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Board Meeting
January 20, 2017
Ulster County Office Building

Draft Minutes

Present: Dave Church, Dennis Doyle, Mark Doyle, Todd Erling, Mary Ann Johnson, Ann Finnegan, March Gallagher
On phone: Eric Ooms, Walter Garigliano
Guest: Teri Bordenave

Minutes: Draft minutes from the December 9, 2016 were presented. March made a motion to approve, Mark offered a second and all voted in favor.

Financials: Preliminary financials for the year end 2016 were discussed. Todd reminded the board we did do an RFP for the auditors. PKBH submitted the winning proposal recommended by the Audit committee and approved by the Board. As required, we have rotated partners and they have been in for one session with staff. MA noted these are preliminary year end numbers as we still have invoices trickling in. Financials will be finalized in conjunction with the audit.

There was a discussion about confirmed funding sources.

Discussion continued on to the 2017 conference planning. Todd noted planning is underway for a national conference on farm viability. HVADC is on the host committee with Vermont Farm & Forest Viability program, Grown NYC and AFT.

March moved the motion to approve financials, Mark offered a second, all voted in favor.

ABO Process: MA reminded the board we will have to complete the audit and prepare the reports for the ABO by 3/31/17. This process is underway and will be completed by the deadline.

Bylaws: March updated board on the process the Governance committee did to review and update the bylaws. There is a typo in Section 1 for membership requirements – remove “an” before “economic development agencies”.

Pg 4 – change to his/her successor. Remove double the. Remove “with” in phrase “any time with by action”.

Mark made a motion to accept the bylaws as amended. Ann offered a second, no discussion. All voted in favor.

Strategic Plan Process: Teri began the discussion on the strategic plan process. She reminded board they have adopted the mission, vision, and values and three goals. The work plans for goals 2 & 3 were distributed at the Dec board meeting. Goal 1 has been worked on since Dec and the product of that work is being presented today.

Todd discussed role and interaction with SPTF before next board meeting to help get this across the finish line. A final draft can be provided to parties of interest.

Goal 1 – There was discussion on projects/programs in progress, the plan should include an update on their status.

Should there be priorities? It was agreed that there should be.

There was discussion of the board balancing growth and focus the organization. Discussion followed on remaining ambient. Todd shared examples of increasing demand within our footprint and adjacent to our footprint. The Board discussed the risk losing opportunity if demand is not addressed.

Dennis noted role of overarching goals. Ann discussed #1 as overarching goal. Board and staff discussed the priority/order of the strategies. Dave noted goals 2 & 3 are equal. March noted we should change the order of 2 & 3.

Todd referred to items 3, 4 & 5 under goa#1 and with Board discussion followed on how #3 – explore sponsor/member options and relations to other items and goals.

Teri asked board what they think about these strategies. There was discussion on how to include a general– continue to do what we are doing/continue success and core actions of 1st 10 years.

Add 1 – Provide successful meaningful services to agribusiness in the HV
Todd suggested we want to balance growing, honing focus and respecting our success. Similar to BREA – need to keep stable. Board discussed balance of retention, attraction and expansion.

Board members challenged each other to think about the marketplace we work in. How do we know HVADC exists? Teri commented that each board is an ambassador for the organization. Discussion revolved around goal 2.

The board discussed other models of organizations. RUPCO gets an annual stipend to exist. Is there value in having an organization to have feet on the ground? If so, then state and fed

sources should be participating. The board and staff discussed the challenge of limited peer organizations to work as collective. Hoping we can do some of this at the conference in terms of peers and examples. March discussed challenge a peerless organization being an opportunity that could help with funding.

Dennis discussed as a template Solarize NY, started as one project is now a statewide program.

Mark discussed the opportunity of collaborating with the land trusts because they tie into a state/nationwide network that exists beyond the Valley.

Dennis led a discussion on our strategic partners and how do we reach them? It is not only the land trusts, it is Farm Credit, USDA, the state, etc. Should we restate 4 & 5, Dave suggests refining those goals in relation to partnerships.

Dennis discussed a look at resources and then priorities.

Teri suggested we have the basics to draft a product for SPTF. Teri suggested to circulate something to the SPTF and then the board.

March clarified that the board can do an email vote with written consent.

Teri summarized next steps.

Mark made motion to adjourn, and March offered the second. All voted in favor.