

WCO Board of Directors Meeting
RCI Engineering
12/1/22

Roll Call: Derek Ducat, Amanda Krepline, Pat Johnson, Bill Smith, Isaac Lemmenes, Ray Liska, Executive Director- Maria Woldt / Call in Josh Bartholomew, Joseph Sanford

Absent: Briand Luck, Matthew Digman

Bill Smith called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM

Agenda Approval: Motion was made by Derek, seconded by Isaac. All were in favor. Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Motioned by Isaac, seconded by Pat. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Maria gave the treasury report. We reviewed the financials from this year and our projected for 2023. We discussed the costs rising for everything but also have hopes that income from December will help. Trying to be conservative in spending will help us out incredibly. Ray and Maria went over our investment portfolio also and it seems we are above average! 😊 Maria is hoping our membership numbers will come back up. Looking at sponsorships again. Currently looking for some reps including a new Degelman rep. There are some mini grants available but no applicants at this time. **Bill made the motion to approve treasurers report, Derek seconded. All were in favor. The treasurer's report was approved.**

Presidents Report: Ray gave the presidents report. Ray started off with letting us know it was a slow harvest at the beginning, but overall was a good season. Inflation and costs have hit all the farmers pretty hard which has caused some operators to increase their rates. The season was done without any injuries so overall a good report. Pat commented that the silage this year was above average and that expenses were also up. Isaac told how hard it is for parts to come in which puts him in a struggle especially with the electronic parts. He also suggested that if you don't increase your rates, you will be hurting the future of your business. Derek informed us that he is mostly done with manure for the year even on cover crops to help move manure. He is still struggling with labor. He acknowledged also how great custom operators are working together. Amanda just recently finished combining beans for the last customer of the year. They are currently hauling manure with another custom job. Overall, a great year chopping. Still a struggle finding great help. Bill said they had way better than average fields and had really great weather this year. Josh informed us that they are having an issue getting parts yet. He also informed us that he was given a cap on machines to sell for 2023, and cannot sell beyond the cap due to supply chain. Joe commented that overall things are a bit challenging.

Executive Directors Report: Maria went over the topics for Symposium. Currently schedule is drafted and don't see many changes coming. The member/sponsor brochures will be going out

soon. There are currently 132 active members in WCO which is down from 2019/2020. Sponsorships went out last week. The Hansen auction is still currently running until December 6. There are approx. 30 nice items avail for bidding at the time. Maria has had to do a fair amount of marketing for the auction. The board has considered doing an auction in spring. We will discuss this in future meeting.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Report: Joe gave the report. Maria is currently starting to collect 1st semester grades for the scholarship applicants. WCO is considering adding a non-educational scholarship also possibly in the future. There are some fine details needing to be worked out yet on this. Hoerth scholarship will stay for educational only. The applications are due May 1st for the scholarships. We will need to have another board meeting to discuss the determination of dispersal for the non-educational scholarship.

Recruitment/Nomination Committee: The board discussed that Ray, Josh, and Derek terms will be ending soon, looking for new candidates. Currently Bryce O'Leary we are waiting for a call back from him. John Osterhaus is currently thinking about the position. Jeremy Heim has been reached out to also. Sounds like he may be interested. Justin Wendorf has also been contacted. All board was asked if there are any other suggestions for candidates. All candidates sound like a great fit for the board. Postcards will be mailed out for annual meeting.

Special Projects Committee: There are currently no new special projects currently as the member survey is currently taking up this. There are some changes being made on the survey. The board is considered doing this survey every other year starting 2023. Considering adding this information to the Facebook page to get the survey out there. The survey needs to be more specific like having the first question, Are you the owner of the company? This way not everyone from a company fills out. There will be a \$25 Kwik Trip gift card for doing the survey and be entered into drawing again.

Safety/Regulations Committee: Maria and Ray discussed still trying to get the Farm Service CDL from 180 days to 210 days. Unfortunately, this is not something unique to Wisconsin. They will keep trying. On the agenda for Symposium the safety meetings are highlighted in yellow and only one is required to keep safety certification. The MFA received a grant to help cover the conference.

Education/Conference Committee: The agenda finalized for Symposium. There will be some newer topics this year including Visa/H2A for programs for immigrant workers. The costs are doubling at Chula Vista for the Symposium. Krekeler will be speaking this year pertaining to bankruptcy with customers. Our board member Derek will be on a panel speaking this year! We will have our meeting at 6 pm Monday evening at the Symposium. Please sign up for helping as far as greeting, tickets, surveys, intros, etc. Tuesday Maria would like board members to wear polos and Wednesday the dress shirts.

Old Business: Shawn Pfaff was discussed and what he could do for us. Ray discussed the cost for his services. Maybe Shawn would consider discussing matters individually versus being on a contract. Maybe the board will consider him in the future if we have more topics, we are looking for advice on.

New Business: Maria has assumed bookkeeping role for WCO! She will stay at the same pay as before. Ray will sign contract with her. Thank you so much Maria for everything you do for all of us on the board! It is beyond appreciated! 😊

Adjournment: Bill moved to adjourn. Pat seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Tour of RCI Engineering was a great tour! Thanks to Maria for arranging this and for RCI for the tour! Hoping everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See everyone at the Symposium!

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Krepline