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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
Newark, Delaware
June 28, 1994

The Annual Business Meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association was called to order at 3:15 p.m. in Clayton Hall, University of Delaware by President Jim Opaluch.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes from the June 22, 1993 NAREA Annual Business Meeting were approved as printed and distributed to the membership in Volume 22, Number 2 (October 1993) of the *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*.

Secretary Report

Wes Musser reported for Secretary-Treasurer Dunn that there were 448 members in 1994. Last year there were 376 paid members (excluding honorary life members). The numbers have increased somewhat from 1993.

Audit Committee Report, given as part of the Treasurer's Report

Don Epp reported \$22,496.42 in income, with expenses to date of \$20,611.89. With a starting balance of \$16,810.31, the ending balance totalled \$18,694.84. The special account had a balance of \$2,923.94. The audit committee found a minor discrepancy in the special account balance which will be reconciled.

Editor's Report

Editor Gempesaw reported that he received 63 manuscripts in the past year, with an acceptance rate of about 36 percent. Reasons for increased submission rate are (a) name change away from regional journal; (b) format of presentation cover page; (c) use of 3 reviewers -- introduces reviewers at national level to journal; (d) use of special topics for the April issue; and (e) Editor Gempesaw wrote to AAEA paper presenters to encourage submission.

In the last three issues, 44 percent of the submissions to the journal were from Northeast institutions, with 53 percent of the articles published coming from Northeast institutions. Gempesaw suggested adoption of a co-

editor. Opaluch suggested different use of the editorial council to lessen the burden on the editor, but Musser believes editor tends to lose control of process when this format is used. Spiro Stefanou suggested use of desktop publishing for journal. This is Gempesaw's last year as editor. We need to find a new editor.

Finance Committee Report

Wes Musser, on behalf of the Finance Committee, recommended no increase in page charges or subscription rates. Musser reported that Dunn estimates that \$15,000 is needed annually in the budget for cash flow. Given this, the current balance is probably not too high.

Nominating Committee

Wes Musser reported that the nominees for election of NAREA officers were Donald J. Epp and Loren W. Tauer for President-Elect; Catherine K. Halbrendt and Harry M. Kaiser for Director A; Ian W. Hardie and James S. Shortle for Director B.

Ballots were mailed to members on May 4, 1994. Deadline for return of ballots was June 1, 1994. A total of 173 ballots were returned and counted.

Jane Mease, Musser's secretary, counted the votes on June 3, 1994. Wesley Musser and James Dunn confirmed the count on June 6, 1994. Only one more ballot was received after the count.

The winners were: Donald J. Epp (President-Elect), Catherine K. Halbrendt (Director A), James S. Shortle (Director B).

The Committee congratulates these individuals and wish to give special thanks to the unsuccessful nominees.

Masters Thesis Awards Committee

There were 15 theses in the competition this year. Based upon the evaluation of the reviewers, this year's recipient for Outstanding Thesis Award is Cecile E.H. Ducrot (Cornell University, "Pesticide Externalities in Andean Potato Production: Integrated Production and Biophysical Models of Groundwater Contamination.")

Thesis Advisor: David Lee). The recipients of the Awards of Merit are (a) Nancy S. Lee (Rutgers University, "Analysis of Factors Influencing Fair Market and Restricted Land Use Values of Farmland in New Jersey's Purchase of Development Rights Program Via Hedonic Pricing Models." Thesis Advisor: Donn A. Derr); (b) April D. Parsons (University of Delaware, Conjoint Analysis of Australian Consumer Preference for Pork Produced with Genetically Engineered Porcine Somatotropin (pST). Thesis Advisor: Catherine K. Halbrendt); (c) Exequiel Gonzalez Poblete (University of Rhode Island, "Determining the Best Uses of Mangrove Areas: An Application of Dynamic Optimization to the Case of Shrimp Mariculture in Ecuador." Thesis Advisor: Jon Sutinen).

Distinguished Member and Honorary Life Awards Committee

President Opaluch announced that the Distinguished Member awards will be given to Olan Forker (Cornell University) and Steven Hastings (University of Delaware).

Program Committee

Julie Caswell thanked Joe Moffitt who chaired the Selected Papers and Symposia Committee, and thanked the 17 reviewers. A total of 39 papers and 2 symposia were submitted. The number of papers submitted has increased over time.

Future Meetings

Neil Pelsue invited NAREA members to meet June 18-20, 1995 in Burlington, Vermont. The following year the association will meet in New Jersey, most likely in Atlantic City.

New Business

Proposal for Graduate Student Travel Awards

Wes Musser presented a proposal to initiate a graduate student travel grant program to fund attendance of highly qualified graduate students to the NAREA meetings. The proposal was seconded.

In subsequent discussion Steve Hastings questioned why the surplus in the NAREA budget could not be used to finance the travel grants. Hastings amended the proposal with an amendment that the \$600 be allocated from the budget. This amendment was passed.

Jill Findeis asked if students would have to prove that they actually attended meeting. Wes Musser noted that the funds are to be used for travel to the NAREA meeting, and that receipt for reimbursement should be required.

The proposal, as amended, was passed. It reads: "It is proposed that the NAREA initiate a program of Graduate Student Travel Awards to encourage graduate student participation in NAREA Annual Meetings. Four awards, each in the amount of \$150, will be available from the NAREA budget. Except under unusual circumstances, no more than one award will be given to students from one institution. A maximum of two awards will be made to one institution. In addition, students previously receiving the award are not eligible. Graduate students presenting a selected paper or being a symposium participant will be given preference. The President-Elect and Past President will determine the winners after the program is finalized. The Secretary-Treasurer will make cash awards before the annual meeting, and an appropriate certificate will be presented at the Awards Luncheon.

There was discussion on whether M.S. thesis award winners recognized by the NAREA should present papers, and perhaps should receive travel grants. This was tabled for next Fall's Board meeting.

Issues of whether the NAREA should hold sessions on the second day of the annual meeting will be tabled for next Fall's Board meeting.

Resolutions Committee

Jill Findeis moved that the following resolution be adopted:

"Be it resolved that the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association express its sincere appreciation to Dr. Conrado "Bobby" Gempesaw, Chair of the Department of Food and Resource Economics; Dr. Steven Hastings; and the University of Delaware for the excellent organization and hosting of the meetings at Newark. Be it also resolved that President-Elect Dr. Julie Caswell be thanked for her efforts in organizing the 1994 meetings, and Dr. Joseph Moffitt receive our appreciation for serving as chair of the selected papers and symposium committee."

This resolution was unanimously passed.

President's Comments and Recognition of Outgoing Directors and Officers

President Opaluch personally thanked Steve Hastings, Bobby Gempesaw, and Julie Caswell for their efforts in

making the NAREA 1994 meetings a success. Opaluch recognized outgoing Directors of the NAREA Ranney and Findeis, and past President Musser for their efforts on the Board of the NAREA.

Pass Gavel to President-Elect Caswell

The gavel was ceremoniously passed from outgoing President Opaluch to the new President Julie Caswell. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

James W. Dunn
Secretary-Treasurer, NAREA