NMNF Minutes 200416

Present: Mike Schrad, Bruce Clawson, Bob Wells, Sandy Douglas, Vicki VonLoh, Matt Jones.

Guests: Dennis Ferraro and Andrea Faas, Tim Olin

Absent: Kevin Hendrix, Leslie Kwasnieski

Meeting was called to order at 9:00. Treasurer’s report was: $5872.12 in bank of which $1200 is calendar $2500 for Liz Lange leaving unused $2172.12. Bob talked about director/officer insurance. It is needed for employment and the premium is based on assets. It is good to have if Board fails to meet regulatory requirements and provides an attraction to potential board members. Bruce will check on our liability if any. Bob will check into cost.

A great deal of time was spent discussing the effects of COVID on fundraising. At this time, most grantors are giving to COVID related organizations/functions. We also discussed the possibility applying for CARES Act. We don’t think we are eligible for payroll protection program loan, but may be eligible for economic injury disaster loan when more funds become available. Dennis outlined possible funding sources. The letters of support for NET grant outline support of $2500 from Lower Platte South, $3500 from Missouri Papio and $5000 from Crane Trust. NMNF will need to send invoices for theseHe went on to say there is $10000 from NGP in NET grant that can be used for training. Dennis and Matt have been discussing/developing a plan for video/virtual training and want to use NMN to assist. Matt can purchase software only at this time. We also discussed receipt of possible funding from sale/use by other of video modules. These would also provide continuing Ed/core hours for NMNs. Dennis said we should start identifying people willing to do and Matt will begin looking at possible NMN resources. Tim brought up that modules from past trainings might provide some guidance.

Mike outlined approaches/directions to future funding: grants, CARES act, funds available and video approach. Mike also talked about email received from Matt Darling about most grants going to COVID support and that Liz Lange told us only about 25% grant being funded. Tim suggested reaching out to membership, and Matt will work on letter. We also discussed possibility of meeting with UNL and letting them know of getting funding at this point in time. We will continue to work other possible grantors with Liz Lange. She is sending weekly billing but will invoice us monthly. We also had discussion on importance of NMN Junior Program going forward and decided this should be elevated. Dennis reported that Carly is willing to stay involved as well as Austen and Jocelyn from Fontenelle will also help.

NET will be meeting on May 21 in Public forum. At that time, second year of grant will be decided. Dennis and Kristal feel there is good chance it will be approved, and they also thought if Wildlife Conservation Bill is approved by Congress, funding for program maybe/might be available thru NGP rather than NET in future. Bruce briefly discussed how the transition plan is moving forward. Mike reported that the MOU between NMNF and NMNP had been approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Action items:

Mike – signed copy of MOU with Andrea

Bob – cost of insurance

Vicki – talk to local Pinnacle Bank

Matt J – inventory for UNL by 6/30/2030

Matt J – draft letter to membership with input from Andrea and Mike

Thanks Vicki