

**WCO Board Meeting
Chula Vista Resort – Wisconsin Dells, WI
1/19/15 (night prior to 2015 trio conference)**

All board members were present

Meeting brought to order by president Kathy Vanderkinter. Minutes from the previous board meeting were read by Troy Meyer – motion to approve by Dick Kraus – second by Adam Danzinger. Treasurer's report given by Troy. Approved by Adam – second by Daryll Manthe.

Maria presented a proposed budget for 2015. Budget estimates included \$35,750 projected income, based in part on 6 platinum sponsors. General discussion on budget ideas. Board felt the proposed budget was a good starting point and an important step for WCO. Dick moved to approve budget as presented, seconded by Cole Olson.

Maria explained investment strategies presented at last board meeting by Kim Havens from Havens Financial. The proposal would be to transfer \$20,000 into a money market account and then purchase mutual funds on a monthly basis out of this pool (12-18 month period). Board felt it was time to start an investment strategy and monitor on an annual basis. Eventually proceeds could be used to fund scholarship programs, educational programs, legislative action or road testing. Kevin Shinnors proposed that we invest \$21,000 into a money market account and then move \$1,750 / month into a mutual fund suggested by Kim Havens. ($1,750 \times 12 \text{ months} = 21,000$) Dick seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Maria would like to talk to Twohig, Rietbrock & Schneider Law Offices on fundraising options for WCO under our current 501C5 organization status. Look at what options are available for our members to make contributions to WCO organization. Generally donations are not tax deductible to 501C5 organizations according to Kevin.

Executive Director Report

Maria will present Post-Symposium coverage through the Winter newsletter and other options.

Scholarship Committee – Kevin

All recipients of 2014 scholarships met grade requirements. We had 10 applicants last year which is a great improvement. \$1,000 / scholarship was approved at the last board meeting, up from \$750 per last year. There will be 3 scholarships once again. Maria will send out a news release touting the winners for 2014. The deadline for 2015 applications is April 1, 2015.

Newsletter Committee – Maria / Troy

Fae will be recognized as a lifetime honorary member of WCO at the annual meeting for her years of contributions to the organization. Kathy suggested that we present \$100 gift card/certificate to Fae at the next opportunity for all her help – Daryll seconded – Motion carried. Maria has been taking over the duties of the WCO newsletter planning and publication. She has produced an 8 page template and arranged for print on gloss paper. Costs are not expected to be much higher than with Fae thanks to a special print rate from Dairyland Co-op Power. We have really taken a step forward in the professionalism of the newsletter now deemed the "Custom News" thanks to Maria! We expect the next newsletter to be published in Mid-February. Two other publications coming in July and November.

Recruitment / Nomination Committee – Daryll

Cole will run again for his open position (SW Region). Bryce O’Leary will accept a nomination for position that is opening with Daryll’s departure (Director at Large)

Special Projects – Matt D

March 20th will be the First Safety Certification meeting at the Fox Valley Tech in Appleton. All agreed that safety is critical to WCO and there should be added benefits to those who attend included discounts on insurance premiums. David Anderson is coming to give a presentation at the annual meeting Wednesday. David said he has made arrangements with Chub Insurance or members can contact your local provider to investigate options. Maria asked D. Anderson to sponsor lunch at the March 20 event. Fox Valley Tech is sponsoring use of their facility. Troy agreed to work with V&H to provide a truck for the safety inspection portion of the event. Speakers will include Mike Klingenberg, Cheryl Skojlas and a DOT Inspector to be named. Jeff Nelson from UW will discuss handling emergencies and Bill Arneson will handle the topic of field safety. There will be a NH chopper on hand to reference!

To certify members have to send a minimum of one key employee to the training on a Bi-annual basis (every other year). Attendees will receive a memory stick containing information from the event. That person / persons is responsible for sharing information with other members of their crew at home. WCO is considering having a “refresher” every year at the annual conference. Reminder postcards will be mailed in February. Members can apply on-line – there is no cost for members. None members can attend by purchasing a \$50 WCO membership.

Annual Board Meeting will be at 7:00 am Wednesday.

IOH – meetings going on around the state educating the public on IOH regs. Gov’t website is available to view local agency status (opt in / opt out). Cheryl will be presenting during trio conference. Jason Bauknecht was hired by USCHI to lobby on their behalf over the course of the last year. He has good ties with Jerry Petrowski’s office / chair of IOH committee. He is currently working on amending the law to benefit harvesters you travel to multiple jurisdictions. Looking to establish a “general or blanket” permit. Jason B was invited to the annual meeting. Maria mentioned on the topic of lobbying that we can hire a lobbyist we just can’t endorse a candidate for office.

Jon Orr, Mark Anderson and Glenn Jantzen from USCHI are attending the trio conference this week. They have their eyes set on Wis as it will no doubt set a precedence for the country.

Education/Conference – As usual we need sign ups to moderate each session and check people in at the door and hand out/collect surveys. Sign up sheet was sent around. \$100 gift card was donated by Meyer Mfg for the winner of the survey drawing at Wednesday lunch.

There was discussion of “ag safety connection” event sponsored by Rural Mutual, Farm Bureau, WABA and others. This is an annual affair and OSHA has some involvement. May be a possibility for our “off-year” safety training??

Bi-law update – now that tax status of WCO is updated, we may need to consider bi-law review. We will look at establishing a committee for the task.

New Business – Shelly M hourly rate is currently \$21.50 / hour. She has suggested \$25. She works 50-60 hours annually. The group agrees that she does a great job. Kevin S moved to increase the rate to \$25 – second from Isaac. The board will review annually.

Move to adjourn by Kevin, second by Isaac.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Troy Meyer
Secretary