

GACAA Board Meeting Minutes

Virtual, Zoom

January 18, 2023

Board Present – Brenda Jackson (President), Lucy Ray (President Elect), Andrew Sawyer (Vice President), Madison Luke (Secretary), Guy Hancock (Treasurer), Justin Shealey (Past President), Gibson Priest (NW), Robyn Stewart (NE), Shanna Reynolds (NE), Justin Hand (SW), Kim Post (SW), Colby Royal (SE), Scout Carter (SE), Ted McAvoy (SS)

Absent: Hailey Partain (NW), Wes Smith (GOTCCA), Simer Virk (SS)

Guests: Dr. Mark McCann, Ashley Best

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM by Brenda Jackson

Invocation given by Justin Shealey

Officer Updates:

Secretary Report by Madison Luke – Presented and reviewed the minutes from the November 15, 2022, board meeting - written by previous secretary, Brooklyne Wassel.

Justin Shealey made the motion to dispense the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Robyn Stewart.

Justin Shealey made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Kim Post seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report by Guy Hancock – Due to poor internet, the financial report was provided to all via email. Justin Shealey made a note- the January financials need to be approved during the February meeting.

The treasurer's report was presented later in the meeting. The reconciliation detail from Ameris Bank beginning balance is \$73,715.84. We incurred quite a few expenses from the GACAA Annual Meeting from renting the Dalton Convention Center and paying award winners. Total expenses incurred from November 2022 to December 31, 2022, are \$34,023.70. Current deposits and credits come to \$512.42 and uncleared checks are \$300.00. This results in an ending balance of \$39,904.56.

Balance sheet report rundown- Total assets are currently \$276,160.71, with \$39,904.56 in Ameris Bank, \$21,000.00 in the 37-month Farm Bureau CD, \$65,000.00 in the 62-month Farm Bureau CD, \$72,523.00 in the First State Bank of Blakely CD, and \$76,628.00 in the GA 4-H Foundation Endowment. This brings total checking and savings to \$276,160.71. The total fixed assets, primarily the cooker and trailer, are \$9,750.60. This brings the total liability and equity to \$285,911.31.

Guy met with Ty Torrance on 01/12/23, where we received a \$3400.00 check from Farm Bureau for the Farmhouse. That will be added and bring total liability and equity to just over \$290,000.00. Guy will be emailing this information out to everyone.

Justin Shealey made a motion to approve the treasurers report as presented. Andrew Sawyer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

President Report by Brenda Jackson – Brenda will email persons who are not present directly regarding information on annual meeting for this year and next year. The Annual Meeting date for 2023 meeting has been set but does not have a definite location.

We had a successful Farm Bureau meeting. One problem noticed was that people's food was cold by the time they got through the food and drink line.

Further Discussion: Justin Shealey made a note for Brenda and Stephanie- he stocked the GACAA Farmhouse trailer before the Farm Bureau meeting, but the trailer does need to be stocked again before ACCG. After ACCG, the trailer needs to be stocked again for Farm Bureau.

President Elect Report by Lucy Ray – Looking into Augusta, GA for the 2023 GACAA Annual meeting location in Northeast District. Should have a definite answer to Augusta location by the end of the month. The definite date of the annual meeting is set for November 13-15, 2023.

Vice President Report by Andrew Sawyer – Currently looking at Jekyll Island for 2024 GACAA Annual Meeting. Potential dates are November 11-13, 2024.

Past President Report by Justin Shealey – Suggested that the board to decide who would be going to JCEP in April 2023. Justin made a note to send him any updates if there are bylaw changes. Justin left the meeting early.

District Reports:

Northwest District Report by Gibson Priest for Hailey Partain- We have a new agent in Catoosa County, Cody Bowling. There are also several new positions that have been filled and will start soon. No Retirements.

Further Discussion: Brenda Jackson noted a correction- Rodger Gates left at the end of December, leaving the Whitfield County ANR Agent position open. It has not been posted yet. Gibson added that there are other positions open that were not mentioned in Hailey's report.

Northeast District Report by Shanna Reynolds – No new hires. Two new positions opened recently: ANR Educator for Clarke County and ANR Agent in Madison County. Both positions have been posted. Wilks County ANR Agent is still open and has been posted. Butts County ANR Position is open but is not currently posted. No retirements.

Southwest District Report by Kim Post – One new ANR hire in Sumter County, Chelsea Lopez. Chelsea began her new role this month and has a background in Animal Science, specifically equine, and has a master's degree in Ag Leadership and Education. Brookes County ANR Agent position is still posted, trying to move along and fill that position soon. No retirements.

Southeast District Report by Scout Carter – No new hires. Screven County ANR Agent position is open. SE DED, Janet Hollingsworth retired. Wade Parker moved from SE ANR PDC to an Area Agronomy Agent Position. SE DED and ANR PDC positions are both open.

State Staff Report by Ted McAvoy – Spoke with Ashely on the GACAA State Staff Membership from 2022 and plans to reach out to previous state staff members to get them to renew their membership for 2023. Dr. McCann will send out a broadcast email to the state staff listserv and Ted will follow up with them.

Upcoming events- The southern region focus will be horticulture: Southern Region ASHS (American Society of Horticulture Sciences), which will be held February 3-5, 2023, in Oklahoma City, OK. The Southeast Green Conference will be held June 13-15, 2023, in Duluth, GA. ASHS (Annual Society of Horticulture Sciences) conference will be held July 31-August 4, 2023, in Orlando, FL.

Jason Brock, with the Plant Diagnostic Clinic, has retired, but we are still taking samples- you can bring samples into the Tifton office, fill out a form and they will get it to the correct specialist OR you can send the sample to Athens if needed. We have a new Molecular Diagnostic Lab Manager, Alejandra Jimenez Madrid. Sarah Lowder accepted the Viticulture Extension Specialist Position. In the process of hiring several new people in the Horticulture Department- Tifton Vegetable Breeder and Tifton Integrated Precision Ag Specialist interviews are currently ongoing and hope to be filled soon. A controlled environment and atmosphere breeder position is also open.

2022 Vegetable Extension Research Report is now available online.

GOTCAA Report by Wes Smith – Not Present.

Updates:

CAES/Extension Update by Dr. Mark McCann- We are working to fill agent positions throughout the districts. We are also trying to fill several state faculty positions and leadership roles- most notably the Center for Urban Ag, where the committee is ready to evaluate applicants. We are also in a parallel position with the director for the Soil Lab. Both positions are currently being held by an interim. District level – Southeast District is currently looking for a District Director, where Arch is filling in as the interim. Additionally, there will be an ANR PDC position advertised for Southeast District. Met with Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, where they discussed faculty interviews that she has attended, with many relating to Integrated Precision Ag. Dr. Johnson has also attended interviews that do not have extension appointments in Ag Economics. Horticulture also has several positions in the works.

2023 ANR Conference will be held in Griffin. Tours need to be finalized and then sign up will open. After tornadoes in the area, The Center of Urban Ag was checked and sustained some damage to their roof, had trees down, and other issues on the Griffin campus. So far, no feedback regarding any issues with hotels or tours that have been scheduled for the ANR Conference. Currently waiting for an all clear on those matters.

Commercial Pesticide Handbooks will be available for Southwest and Southeast districts during Jr/Sr DPA at Rock Eagle in February. The goal for Northwest and Northeast districts is to receive their copies during February ANR updates.

Several meetings are coming up: The Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Corn Short Course Conference, and Georgia Peanuts Farm Show & Conference have passed. The Cotton Conference and Ag Forecast will be held the following week. SW and SE Districts are beginning to have production meetings.

Further Discussion: Lucy Ray asked Dr. McCann who we currently have in the Ag Econ Department with an Extension Position? Dr. McCann stated that we do not have anyone currently, and we are using people out of state for the upcoming Ag Forecast. In Tifton we have Dr. Fonsah, Amanda Smith, and Dr. Liu. In Athens, we have Ben Campell. At the CAED, we have Sharon Kain and Vanessa Shonkwiler. In terms of the Ag Econ traditional commodity areas, we are not very deep right now.

Membership Update by Ashley Best- We currently have 109 members. To keep our 6 votes at NACAA Level, we need 161 members. Lists for each District are being compiled. Ashley expressed it would be easier to share viewing rights on an excel spreadsheet with District Directors. If you are interested in seeing the list, let Ashley know and she can share with you the right to view the current membership list. This will let you see new members added and invite those left off to join our membership by the January 31, 2023, deadline. I will keep it updated as Guy Hancock updates me on membership payments.

Ashley contacted Fort Valley State University Agents and asked them to be a part of our association. FVSU Agents were previously a part of our association but do not have a specific board position. They fall under the Southwest District.

District Meeting Dates for 2023 Calendar Year by Brenda Jackson-

JCEP- April 7, 2023, at Rock Eagle

Board Meeting- Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 10:00 AM. Meeting date was changed from August 10, 2023, to August 9, 2023, at 10:00 AM due to NE District conflict with CEC Training. Brenda suggested Wednesday, August 9, 2023, would be better. All Participants agreed to date change.

JCEP- Will be held in Kansas City during February 7-9, 2023. Need to have representation there. Madison Luke expressed interest in going but asked for follow-up after the board meeting.

Further Discussion by Brenda Jackson after board meeting adjourned: If no board members can attend the JCEP meeting, Brenda will send the meeting information to the whole membership. We have budgeted \$1000.00 to reimburse 1 member to attend JCEP. If more than 1 member would like to attend, the pot will be split amongst members.

PILD- Public Leadership Issues Development Conference will be held in Arlington, VA. during April 16-19, 2023.

Further Discussion by Brenda Jackson after Board meeting adjourned: Andrew Sawyer has agreed to attend PILD. We have budgeted \$1800.00 to reimburse 1 member to attend. If more than 1 member would like to attend, the pot will be split amongst members.

ACCG- will be held in Savannah, GA on April 26-28, 2023. Note from Dr. McCann: ACCG was originally held from Thursday – Saturday, but now it will be held Wednesday – Friday. Stephanie Butcher will send out information via email on arrival dates for ACCG.

New Business:

Extension Disaster Education Network National Conference- Joel Burnsed from Walton County contacted Lucy Ray and Brenda Jackson to solicit support from GACAA for the Extension Disaster Education Network National Conference, which is being hosted by Georgia this year. They are looking for support in the form of a donation or covering registration costs for a few GACAA members to attend the conference. Brenda stated that a \$1,000.00 donation was thrown out in an email. Depending on the final registration amounts, this would potentially cover two agents to attend the conference. Brenda asked for thoughts on a \$1,000.00 donation and is there a motion to approve.

Further Discussion: Kim Post asked did we have \$1,000.00 to cover the donation. Guy stated we did have a line item of support but was unable to state the amount of support towards donating to other conferences.

Andrew Sawyer made a motion to table this discussion until we could research available funds and to recover topic during the April JCEP meeting. Madison Luke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Closing- Brenda thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Madison Luke. Motion seconded by Kim Post. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Madison Luke, GACAA Secretary