North Star Farm Tour Board Meeting

September 14, 2021 7:00 pm via Zoom

* Action Items in red Italics -- summary in Action Box on last page

WELCOME : President Smith welcomed Brett Pauley, Sue Wiegrefe, Jack Workman & Wendy Wustenberg with University of St. Thomas Business 200 Senior Chad Grube and evaluator Lauren Wustenberg, and invited everyone to read the monthly reading of the 2021 norms document.

University of St. Thomas Senior Chad Grube introduced himself as a native of Byron, MN with a family background in agriculture. He is a Finance Major who is eager for real-world work with NSFT on grants and projects that can add value to his academic experience.

Lauren Wustenberg offered an update about her status as a graduated law student who is still finishing the final credits of her Master’s degree. She will use the final year evaluations of the SADG grant for an independent study and *plans to generate two Qualtrics surveys. The first will be distributed by the coming weekend.*

TREASURER REPORT: Wiegrefe presented the Treasurer’s Report with a balance of $ 2,780.61.

Wustenberg moved approval of the Treasurer’s Report. Second by Pauley. Motion approved unanimously. Wustenberg moved allocating earmarked funds of $3544.33 from line items for the Farm2Fashion Project and *unallocated SADG grant funds into a dedicated line item for website investment.* Second by Wiegrefe. Motion passed unanimously.

SECRETARY REPORT: Wustenberg presented the secretary’s minutes of June 13, 2021. Wustenberg mentioned that the Norms compel us to become more engaged and accountable with the actions taken by the Board. She urged close attention to minutes and drew attention to vague language in the Development Committee Section as an example. Workman clarified his intentions stated at the meeting of June 13 and the minutes were amended. *Wustenberg volunteered that the minutes can be formatted to identify action items for accountable management by the Board.* Wiegrefe moved approval as amended, Workman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF JESSICA ANDERSON: President Smith appointed Anderson to fill the seat vacated by Pete Beurskens in March 2022. *By her request she will stand for election at the 2021 Annual Meeting.*

PROPOSAL FOR FARM TOUR 2022: Smith invited opinions about a Sept. 17 & 18 Tour:

* Wiegrefe said there are safe practices in common practice now that heighten confidence in planning a 2022 Tour;
* Smith offered that the timing in September with an earlier date feels like a good idea;
* Anderson mentioned Covid remains a significant concern with asymptomatic carriers and symptomatic ill people. She believes the Holidays may cause an increase in cases for the winter.
* Pauley echoed Wiegrefe’s analysis and is hopeful that we will have the worst of Covid in the rear-view mirror by mid-September 2022.
* Wustenberg believes a tour vote is necessary for 2022 to give NSFT momentum and provide an anchor point for all the planning, grant-writing and program planning.
* Grube agreed that a tour is a good goal to set.

*Smith moved a Sept. 17 & 18, 2022 Tour*, Anderson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

***STRATEGIC GOALS FOR FALL 2021:***

Smith reviewed the five projects offered to the University of St. Thomas Business 200 Class and asked each of the Board members to identify a project to serve as lead for:

1. Sock Project 2021 (NSFT LEAD: Wiegrefe)
* Create a Marketing Plan (Pauley/Grube/Anderson/Smith)
* Secure MN Grown Sponsorship (Wustenberg with Grube/Workman)
* Design a label & point-of-sale materials (Anderson/Wustenberg)
* Develop a Distribution Plan (Wiegrefe/Wustenberg)
1. Concluding the Farm2Fashion Project (NSFT LEAD: Anderson)
* Ag in the Classroom Digital Curriculum for 5th Grade (Wustenberg/Smith/Quamme with Ag in the Classroom on-farm shoots 9.20.21)
* Negotiate with Textile Center for sale of garments (Wustenberg/
* Media Relations (Anderson/
1. Co-produce a Statewide Zoom Presentation for the SADG Grant: (NSFT LEADS: Wustenberg/Workman/Wiegrefe)
2. Create a NSFT Board Development & Development Plan (LEAD: Wustenberg/Smith/Grube/Bentz)
3. Develop the new NSFT Website (LEAD: Pauley/Workman/Grube)
* Website Grant 2021 (Grube with mentors)
1. SADG Grant with Ag in the Classroom (LEAD: Wustenberg/Anderson/Wiegrefe/Smith)

NEW BUSINESS:

*NSFT Annual Meeting 2021: December 5th 2 p.m. It is planned to be on Zoom*

Smith moved -- Anderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FINAL COMMENTS:

Anderson: She is getting ideas for various projects and inspired to get to work.

Wiegrefe: Commended the two students for staying involved.

Grube: Thanked us for the opportunity to work with NSFT and see how the Board meeting worked.

Workman: It’s good to get back to campus, even with Covid protocols.

Pauley: Re-energized and re-engaged.

Wustenberg: Yeah, like he said.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING October 10, 2021

Adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE MEETING:

HIGHLIGHT ACTION ITEMS IN MONTHLY MINUTES: Wustenberg effective immediately.

TREASURY WILL REALLOCATE SPECIFIC LINE ITEMS INTO A DEDICATED WEBSITE INVESTMENT FUND: Wiegrefe effective immediately.

QUALTRICS SURVEY TO MEMBERS: Lauren Wustenberg will create and distribute a preliminary

 Fall survey by September 19, 2021.

ANNOUNCE 2022 TOUR DATES TO MEMBERSHIP: Smith – membership report via email with

 notification of actions by Board, Anderson appointment & Chad Grube’s internship.

PREPARE MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEC. 5th 2 p.m. ANNUAL MEETING:

 Wustenberg – include the nominations process for members including Anderson

STRATEGIC GOALS FOR FALL 2021: The list of six projects above includes project leads and project teams with certain specifics listed as known on 9.14.21. The secretary strongly recommends that all board members and Chad Grube keep these unapproved minutes in a visible place from the date of the meeting for reference.