

**Michigan FFA Association Board of Directors Meeting  
May 6, 2008**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 pm by FFA State President Alex Henry in Room 338 of the Natural Resources Building at Michigan State University.

There were 33 members and guests present including: Alex Henry, Amanda Sollman, Kate Krepps, Dustin Grezeszak, Joe Ankley, Bailey Albright, Brittany Armbruster, Nate Deschepper, Andrew Walker, Dr. Randy Showerman, Burt Henry (for Steve Beattie), Dr. Eddie Moore, Cathy LaLonde, Megan Merrill, Kevin Nugent, Brian Kiesling, Beth Stuever, Dave Wyrick, Alyn Kiel, Megan Hirschman, Jillian Holdwick, Ryan Green, Kaitlyn Hard, Marie Hruby, Chris Sanford, Dustin Baker, Danielle Martinez, Dustin Petty, Michelle Sidel, and Elizabeth Krhovsky.

There were 4 members absent, including: Bart Marshall, Charles Scovill, Dave Armbruster, and Charles Snyder.

**II. Opening Ceremonies**

Opening ceremonies were performed by the 2007-2008 State Officer Team.

**III. Secretary's Report**

The minutes from the last meeting were submitted by FFA State Secretary Amanda Sollman for review. There was one change.

Dr. Moore requested that the fifth paragraph on page 3, regarding a motion he made, be moved before the fourth paragraph, regarding a motion made by Tammy Hyatt.

Andrew Walker moved to accept the minutes with the noted changes. Second. Motion carried.

Tom Smith moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

FFA State Treasurer Kate Krepps reported that there was \$150,912.84 in the FFA account and that there is approximately \$30,000 in outstanding bills.

Nate Deschepper moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second. Motion carried.

Beth Stuever moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**V. Michigan FFA Association**

**a. State Officer Report**

The 07-08 State Officer Team presented a slide show highlighting many of their activities throughout the year. Alex Henry mentioned some of the activities that

the team has been up to, including their DTE visit and the Ohio State Convention, and thanked the Board for their time and assistance over the year.

**b. Advisor's Report**

Dr. Randy Showerman discussed that Skills contests went well, with over 1800 students participating.

He went over the spreadsheets of outstanding bills and requested that Regional Representatives try to contact those schools and FFA chapters that have an outstanding bill.

The Michigan Association of Agriscience Educators will be organizing the Summer PDI Conference organization and registration. Fall PDI will be conducted as usual. Winter PDI will be organized and handled by the Michigan Horticultural Teachers Association.

A Collegiate FFA chapter at MSU has officially been organized. There were 35 members at the first meeting. Alex Henry explained that the purpose behind Collegiate FFA was to bridge the gap between high school membership and Alumni membership and to supplement the Association in their various activities.

Dr. Showerman recognized several Board members who will be ending their terms. Megan Merrill and Tom Smith will be ending their current term, but have agreed to serve another term on the Board. Alyn Kiel and Tom Condon have finished their term and will be leaving the Board. The Board thanked them for their service.

**c. Executive Secretary's Report**

Mr. Dave Wyrick reiterated the success of Skills contest and the establishment of Collegiate FFA.

He noted that the State Officers have been very busy with banquets and their visit to DTE Energy. He presented the State Officers with their retiring officer plaques.

**VI. Michigan FFA Alumni**

Although Mr. Dave Armbruster was absent, Alex Henry and Kate Krepps reported that, at the last Alumni meeting, they chose to look at creating strategic goals, planning, spreading out the workload, coming up with a solid definition of what Alumni is, and working to grow.

The Alumni also awarded scholarships to high school members attending Michigan State University.

**VII. Michigan FFA Foundation**

Megan Hirschman reported on the following events and respective dates:

- FFA Masters Golf Outing-August 7

This will be held at The Emerald in St. Johns.

- Business and Industry Blitz-August 11-14  
The 08-09 State Officer Team will be doing three days of business and industry visits around the state as well as visiting several chapters and interacting with members.
- FFA Race Day-August 16  
This will be held at the Michigan International Speedway. Tickets can be purchased through August 10. Contact Megan if you need any flyers or additional information.

Megan also reviewed the most current Foundation financial information with the Board.

## **VIII. Standing Committee Reports**

### **a. Financial Committee**

Committee chair, Tom Smith, reported that he contacted the Dean Armstrong (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources) via e-mail and telephone to discuss the \$80,000 in the Higher Education budget for FFA. He received an e-mail from Dean Armstrong on April 2.

The Dean stated that Michigan State University does not support earmarks made by the legislature and that, while it was boilerplate language, it is not a line item.

Dean Armstrong pledged \$18,000 for State Convention, an additional \$6,000 post-Convention, has committed \$80,000 as of July 1. He also stated in his e-mail that the CARRS Department is hiring a new Ag Education specialist and tenure position.

The Finance Committee expressed interest in meeting with the Dean in person in June with the current FFA State President, the President-elect, Treasurer and a teacher representative.

There will be a request to Dr. Wright, Interim Chair of CARRS, to make a statement clearing up all questions regarding funding and the two new specialist positions.

Dr. Showerman suggested that a fact sheet be created to show how the Michigan FFA Association is funded,

Beth Stuever requested that, in the event of Dr. Wright not being hired as the permanent Department chair and a new chair being hired, that an FFA Board of Directors representative be at the table during the hiring process.

Dustin Grezeszak moved to find the old fact sheet about Association budgeting, date it, attach Dr. Wright's clarification statement, and send it out to current and

up-coming State Officers along with the agriscience teachers. Second. Motion carried.

Tom Smith moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**b. Awards and Activities Committee**

Committee chair, Beth Stuever, reported that the committee discussed the proposal regarding the National Chapter Awards Presentation.

Beth Stuever moved to accept the proposal as written. Second. Motion carried.

Kate Krepps moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**c. Career Development Event Committee**

**i. Poultry Improvement Contest**

The committee recommended to tentatively approve the new Poultry Contest rules and allow final say to rest with the Governance Committee after the rules have been presented to the teachers at the 2008 Summer PDI. If approved, the committee recommended that the rules go into effect for the 2008 contest.

Beth Stuever moved to accept the recommendation. Second. Motion carried.

Andrew Walker moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**ii. CDE Contest**

The committee recommended failing the proposal regarding putting all leadership contests on one day and using a bracket system leading up to State Convention.

Burt Henry moved to accept the proposal as written. Second. Motion failed.

Brittany Armbruster moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**iii. CDE Contest Clarification**

Brittany Armbruster moved that the State Office develop leadership contest training videos in cooperation with Agriscience Education/ANR Communications students and Collegiate FFA members. Second. Motion carried.

Kevin Nugent moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**iv. Floriculture Contest**

Brittany Armbruster moved that the Floriculture CDE rules state that students are only allowed to bring scissors, wire cutters, knives, and/or floral shears to the contest. No extra materials may be brought or used in the contest other than what is provided. Second. Motion carried.

Cathy LaLonde moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**d. State Officer Policy Committee**

**i. State Officer Responsibilities**

Committee chair, Kevin Nugent, skipped ahead to New Business and recommended that the Board accept the proposal regarding returning the State Officer FFA jacket upon resignation or removal from office.

Tom Smith moved to accept the proposal as written. Second. Motion carried.

Andrew Walker moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**e. Governance Committee**

Brian Kiesling reported that the committee met to do Mr. Wyrick's review and that it went well.

**IX. New Business**

**a. State Officer Scholarship**

Tammy Hyatt moved to refer the proposal to the State Officer Policy Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Andrew Walker moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**b. Enhancement of State Officer Development and Experience**

Tammy Hyatt moved to refer the proposal to the State Officer Policy Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Andrew Walker moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**c. State Officer Code of Conduct**

Tammy Hyatt moved to refer the proposal to the State Officer Policy Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Andrew Walker moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**d. State Officer Interview**

Tammy Hyatt moved to refer the proposal to the State Officer Policy Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Andrew Walker moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**e. State-Level Nominating Committee**

Tammy Hyatt moved to refer the proposal to the State Officer Policy Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Andrew Walker moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**f. Ag Sales Contest 5-year Update**

Brian Kiesling moved to refer the proposal to the CDE Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Dustin Grezeszak moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**g. State Officer Responsibilities**

See the State Officer Policy Committee report.

**h. Regional and District Size**

Tom Smith moved to refer the proposal to a committee composed of the the Governance Committee and Regional Representatives. Second. Motion carried.

Kate Krepps moved to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**i. State Officer Candidate Speeches to the Delegates**

Amanda Sollman moved to refer the proposal to the State Officer Policy Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Tammy Hyatt moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**j. Create a Food Technology CDE**

Andrew Walker moved to refer the proposal to the CDE Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Tom Smith moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**k. Collegiate FFA Representative on Michigan FFA Board of Directors**

Amanda Sollman moved to refer the proposal to the Governance Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Brian Kiesling moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**l. Increase the Number of Board of Directors Meetings**

Amanda Sollman moved to refer the proposal to the Governance Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Brian Kiesling moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**m. Chapter Exchange Program**

Dustin Grezeszak moved to refer the proposal to the Awards and Activities Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Beth Stuever moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**n. Statewide/Regional Service Project**

Bailey Albright moved to refer the proposal to the Awards and Activities Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Tom Smith moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**o. Move State Convention to the Auditorium**

Bailey Albright moved to refer the proposal to the Awards and Activities Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Tammy Hyatt moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**p. Career Show at State Convention**

Bailey Albright moved to refer the proposal to the Awards and Activities Committee. Second. Motion carried.

Tammy Hyatt moved to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

**q. 2007-2008 State Officer Team Recommendations**

The State Officer team recommended the following:

- National FFA
  - Due to finding that National delegates have not been as informed as they could be, hold a meeting between the 2007 delegates and the 2008 delegates to teach them about the delegate process
  - Hold a meeting between the 07-08 President and 08-09 President and Vice-President to teach them about the committee/delegate process for SPC
  - Have the 08-09 team nominate an individual (current or past state officer) for the 2009 National FFA Convention Nominating Committee (noting that Michigan cannot have a Nom Comm member in 2008)
- Re-District/Re-Region
  - The team supports the re-regioning/re-districting of the state as determined by the state Association
- Update Michigan FFA Website
  - Update the Michigan FFA website in order to better reflect current websites as well as make it more easily accessible to members and advisors
- State Convention
  - Move the keynote speaker to before the Stars Over Michigan Pageant in the Convention program, in order to increase attendance for the speaker
  - In order to save money and recognizing the technological talents of many current and former FFA members, the State Association could hire Collegiate FFA to do Convention videos in-house (except Stars videos)
  - Have the State Association provide copies of all Stars and State Officer videos to those individuals as a keep-sake
  - Hire or attempt to get a volunteer to video tape a live-feed of Convention to be shown on the side screens during sessions
  - Discuss the possibility of giving Regional Vice-Presidents the opportunity to do opening ceremonies for one session per Vice-President during Convention
  - Explore options to keep members in the Convention sessions
  - Send Convention invitations to every state Association
  - Continue making a video recognizing the National competitors and National application finalists
  - Develop videos to note the highlights of the session to be shown during Convention pre-sessions
  - Explore options to increase attendance at State Convention workshops or explore reducing the number of workshops held
  - Have State Officers stay on campus instead of in a hotel during State Convention, in order to save money and increase efficiency.



This then opens the option to supporting rooming for visiting State Officers

- State Officer Interviews
  - Create a bank of questions to be used for Regional level State Officer Interviews
- Contest Training
  - Develop training sessions for teachers during PDI for Horse, Dairy, and Livestock Evaluation contests
- Ag Expo
  - Develop an Ag Expo booth for the Michigan FFA Association
- Student Leadership Training
  - Explore ways to increase attendance at SLCCO or other options for regional leadership training
  - In order to enhance effectiveness of Regional Camps, develop a template for curriculums for those regions that would like it, as well as review camp curriculums before awarding regional grant money
- Board of Directors
  - The team supports and encourages the continuation of the Diversity Task Force
  - Have the Awards and Activities Committee explore ways to enhance the existing student conference programs such as the MFB Career Conference
  - By 2010, revamp the State Officer election process and look at the number of State Officers elected

**X. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

-Amanda Sollman  
2007-08 State FFA Secretary