

COPA Annual Meeting

February 21, 2008

Island Grove Park, Greeley

5:45-7:30

Board members in attendance: Adrian, Claudia, Dennis, Elaine, and Exec Dir, Jim. Absent: Brad, Dolores. There were approximately 25 others in attendance.

Handouts were the agenda, minutes from the previous annual meeting, balance sheet and director's report.

Claudia, as vice president, called the meeting to order and presided over it.

Don Gallegos, of the CDA certification program spoke. He explained the changes that have been made to the program as a result of shifting to an NOP accrediting agency. The nine member Advisory Board continues in statute and is being used to examine fees and fee structure. He is eager to work with COPA in a role where COPA can coach and assist those producers who need help with getting accredited as he is not permitted to perform that function.

Tom Lipetsky of CDA Markets Division spoke of several changes. Because of the Farm Bill and the accessibility of unclaimed property monies from the State of Colorado, there will be significant money available for marketing Colorado agricultural products. He invited COPA and producers to bring creative ideas to CDA. He'll be asking for formal input as the money materializes. When asked, he did not dismiss the possibility of a position on his staff that would specialize in organic production.

The Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were approved.

The Treasurer reported that we had a net income of \$192.19 in 2007 and that we are in the black by \$262.60. We need to increase our revenue stream, of which the Board is aware.

The Director's report was that we have a slight decrease in membership from last year. Jim passed around the web site statistics, noting that searching Colorado and organic was the typical route to our site. He noted COPA's role in planning the conference, the need for increased membership, and the activeness of the Board. He noted some future plans such as re-newing some partnerships with CSU, the Markets and Certification Divisions of CDA, and the need to explore new membership categories as well as examine our organizational structure.

Some suggestions were made from attendees such as contacting open lands groups as a source of energy and input, generating money from the Wooden Nickel program of Whole Foods (the Ft. Collins store may be a possibility), and forming sub-committees to work to get things done—to involve members in specific tasks.

Nominations for the Board were held. Frank Stonaker declined until next year. Addy Elliott and Bob Miller were nominated along with Elaine Granata whose term expired. This slate was voted upon and approved.

Dennis Lamm reported on the SWMN organic marketing producers survey and the preliminary results. These recommendations on page 2 of the report could be taken up by COPA. He also told us of the Colorado Reader project.

Addy Elliott reported on the CSU organic program. She suggested two ways that COPA could interact with CSU's program: Participate on the producers' advisory committee. It will meet twice a year and she would like to have 2 COPA members participate. Secondly she would like to keep the communications channels open so that interns can be placed with producers. There is a "job description" that she will revise to make it useful for placing interns and she will make a formal announcement about the program to inaugurate it. Lamm indicated that he has grant money to support student interns.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30.

Respectively submitted,

Elaine Granata

Secretary