

USCHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Face to Face

MPEC Board Room, Wichita Falls, TX

March 3, 2010

The USCHI Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting with a face to face meeting held in the Wichita Falls, TX MPEC Board Room on March 3, 2010. President Steve Shepherd called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. CST. Those present were Vice President/Secretary Tracy Zeorian, Treasurer Kent Braathen and Board Members Tony Rattei, Kirk Grove and Roger Sammons. Operations Manager Pam Shmidl and Board Advisor Al Lutz were also present. Board Member Jon Orr was absent. USCHI members attending included Dean Karau, Greg Thurman, Bill Stevens, Jim Baker and Harry Wallins.

Agenda was reviewed by all present. Bill Stevens asked that "SD length law and header trailer rules" be added to New Business. Tracy Zeorian asked that "Fuel tank issue" be added to Old Business. Tony made the motion to accept the agenda with the additions. Kent seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of the February 5, 2010 minutes were reviewed. There being no additions or corrections, Al made the motion to approve the minutes. Kent seconded. Motion carried. (Approved minutes can be viewed on the website at www.uschi.com – left side of the homepage under "About USCHI".)

Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Tony made the motion to accept the report as presented. Roger seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

World Ag Expo

Kirk Grove reported to the Board that the weather affected the Expo's attendance for the first and second day. The vendors felt the numbers were low. Kirk, Jon and Missy were able to visit with several people who were interested in USCHI.

Steve wondered if we should look at going to the show every other year.

Ag Connect

Jon Orr was asked to give a presentation at the Ag Connect Expo in January. While he was there, he was approached by Ag Connect with the idea of USCHI bringing our convention to Orlando and having our presence as part of the Expo. Jon was unable to present the idea to the Board due to an emergency at home. Steve presented the idea to those in attendance.

Greg stated he felt it's a good idea but it's in Florida. He felt we wouldn't get membership support for the change. The idea will be presented to our membership during the business meeting. Anita Sennet from the Ag Connect Expo will be attending our convention to give a brief presentation to the vendors and to our membership.

Jim Baker explained that Bylaw #3.01 would have to be changed. For some reason, after the 2001 directory was printed, the complete wording of Bylaw #3.01 was eliminated. Per our Bylaws, the annual meeting date is set for the first weekend in March. If we were to move the convention to Orlando in 2013, we would have to have a Bylaw change as the Ag Connect Expo is held in January.

Greg Thurman has visited with some of our major sponsorships. Their costs have not changed in quite a few years. Greg feels the Board should look at changing our contract with the majors who bring in both combines and choppers to reflect their sponsorship as separate entities. Changes in floor space pricing needs to be reviewed.

Ron Misener reported that we oversold our trade show floor space by \$3,000. Everyone worked together and they were able to get everyone in and it appears to be working.

Steve brought the Board back to the discussion of Ag Connect. Roger Sammons stated that we need to entertain the idea and explain to Anita our situation and go from there. There will be no membership voting on this issue at the business meeting.

Discussion began, once again, on the floor space pricing. The Board will approach the major sponsors tonight during supper and let them know the costs for floor space are going to change. We will discuss, as a Board, the increase in fees during the Sunday morning meeting.

Scholarship

Pam requested that we go to one check written to the scholarship recipient for \$1,000 rather than two checks for \$500 each. The Board agreed that we would do this.

Roger reported that he had had a conference call with the current and past committee members. The meeting was to gather information and to try to figure out what changes need to be made, if any. Ideas are to be brought to the meeting that's set for Thursday afternoon of the convention (March 4, 2010) and will go from there. Roger would like to get a consensus of our membership for any major changes.

Safety Manual

Tony reported that he has a safety manual put together and was going to share it with the Board; however, he lost it on his computer. He explained that OSHA will be involved if your business has any sort of major accident claim. It will be important that each of us has a safety plan in place and it's shared with each of our employees.

TX Legislation Update

Texas Senator Kel Seliger is working on a change within the Texas government that would allow out-of-state CDL's to be allowed in Texas without additional testing.

Tony also reported that the weight law change that was being worked on was not a law after all, just a policy. It will now go through the process of becoming a law. Tony requested that we pay \$250 for membership to the Texas Ag Council. He would also like to hire whoever would be necessary to get this issue pushed through for us. The Peanut Growers Association will also be involved. Tony will let the Board know if the hiring costs go over the \$2,000 capped amount.

Tony is still working on the issue of getting the South African H2A employees into Canada.

Tony would like to see the window stickers continued and purchased by the office for each Board member. Tony made a motion to have the office continue to purchase window stickers for the Board and officers. Kirk seconded. Motion carried.

Review of Accountants Audit

Steve and Pam went over the ending balances for 2009. The Operating Revenues and Support ending September 30, 2009 was \$440,946. The Operating Expenses ending September 30, 2009 was \$399,743. The value of the Scholarship Fund (January 1, 2009 through December 1, 2009) was \$112,065. The value of the General Fund (January 1, 2009 through December 1, 2009) was \$534,920.64.

By law Review

Bylaw #3.01 will be reinstated in the Directory as it was prior to the omission in the 2002 Directory.

The Amended Amendment was discussed.

Board Policy Review

Pam reported that the only change to the Board Policy manual is the major sponsorship rotation (page 17) now includes Vincent, Urban and Walker and Claas Omaha.

Fuel Tank Issue

Tracy read the latest email she received from Susan Gorsky:

"You can tell your membership that the ANRPM that addresses your petition will be published in March. I was hoping to make February, but we were out for a week because of two massive snow storms and we lost some time."

When the comment period comes available, we will need to make sure the DOT is aware that by limiting these changes to members of the U.S. Custom Harvesters only, the safety issue will be monitored much better.

Tony made a motion to send Board representation to Washington, DC before May 1, 2010. Kent seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Advertising

Tracy presented the 2010 advertising proposal to the rest of the Board.

Tracy made a motion to pay the proposed 2010 advertising costs. Roger seconded. Motion carried.

South Dakota length law and header trailer rules

The header trailer rules that were changed in July, 2009 only affect the single header trailer being pulled behind the combine. The header trailer is required to have a king pin 5th wheel configuration at the front of the trailer. If the header trailer does not meet the king pin 5th wheel configuration requirement, you lose the 81 ½' length. It will go to a legal length of 75', which starts at the front of the truck.

Bill will have representation from the South Dakota DOT at his farm on Tuesday, March 9, 2010. He invited everyone to his farm for this meeting.

The next meeting will be a face to face meeting to be held March 7, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. CST at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel Wichita III room. As with every Board meeting, all members of USCHI are welcome to participate.

Tony made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Kirk seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. CST.

