**MINUTES**

**BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**PA State Council of Farm Organizations**

**State Capitol, Harrisburg, PA**

**February 4, 2020**

**Attending**: G. Robertson; T. Wentz, J. Nogan, J. Heltzel, R. Leese, B. Shambaugh, J. Mohn, S. Case, W. Campbell

**Not Present:** K. Fuchs, E. Richard, C. Hershey, H. Secord

**Staff**: V. Phillips  **Guests**: G. Schubert, M. Leonard, M. Eby, M. Kovach, J. Bell

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice President T. Wentz

November 4, 2019 Board minutes were approved as corrected per motion by B. Shambaugh, second by R. Leese

**Association Management Report**.

Numbers of legislative issues were discussed. The Risk Management/Crop Insurance seminars were halted because of inadequate farmer participation. PSCFO will still receive a portion of the grant for the sessions held. Ag Directory ‘Orange Book’ distribution was discussed. Research was inconclusive regarding age of PSCFO although there is some thinking that PSCFO has reached the century mark.

PA Rural Electric Assn.’s M. Leonard made a presentation explaining a new legislative proposal to facilitate rural electric coops’ and others’ ability to expand Broadband.

**Financial Report**.

Year 2019 showed income of $14,577.00 and expenses of $15,412.29 leaving a net income of minus $835.29. 2020 status shows $5,328.01 in income and $312 in expenses (the year is young). The 2020 Budget was updated to reflect actual end of year 2019 income and expenses. It was approved with a motion by R. Leese, second, W. Campbell.

**Reports:**

* **Communications:** No report
* **Membership:** (V. Phillips) Status is currently 31 as of 2/2/2020 with three new members.
* **Nominations:** Reported was a slate of G. Robertson, T. Wentz as Vice President, and K. Fuchs as Secretary/Treasurer. Discussion on Board nominees inconclusive.
* **Cornucopia**: As of 2/3/20, table slots (19) were filled. With 81 advance non-legislator RSVPs and attendance from 17 Senators (10 R and 7 D) and 52 House members (28 R, 24 D). It includes all four Chairs and staff of the House and Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committees.

**Old Business**

* Legislative positions: Several bills were discussed. Approved as recommended policy per motion by W. Campbell and second from M. Kovach (representing H. Secord) to support HB 2055 which would facilitate municipalities’ attempts to become their own Internet Service Providers. Also recommended for Council approval was HB 1223 (Dairy) with motion by T. Wentz and second from J. Nogan. The Board voted for neutrality on HB 1224 (Dairy) because of insufficient information per Campbell motion and second from S. Case.

**New Business**

-          Dedication to Agriculture Award recipient announced—Joel Rotz, PA Farm Bureau. Members of the Dedication to Agriculture Award Committee were G. Robertson, H. Secord, J. Nogan, and E. Richard with V. Phillips, not voting.

-          Next meeting will be May 11, 2020 at PDA.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. per motion by W. Campbell with second from S. Case.

Respectfully submitted,

Vince Phillips, Executive Director