

Bluff Country Co-op Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 13, 2020

6pm – 8pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Dawn Schreiber, General Manager; Alexa Shapiro, Administrative Assistant; Heather Gerdes, Prospective Board Member; Ilan Klages-Mundt, Impact Power Solutions Solar Garden; Ian Nicholson, Prospective Board Member

Board Members Present: Jenn Baechle, Terri Hansen, Eileen Hanson, Donna Kamann, Ann Lichliter, Aurea Osgood, Kay Pedretti, Ayesha Tarrannum

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	ACTION/OUTCOME		
		Yay	Nay	Abstain
Impact Power Solar Garden Solutions	<p>Ilan Klages-Mundt from Impact Power Solutions (IPS) provided a presentation for the board on solar gardens. Due to the rooftop at the existing co-op, it wouldn't make financial sense to utilize the IPS rooftop program. Ilan suggested the solar garden program, which would provide .7 cents per kilo-watt hours in savings through a subscription to a garden in Olmsted County. The contract is locked for 25 years. Currently, the co-op uses approximately 412,560 kwh annually. With a 25 year contract, the co-op would save roughly \$84,088. This savings is given as credits through Xcel that can be used on energy bills.</p> <p>Discussion: This proposal is similar to one given last year, which the co-op was advised against participating in. The major differences noted are that this program is a solar garden rather than rooftop solar and the equipment isn't owned by the co-op so, if it breaks, it isn't the co-op's responsibility to replace it. Some members would feel more comfortable if the solar garden was in Winona County so that the co-op is supporting local farmers. The board decided to talk to other sources in Winona before making a decision.</p>			
June Task Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One task carried over. See below. 			
Review June Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion. Jenn motioned to approve the June minutes. Donna second with one spelling correction 	8	0	0
Strategic Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion: Dawn has forwarded two member concerns to the board to discuss and come to a solution over. 			

	<p>These concerns include the sale of Holy Land products and appropriate use of masks. Many expressed that the board needs to communicate better about these member concerns so that they are addressed quickly and effectively. There were some concerns that the role of the board in member communication is unclear and that the board doesn't want to state that conversations are happening if they truly aren't. Dawn clarified that she wants the board to discuss these issues and come to a conclusion about how the co-op should proceed and that she trusts the decisions of the board. Ann suggested that the board develop an additional task force that looks into member complaints like these and brings solutions to the board. Kay, Aurea, and Ian agreed to be on this committee. Ann will coordinate the committee. Jenn offered to handle the existing mask complaint and connect with the board and Ed Hoffman for social media to ensure solutions are communicated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● C-shares campaign letter update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion: The campaign letters for the C-shares are complete. The board was asked to look these over and approve. An excel sheet will be made to track requests as they come in but all members will be informed that decisions will only be made after financials have been approved for the following fiscal year (in October). A fillable PDF form for requests was also created. ○ Eileen motioned to approve the campaign letters and fillable form. Kay second. ● BCC Annotated Financials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No discussion due to time ● <i>Grocery Story</i> discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No discussion due to time 	8	0	0
Committee Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Fund Advisory Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed the Advocacy Center of Winona to be the next recipient of the Community Fund. Kay motioned to approve. Donna second. ● Committee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No discussion due to time 	8	0	0
B3 Asset Protection and B7 Communication to the Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No discussion ● Jenn motioned to approve. Donna second. 	8	0	0
Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No discussion due to time 			

Update				
Closed meeting				

TASKS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to Chris about the Impact Power Solutions solar garden program 	Donna
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to Island City Brewing Company about the Impact Power Solutions solar garden program 	Alexa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at how we might make adjustments to pay out of dividends to make the days cash on hand sustainable (carried over from June) 	Dawn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to members regarding mask concerns and share communications with the board and Ed Hoffman for social media 	Jenn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share buyer guidelines with the board of directors 	Dawn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a time to meet with Kay, Aurea and Ian to establish a new task force for communication concerns brought about by members. 	Ann
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out C shares campaign letters to 2020 shareholders 	Aurea