send the treasurers report via email.

Vice-President's Report – Steve Morgan updated group on the 2017 state conference. The Columbus Convention and Trade Center will be the site of the meeting. He is still finalizing the details. Need to set the final date and get it to Extension Administration. He has 5 rooms booked for the Sunbelt Expo. Brian reminded Steve he is in charge of certain awards such as Specialist, CEC, and Friend of the County Agent. There was a question if Steve is also in charge of the communication awards.

President Elect's Report – Brian Cresswell reported he is working with Justin on the tours for the meeting. Jay is handling the golf outing. Also checking on shotgun outing but it may be costly. He is starting to send out sponsorship requests. Discussion that in the future it may continue to be challenging to get sponsorship for the conference. Need to look at how we may handle it in the future. Brian plans to charge \$200 for this year's conference registration which will include GACAA membership.

President's Report – Discussed the evaluation of the 2015 AM PIC. Discussion on how to get more specialists to attend the annual meeting. Phillip shared that for specialists that GACAA is their main voice on issues and encouraged us to ask the specialists to participate.

District Reports

Northeast – Reported there are county positions being filled

Northwest – No new hires at this time.

Southeast – No new hires. There will be a 2 day forestry training meeting. The new agents are joining GACAA.

Southwest – There were three departures. Holly Anderson and Chase ? have been hired. The district director is leaving.

State Staff – New cotton economist. Kris Braman will be the new Department head for Entomology.

GOTCAA Report – no report

Old Business

Farm Bureau Annual Meeting – Brock Ward said the Farmhouse went well and thanked everyone for helping.

New Business

ACCG Meeting - Plans coming together for ACCG. Will be serving on Friday and Saturday this year. Everyone should arrive on Thursday and we will be staying in a new hotel. Discussed what agents would be helping to pick up and deliver food items to the event. Brock plans to have the business logos and will promote where the products came from. Invitations are being printed by the state office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Administrative Report – Greg Price and Mark McCann joined the board for discussion. Greg shared Laura Perry Johnson is moving the mechanics of the budget to him as part of his responsibilities. Important to get any 2017 dates for the Extension calendar to them.

Mark shared there will be a survey on training resources for agents coming soon. Farmer of the Year – would like to offer an incentive/thank you to the agents who work with farmers who apply/win. Suggests working with farms who didn't win to encourage them to submit the following year.

Discussed the need for more qualified applicants for open positions. May offer incentives to agents who help recruit new hires.

There was a question on redundancy of CEC reporting. Greg shared they are reviewing the performance review process along with CEC evaluation process. He asked for real time examples of issues they could address and make changes on regarding duties that take time. Hope to put CEC trainings back in place and offer more trainings to choose from.

Next Meetings:

July 19, 2016: Video Conference

November 7, 2016: Cordele GA (AM/PIC)