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# Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

## Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association

### Whispering Pines Resort, RI

#### June 11, 2000

The Annual Business Meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association was called to order at 4:55 pm by President Jim Dunn. Copies of minutes from the June 1999 meeting in Morgantown, WV as printed in the October 1999 issue of *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* were distributed and approved without any changes.

#### Secretary-Treasurer's Report

##### Financial Accounts

The Association is in sound financial state. Two CD accounts totaling \$14,011.51 (as of 12/16/99) remain in New Hampshire waiting for maturity to be transferred to accounts in West Virginia. As of June 5, the Association has \$5,246.44 in its checking account in Morgantown. These liquid assets total \$19,257.95. Our cash flow in the checking account is at low point because the bills for the April 2000 issue of *ARER* have been paid but most of the page charges from this issue (\$5,244) remain outstanding. Receivables, in the form of page charges outstanding, are particularly high at \$19,209.62 due to billings for April 1999 being mailed out only recently. There was confusion as to whether the page charges were billed prior to the transfer of the Secretary/Treasurer position. Including the outstanding page charges and the repayment of the \$1,000 loan for the annual meeting as assets, NAREA net worth is over \$39,000.

Page charges account for the majority of NAREA income, while payments to the Sheridan Press are the major expense. Including editorial fees, *ARER* issues cost the Association \$21,486.70 over the past year. Page charges (received or billed) for October 1999 and April 2000 issues of *ARER* were a total of \$22,206.90. Thus, the journal should recover 100% of its expenses for the past year.

Other expenses of note this past year were the AAEA meeting expenses, mostly room rental at the 1999 meetings (which the board decided not to do again this year), the \$1,000 loan to URI for the annual meeting this year (which should be reimbursed in full), and award expenses. The Association has been paying a dues collection fee to the AAEA for handling our membership dues in conjunction with their own fees each year. This fee is \$50 plus \$1.00 per member. During 1999/00, this fee lowered our membership dues by \$360.

##### Membership

Current membership total in the association is 458. This figure is up slightly from the 444 total prior to last year's meeting in Morgantown. This total includes 311 general members, 67 libraries, 42 student members, and 38 honorary members. I anticipate that total membership will approach 500 by the end of the year (NAREA had 502 members at the end of 1999). Additional members should be joining during the annual meeting and the number of library members should increase as the invoice billings for 2000 went out late in May.

##### ARER Editor's Report

The April 2000 issue was mailed out on time in April. There were 11 articles in this issue, including six invited articles on the very timely theme: Administration of Tariff-Rate Import Quotas in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. Harry de Gorter and Ian Sheldon approached me on the possibility of this special issue in the fall 1999. They actually had 10 potential papers from a conference, and I agreed to publish the six best papers from the bunch. In the interest of time, de Gorter and Sheldon served as reviewers on the six manuscripts. I am very pleased with the overall quality of the articles, and believe that the timing of this issue was optimal given the recent trade policy debates. Moreover, I believe that this will be very good for increasing association membership.

Since May 1998, 117 manuscripts have been submitted to *ARER*. Of these, I have accepted 32 manuscripts (27%) and have rejected 34 (29%) manuscripts. The remaining 51 manuscripts (44%) are either in the revise-submit or review-not-yet-complete category. In addition, I have published two invited papers for the fall 1999 issue, and six manuscripts for the WTO issue in April 2000. I continue to be impressed with the overall quality of manuscripts that have been submitted to the journal. Over the 117 submitted manuscripts I have handled as editor, the average time lapse between author submission and my editorial decision was 41 days.

We already have the October 2000 issue filled up, which is faster than where I was last year at this time. I have tentative plans to publish 11 articles in the October 2000 issue, including the two invited papers from the Rhode Island meeting. In addition, I am planning to reprint the Association Bylaws in the October 2000 issue, since it has been quite a while since these were last published.

The journal article of the year for 1999 was awarded to Oral Capps, Jr., H. Alan Love, Gary W. Williams, and Wendi L. Adams for "Examining Packer Choice of Slaughter Cattle Procurement and Pricing Methods," which appeared in the April issue.

I am in the last year of my editorship, and I want to make a suggestion for a change in transition to the next editor. I took over on May 1, 1998 and my first issue was the April 1999 issue, which means I had to have articles in final form and to the printer by early February 1999. Ten months is simply not enough time for a new editor to put together a complete issue (especially if the new editor is planning a special issue, which normally is announced in the fall). Therefore, my recommendation is to have a new editor ready to start handling manuscripts on January 1, 2001 for the first issue to begin April 2002. That gives 13 months for the new editor to prepare for his/her first issue. I really believe this would be a good change in terms of assuring a smooth and easy transition of editors. As always, I want to thank the reviewers and editorial board members for their help in reviewing manuscripts.

During discussion, Jim Opaluch asked about distributing the by-laws by e-mail rather than printing them in the *ARER*. Kaiser responded that it had been a long time since the by-laws were printed and that there is an almost zero marginal cost to extra pages in the journal.

#### **2000 Annual Meeting Program Committee**

For the Program Committee, Loren Tauer reported that the selected paper chair (Doug Morris) made his work easy. Only two papers were invited as a third paper did not work out. Tauer recommended a change in the review committee size for next year. The committee should be decreased from 18 to 12 because only abstracts are being reviewed.

Doug Morris of the Selected Papers Committee reported that of the 51 abstracts submitted, 48 papers were accepted and three were rejected. Morris also noted that 18 was too many reviewers.

#### **Audit Committee Report**

The audit committee, consisting of Gerard D'Souza and James Bukenya, reviewed the financial records of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association and found them to be an accurate representation of the association's financial status as of May 31, 2000.

#### **Nominating Committee Report**

The nominating committee (Kevin Boyle-Chair, Robin Brumfield, and Jay Harper) reports that Dan Lass and John Halstead agreed to run for President. For Board of Directors, Gerard D'Souza, Joshua Duke, Robert Johnston, and Lori Lynch were selected as candidates. The committee thanks all candidates for their willingness to serve NAREA and for their support of the association. There were no refusals on nominations. One

person said this was not a good year for him and asked to be considered next year. His name was forwarded to President Dunn.

John Halstead of University of New Hampshire was elected as President-Elect. Gerard D'Souza of West Virginia University and Lori Lynch of University of Maryland were elected as Directors. Of the approximately 350 ballots sent through e-mail or mail, the overall response rate was about 33% (36% for e-mail and 19% for mail).

#### **Finance Committee Report**

The finance committee consisting of Kevin Boyle, John Halstead, and Cathy Wessells, reports that the association appears to be in sound financial condition. Therefore, the committee recommends no change in the structure or the level of the Association dues for the coming year.

This assessment is based on the financial reports submitted by the Secretary/Treasurer. While there appears to be a bit of a cash flow strain at the moment, this will be alleviated when billing for *ARER* Volume 28, No. 1 is completed.

#### **2001 Annual Meeting Report**

The Department of Resource Economics and Policy at the University of Maine is serving as the host institution for the NAREA 2001 Annual Meetings. These meetings will be held at the Bar Harbor Holiday Inn Regency, also known as the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, from June 10–12, 2001. All NAREA members are invited to attend.

President Dunn announced that he had received a memo from Steve Clark in Nova Scotia requesting a change from the 2003 meetings in order to hold joint meetings with the Canadian Agricultural Economics Association. A switch with New Hampshire in 2004 was mentioned as a possibility.

#### **Distinguished and Honorary Life Members Report**

Two distinguished member nominations were presented to the Executive Committee by the Distinguished and Life Member Awards Committee: John Halstead, University of New Hampshire and Bobby Gempshaw, University of Delaware. Both nominations were approved by the Executive Committee. Next year's chair will be Jim Leiby from University of Maine.

#### **Other Business and Announcements**

*Selected Papers Proposal* The following change in the by-laws was published in the April 2000 newsletter (the new language is in italics):

"The Selected Papers and Symposia *Committee* shall be comprised of a chairperson appointed to a one-year term by the President-Elect, and *twelve* at-large members of the Association. Each year the President-Elect will appoint *six* members to the committee for a two-year term. The President-Elect shall also appoint additional persons as necessary to replace Committee members

who cannot complete the second year of their term. (To initiate the transition from 18 members, the committee in its transition year will have 15 members—nine serving the second year of their continuing term and six new members).

The Committee shall review all abstracts postmarked by the deadline of March 15<sup>th</sup> (or an alternative date specified by the President-Elect) and select those papers to be presented at the Association meeting.”

Jim Opaluch made a motion to approve this change in the by-laws. During the discussion, Harry Kaiser commented that six members still seemed excessive. Steve Smith noted that we can amend the motion. A calculation of workload for the committee was discussed. 60–70 abstracts are typically submitted, this would mean about five per reviewer under the proposed 12 member committee. This year, Selected Paper Chair Doug Morris assigned two abstracts per reviewer and avoided sending abstracts to reviewers at the same university. President Dunn entertained a motion to change the number of reviewers. No motion was made. Steve Smith called for question and the motion to approve this change in the by-laws passed unanimously.

*Webmaster Proposal* The following additions to the by-laws was published in the April 2000 newsletter:

In the section on Officers: “The Executive Committee shall appoint a Webmaster to serve for a period of three years.”

In the section about duties of Officers:

“The Webmaster shall be responsible for maintaining the Association’s web site, revising, and updating, the site as appropriate.”

President Dunn made a motion to create this new position and to approve these additions to the by-laws. John Halstead suggested a name change—webmaster sounded unprofessional. Steve Swallow suggested that name could be changed without objection. Harry Kaiser expressed a concern that this position and new editor not begin at the same time. President Dunn indicated that there is not a specified beginning date for the term of this position. Steve Swallow moved to approve the additions to bylaws as printed in the newsletter. This motion passed unanimously.

#### *Outstanding Public Service through Economics Award*

The following description of the award was handed out:

NAREA is a professional association whose purpose “is to stimulate and promote education and research on economic and social problems related to the production, marketing and consumption of agricultural products; natural resource use; the environment; and rural economic development; and the interrelation of the agricultural and rural sectors with the rest of the economy.” In keeping with this purpose and to recognize and enhance the professional excellence in agricultural and resource economics, the Association currently bestows awards that recognize outstanding achievements of individuals. Two of our main awards are bestowed upon NAREA members. As indicated in the Association’s bylaws, the Honorary Life Member award singles out members “who have actively participated in the affairs of the As-

sociation. . . and who, while maintaining an active interest in their profession, have recently retired from their formal professional position. . .” The Distinguished Member award is given to “Candidates [who] may have teaching, research, extension, administration, government, or business responsibilities or some combination of these responsibilities. . . [T]hose members selected for the award generally will have made continuous and outstanding contributions to the Association, the region and the profession.”

These two awards are notable in that they recognize and enhance professional excellence in agricultural and resource economics within our own membership. However, there are opportunities to stimulate and promote education and research, in areas of concern to our Association, through the establishment of an NAREA Award for Outstanding Public Service through Economics.

#### **NAREA Award for Outstanding Public Service through Economics**

The objective of this award would be to recognize an individual(s) who has/have applied agricultural, environmental, consumer, resource or community development economics in a unique way that has contributed toward solving an important problem and improving the welfare of society. Through this award, the Association intends to broaden the profession’s concept of service and contribution, recognizing that traditional research, teaching and extension may not always be essential ingredients to make a positive impact on society’s welfare. The recipient(s) need not be a member of the Association. This award would indicate to economists within, as well as outside, our Association that we are concerned about the application of economics to solve problems affecting society.

The President of the Association will establish a committee of six members to solicit nominations for the award and to accept self-nominations. Each member of the Committee will serve a three-year term with two new members appointed to the committee each year. The Committee will submit one nomination to the Executive Committee for approval at the fall Business Meeting each year.

Nominees should be an individual(s) applying economics that have contributed toward solving an important economic problem. Each nomination must include a letter of nomination (maximum of three single spaced pages) which should be a concise statement summarizing the reasons why the nominee is worthy of the award. The nomination letter should focus on why the nominee meets the criteria for the award. Supporting materials, such as publications, videos, computer programs, letters from people impacted by the economic application, etc., may also be submitted. Each nominee will be evaluated on the quality of work indicated by the nomination letter and supporting materials relative to the following criteria:

1. Evidence of solving a clearly defined economic

problem and impact of the solution through behavioral change, improved understanding and/or informed decision making in the target audience.

2. Reflections on the relevance of this problem and the applicability of the solution in other regions, markets, public agencies or for other target audiences.

Recognition of the Distinguished Service Award winner will be done at the annual meetings of the Association. The recipient(s) will be required to present a keynote address that will be published in the Association's journal. The address will foster a greater understanding of the impact economics can have on social welfare. The form of this address may vary as appropriate for the recipient and his/her accomplishment. The recipient will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 in recognition of his/her contributions.

Establishment and presentation of the NAREA Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contribution to the General Welfare through Economics will place NAREA at the forefront of the identification of significant problems that have been solved by an individual(s) applying economic concepts. Furthermore, presentation of this award indicates that NAREA encourages and recognizes the application of agricultural, environmental, consumer, resource or community development economics to solve important problems and improve the quality of life.

In his presentation, Steve Swallow said that the award is not restricted to economists or members of the association. The award's objective is to reward the use of economics in solving real problems. Harry Kaiser asked about a published article in the *ARER* from the award and page charges for this article. Swallow replied that yes page charges would have to be made but the Executive Committee has the authority to waive them. Greg Poe asked about the title of the award. The exact title is: NAREA Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contribution to the General Welfare through Economics. Jim Opaluch brought up the issue of whether the committee formed under this proposal is required to submit

a nominee each year. Points were made that the committee could submit no name or that the committee could recommend that to the executive committee not to approve any of the nominees. Bill Tomek noted that the proposal was broadly written. Swallow replied that the proposal was defined broadly on purpose to let the committee have plenty of flexibility in deciding who might be eligible for the award. President Dunn entertained a motion to approve the proposal. Les Small moved to create this award by including the first two paragraphs from the section under the highlighted box (under NAREA Award for Outstanding Public Service through Economics) in the by-laws. The motion carried unanimously.

### Resolutions Committee Report

The following resolution was presented and passed unanimously:

[Be it resolved that] the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association expresses its sincere gratitude to the Department of Environmental and Resource Economics at the University of Rhode Island and the staff at the Whispering Pines Conference Center for arranging and supporting the 2000 annual meeting. Special appreciation is extended to Professor Stephen Swallow, local arrangements chair. The state, the facilities, and Professor Swallow's attention to the organizational details resulted in a highly successful meeting.

President Dunn asked about new business. No new business was introduced. At this time, Jim Dunn introduced the President of NAREA for 2000/01—Loren Tauer from Cornell University.

Motion to adjourn at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan R. Collins  
Secretary-Treasurer