

GACAA Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
March 13, 2017

Called to order 10:08 am

Present – Brian Cresswell, Paula Burke, Laura Griffith, Jay Hathorn, Steve Morgan, Joel Burnsed, Trey Gafnea, Rolando Orellana, Mark McCann, Forrest Connelly, Brooke Jefferies, Amanda Smith (via skype)

Invocation by Steve Morgan

Secretary's Report – Paula Burke shared and emailed the previous secretary's report. Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Jay Hathorn. Approved.

Treasurer's Report – The audit has been completed on the checking account. Laura Griffith shared the 2017 GACAA Budget.

Total income – \$58,916.81

Retained Earnings - \$0

Total Expenses - \$101,487

Total Financial Assets - \$234,464.44

There was a discussion on the budget figures of what expenses and income may or may not be incurred this coming year. It was decided to move \$10,500 from operating to the checking account. Motion to file for the treasurers report for audit by Steve Morgan, second Forrest Connelly. Approved

Vice-President's Report – Forrest Connelly reported rooms have been blocked at the hotel for Sunbelt Expo in October at a Choice Hotel in Moultrie. He is working on the conference 2018 location, possibly in Lake Lanier. Forrest asked if the Mountains too far for the conference.

President Elect's Report – Steve Morgan reported Double Tree hotel in Columbus is booked for November 6-8, 2017. He is working on the tours for the 2017 annual meeting. He has 5 tours lined up. Other activities include golf, shotgun, rafting and zipline.

President's Report – Brian Cresswell shared a thank you letter from the scholarship winner and Beverly Sparks (Friend of the County Agent). ACCG wants more of a meal for food than a snack. The display location, times, and food will be changing. Be serving Friday afternoon and Saturday lunch. Senior directors go to the ACCG Savannah trip.

Past President –no report.

District Reports

Northeast – Joel Burnsed shared new hire of Alicia Holloway in Barrow County. He updated the board the cooker was not used for the Monty's fundraiser.

Northwest – Rolando Orellano shared Joel Wolf hired in Rockdale County.

Southeast – Brooke Jeffries shared Ben Kentrell in Effingham, Richard Evans in Bryan, and Mark ? has retired.

Southwest – Jay Hathorn shared Matt Murdock in Mairon/Schley, Josh Grant in Crisp, ? moving from Lowndes to Brooks, Jeremy Taylor moving to Coffee County. He mentioned various openings.

State Staff – Amanda Smith shared interviews for corn/soybean/small grain position; cotton economist reopened. Dr. McCann shared new hires of Cain Hickey – new viticulturist, Sarah Loughridge - youth livestock, Chris ? – crop physiologist and, fruit pathologist in Tifton and nematologist.

GOTCAA Report – no report

Old Business – Paula asked about the previous discussion on the signs for the Expo booth. Laura and Katie Hammond have been discussing prices on signs. Laura contacted Dr. Campbell from UGA on looking at our potential signs about the design. We will need to vote at the next meeting on a proposal to purchase the signs.

New Business

Committee Name Change – Ag and Natural Resources/Sea Grant would like to change the committee name to Natural Resources/Aquaculture to match NACAA committee names. Motion by Brooke Jefferies to change the name to mirror NACAA committee name, second by Steve Morgan. Approved.

New Horticulture awards – Tim Daley and Nathan Eison are working on getting funding for a general fruit award. The award will include all fruit. They will present the details at the next board meeting. Brian suggested any new awards need to be funded by outside funds as we move forward in the future.

Discussion to encourage award committees to find money for their awards if they are unfunded. Need to request from the committee chairs need to share the information such as donors, amount of award, etc., so it can be shared to the next committee chair.

Registration for Annual Meeting- Steve Morgan asked the boards thoughts on raising the registration for the annual meeting to \$135. Food costs alone are \$101. The hotel rooms will be \$119 per night. Steve will work with NW agents to help him recruit more sponsors for the meeting.

Next Meetings-

June 6 – zoom, 8:30 am

August 22 – zoom, 8:30 am

November 6 – face to face, 10 am

December - Executive board, Jekyll Island

Administrative Report – Dr. Mark McCann discussed with us the need to get more applications in for the Farmer of the Year award. Applications this year were low. Dr. Laura Perry Johnson shared her thoughts on the status of the state budget, federal funding in the future, and talking with state legislators. Director of County Operations position is being re-advertised and recruiting from outside of the state. Discussion on changes of the Walk Georgia program.

Motion by Steve M to adjourn at 12:00 pm, second by Forrest C.