

**Ohio Association of Agricultural Educators  
Meeting Minutes  
October 28, 2011**

**Call to Order**

The October 28, 2011 meeting of the Ohio Association of Agricultural Educators was called to order at 10:05am by Delegate Council President, Rose Hartschuh, at the Ohio Farm Bureau office. Rose welcomed everyone and led the group in introductions. She also thanked the Ohio Farm Bureau for allowing the group to meet at their offices today. The invocation was given by Tim Lamb. Members and guests present included Rose Hartschuh, Sue Davis, Kellie Warner, Mike Derringer, Scott Sharp, Tim Lamb, Jon Henry, Ike Kershaw, Noah Neiderhouse, Dave Stiles, John Poulson, Rick Metzger, Don Paullin, Matt Hartline, Kevin Kremer, Cyndi Brill, Stephanie Conway, Sarah Whitford, Tom Holton, Bruce Bennett, and Chad Berning.

**Officer Reports**

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Mike Derringer moved to accept the minutes and Tim Lamb seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mike Derringer provided the financial reports for the checking account, as well as money in CD's. The current ending balance in the checking account is \$63,655.79. There are three CD's in the amounts of \$11,410.99, \$5,382.02, and \$3,112.46. John Poulson moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Rick Metzger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Updates**

OAAE President, Rose Hartschuh, reported that the Executive Committee met the night before to prepare for the meeting, as well as to prepare goals for the coming year. Committees will also be asked to set goals during the Delegate Council committee meetings. The goals that the Executive Committee has for the coming year include:

- Implement a plan for the use of the \$80 fee assessed to OAAE members.
- Restructure Delegate Council taxonomies to match the new pathways
- Continue to improve the business meeting and banquet at the annual OAAE conference
- Improve the dues remittance process
- Increase exposure of OAAE
- Work closely with partner organizations such as NAAE, ACTE, and OACTE, and explain to members how their dues are used within those organizations

Rose turned the meeting over to Beth Vanderkooi, Keith Stimpert, and Adam Sharp from the Ohio Farm Bureau, who presented information about Ohio Farm Bureau and a potential collaboration between OAAE and Ohio Farm Bureau. Questions that were asked included:

Q: Did the Ohio Farm Bureau take a stance on Issue 2 to simply provide support to the Governor?

A: The stance was taken based on policy, which is member-driven. Ohio Farm

Bureau stands up for what members believe and often disagrees with the Governor on issues.

Q: Do you think if the Board were to vote today, would they decide to still support Issue 2?

A: Yes, Ohio Farm Bureau will continue to do what is best for its members. It is unfortunate how heated the discussion has become, but SB5 is what is best for Ohio. Ohio Farm Bureau doesn't tell its members how to vote – we provide methods for our members to learn the facts and help them form their own opinion to cast a vote accordingly.

Q: OAAE has received services from Ohio Farm Bureau for free for many years. Why should we start paying now? Will we receive the same amount of support, or will there be more?

A: Ohio Farm Bureau would like to provide more services than in the past. In the past the OAAE/Ohio Farm Bureau legislative efforts have happened somewhat by chance, and often when OAAE had their backs to the wall. We'd like the legislative efforts to be more organized and strategized. In addition, OAAE and Ohio Farm Bureau have common interests. In general, Ohio Farm Bureau hasn't been able to provide enough support for Ag Ed because they do not know enough about what Ag Ed needs. A partnership could allow for Ag Ed to get more benefit through Farm Bureau efforts. Regardless of if OAAE works with Ohio Farm Bureau or another organization, OAAE needs to get engaged in the legislative process now more than ever. Ohio Farm Bureau has served as a crutch for OAAE, but OAAE needs more support than just a crutch at this critical time in Ohio. With regard to the \$6,000/year charge for services, it is a way to solidify the relationship, but it does not cover the complete cost of services provided. Most other organizations would charge a similar amount for a 1 month contract.

Q: Would there be a contact person here at Farm Bureau?

A: Yes, we would have someone here as a constant contact for teachers to contact as needed.

Q: It is safe to assume that most OAAE members are also Farm Bureau members. Would it be possible to tie in OAAE membership and Farm Bureau membership and give a discount on Farm Bureau membership if we form a partnership?

A: Farm Bureau would be interested in discussing a discount for membership in both organizations, but this cannot be decided at this time.

Q: Is the \$6,000/year fee a fairly well-established amount, or do you see that fee going up each year?

A: It depends on what all OAAE will want in terms of future services. The fee could go up if the group decides to ask for additional services.

Comment: Agriculture has no voice outside of Farm Bureau. Thank you for all of the work that you do on behalf of Ohio agriculture.

Rose turned the meeting over to Cyndi Brill to discuss a potential model for mentorship in the state of Ohio. Delegate Council members asked questions and discussed the proposed model, as well as issues related to beginning teachers, such as the need for a greater retention of teachers, the needs of beginning teachers, etc.

Ike Kershaw reported on behalf of the Ohio Department of Education.

- Ike reported that for the first time in a number of years there is a Food Science “taxonomy” meeting, which is happening today. This will be the third year in a row that agriculture has had the opportunity to participate in the Education in Economics Summit. Teachers will be invited to the Summit, and Ohio Ag teachers should consider participating this year.
- ODE is trying to figure out what to do about the summer Inquiry Institute. All teachers granting science credit are required to document that inquiry is being imbedded in the program. Attendance in the program was very low last year, and options are being considered for increasing enrollment. Ike asked the Professional Development committee to consider this program and to provide input back to ODE.
- The state funding model for education will be changing. Many directors for CTPD’s do not have an Ag background, and thus do not represent Ag well when advocating for Career Tech through OACTE. OAAE needs to play an instrumental role in voicing Ag Ed’s value in education as the funding model changes.
- Courses seem to be going well. Ike continues to get strong positive feedback from a variety of people. While concerns do exist, most feedback is positive. This is the year that schools must get their new plan in place. OAAE may look into providing support for this change.
- Some of the tests seem to have a very production-based approach due to the fact that primarily production teachers were involved in the development of the tests.
- Teachers are encouraged to monitor the development of these changes and offer feedback to ODE.

The general meeting broke for committee meetings and lunch at 12:00pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00pm.

### **District Reports**

District 1: Noah Niederhouse reported that he conducted a membership survey in his district. The results showed mixed reasons why teachers to join or choose to not join OAAE.

District 2: Kevin Kremer reported that members in his district have expressed concern about the use of the \$80 membership fees. However, he also pointed out that the concerns go both ways and that everyone is not in agreement about how it should be handled.

District 3: No report

District 4: Don Paullin reported that the district discussed legislative and mentoring possibilities, and that a relationship with Farm Bureau was generally not supported in the district. The district would like other options for the \$80 membership fee other than legislative and mentorship initiatives, or to eliminate the \$80 fee.

District 5: Chad Berning reported that the district is in favor of using the \$80 membership fees to hiring an Executive Secretary. Chad also noted that there were concerns in the district regarding the number of scores that will be used in calculating CDE results in the future.

District 6: Jon Henry reported that his district had feelings similar to District 4 in that members are opposed to forming a partnership with Ohio Farm Bureau. Jon reported that some non-OAAE members voted when business was handled at the district meeting. Thus, he followed up with the 18 OAAE members to ask for votes on the items of business and only 9 people responded to his request.

District 7: Rick Metzger reported that the district adopted a Policy Guide and made leadership appointments. In addition, the district voted to support a partnership with the Ohio Farm Bureau.

District 8: Dave Stiles reported that the district was in support of a partnership with Ohio Farm Bureau, as well as pursuing mentorship initiatives using the \$80 membership fee. The district is also in favor of OAAE utilizing FFA Camp as a permanent address and to hire the FFA Camp secretary as OAAE's secretary.

District 9: Bruce Bennett reported that the district voted to support a relationship with Ohio Farm Bureau and to use part of the \$80 membership fee for mentorship initiatives.

District 10: Matt Hartline reported that the district discussed inconsistencies in judging proficiency award applications last year. Each district did not have 3 representatives present. District 10 encourages all districts to send 3 representatives this year.

## **Taxonomy/Individual Reports**

Animal Care: No report

Production/Agriscience: Sarah Whitford reported there were approximately 140 people at HOT Conference in June, with slightly less at the OAAE day. The surveys had a lot of positive comments about the program.

Foundation: Mike Derringer reported that the Foundation Board is undergoing a restructuring process. The plan is to have one Board to set policy and a separate group to find sponsors. The new structure should be very similar to the National FFA Foundation structure.

Alumni: John Poulson reported that Ohio has reached 4,007 members, which will give us 8 WLC scholarships this spring. Affiliates still need to send in their EIN to National for their 990N. Several Alumni groups have lost their tax-exempt status for not doing so. Affiliates also need to register with the Alumni to grant administrator rights for the Ag Career Network. Ohio had a successful National Convention with the following results: 14 members received the Legion of Merit award; Ohio received a 3 star plus award, a gold newsletter award, and a gold website award; Ohio was recognized for meeting the 11% membership challenge; one affiliate received a \$750 grant; Jeff Nofziger was recognized as one of three National Achievement recipients.

Natural Resources: Anna Creswell submitted a written report (attached)

Mentoring: Stephanie Conway stated that all items for Mentorship have already been discussed.

CDE Representative: Tom Holton encouraged teachers to check the website for CDE schedules. Teams should take presentations for the Ag Issues contest with them to the contest, as the presentations do not need to be submitted early. Tom also gave a report on Ohio's successes at the National FFA Convention.

Agrimechanics: No report

Horticulture: No report

FFA Camp Board: No report

## **Old Business**

John Poulson reported that 3 OAAE representatives attended OACTE Empowerment in Sept. During the conference they had a chance to converse with representatives from Bricker & Eckler who provide legislative representation for OACTE. Attendees discussed communication and leadership ideas for the organization. John reported that he

felt that Ag Ed was well-respected by other divisions and that other divisions often look to OAAE to be an example of how to operate.

Rose Hartschuh reported that the officer team represented OAAE at the Region IV conference in June. The conference was held in Indiana and was a great opportunity to network and share ideas with teachers from other states. At the conference, delegates voted to endorse having 3-star National Chapter recipients recognized at National Convention. The National FFA has since decided to proceed in that manner with one and two-star chapters being recognized at a reception.

### **Committee Reports**

**Advocacy Committee:** Scott Sharp reported that the Advocacy Committee is interested in doing a survey to collect information from members. The survey may be used to develop policy to direct the committee and the organization.

**Membership Committee:** Matt Hartline reported that the committee spent time discussing what makes individuals interested in being OAAE members. The committee would like to lead an effort to conduct a statewide survey to examine this question. The committee is interested in pursuing a membership card to show that you are a member or offering membership discounts. The committee would like to offer the option of having lifetime dues paid over a set amount of years. The committee will also explore the possibility of having a dues deadline in order to clear up confusion regarding who is and who is not a member for a given year. The committee would like to charge 1 fee for dues, not 2 separate charges, and would like to consider lowering dues based on the decision of the group later today.

**Professional Development –** Sarah Whitford reported that the Professional Development committee recommends holding the Inquiry-based workshop during the school year (Thurs.-Sat.) or by having the OAAE/HOT Conference (Mon.-Wed.) and the Inquiry-based program afterward (Thurs.-Sat.). Another option is during OLC. The committee recommends having a sustainable agriculture curriculum session on the last day of HOT Conference as an alternative option to the tours that are already offered. OAAE plans to hold a business meeting during the lunch on the first day of the conference. The Ohio State University will once again host the OAAE/HOT Conference. The committee plans to utilize many of the workshop options from last year with a few new options offered as well. Goals for the year include: 1.) Increase attendance at OAAE/HOT by 25% and 2.) Increase the Inquiry-based workshop to a minimum of 12 people and a maximum of 20 people.

### **New Business**

Rick Metzger moved and Scott Sharp seconded to enter into a 1-year trial agreement with Ohio Farm Bureau at a price of \$6,000. Discussion was held.

Tom Holton moved to postpone the motion until Nov. 18. Jon Henry seconded the motion. Discussion was held. The motion failed.

Discussion continued on the original main motion. The Previous Question was called by Tom Holton and seconded by John Poulson. There were no objections and debate was ended.

A ballot vote was taken and the motion passed 16 – 2.

John Poulson asked all district chairs to do surveying in all districts regarding membership. John also encouraged individuals to begin considering running for an officer position in OAAE.

Rick Metzger moved to appoint Mick Weber as the Ag Science/Production Taxonomy Chair to fill the current vacancy for the rest of the year. Matt Hartline seconded the motion. Rose Hartschuh asked for objections and none were presented. The motion passed.

Mike Derringer presented and reviewed a draft of a budget for the 2011-12 year. The budget was discussed.

Scott Sharp moved to approve the budget. Noah Neiderhouse seconded the motion. Discussion was held.

Don Paullin moved to amend the motion by adding, “pending the addition of OAAE day income.” Rick Metzger seconded the amendment. Discussion was held. The amendment passed.

A vote was taken on the main motion as amended. The motion passed.

Tim Lamb moved to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie Conway seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Warner  
OAAE Secretary

# **Natural Resource Taxonomy Report**

*October 2011 Delegate Council Meeting*

The natural resource taxonomy held a technical update this past July 21-23 at OSU Stone Laboratories near Put-in-Bay. Participants learned about the programs Stone Labs offers, participated in a Science Cruise to test plankton levels and catch fish, and discussed the issue of algae blooms. Teachers also listened to a presentation from Kristin Stanford, "The Snake Lady," about the Lake Erie Water Snake. Thank you to John Hageman from Stone Laboratories for organizing the program.

This coming summer, the taxonomy plans to hold a technical update focusing on recreation and wetlands. Fellow teacher Brian Wilfong will be working to set this program up. The update will be held the end of July and will be based out of Winous Point near Port Clinton. Keep an eye on the Ohio FFA webpage for more information in the future.

The Natural Resource Curriculum Alignment Program will occur on November 10 at the FFA Center. Any teachers interested in aligning curriculum to CDEs are invited to attend. The hope is to align the curriculum so that select CDEs may be used in place of state end-of-the-course tests. If interested, please contact Anna Creswell or Cyndi Brill.

Respectively submitted,  
Anna Creswell  
Hardin Northern FFA  
Natural Resource Taxonomy Rep