



## July Board Meeting Recap – by James Kloor, Board President

The Board of Directors met on July 11 to discuss the ins and outs of our Co-op over the last month. We got a GM Search update, reviewed financial statements for Period 1 (end of March through the beginning of May), appointed a new Finance Committee member, revisited the budget, and discussed a C-Share repurchase payout plan.

As far as the GM Search is concerned – we did end up engaging a national recruiter to bring in additional candidates. At the close of the application process we had more than 50 candidates. We're advancing nine to the first phase of the interview process taking place mid-July.

At the close of Period 1 we saw days of cash on hand up to 7.2 days. We've been slowly ratcheting that number up over the last few periods. Just from the beginning of the fiscal year to the end of Period 1 we've seen an increase to cash and cash equivalents of about \$220,000. That's in large part due to controlling expenses, and in small part to amortizing our health care expenses and estimating inventory on monthly financials. If you haven't run into "amortization" before - it's essentially taking the yearly total expense for something and breaking it into monthly chunks. A lot of businesses do it with single large purchase that hit them in, say, the beginning of the fiscal year. They'll amortize it and spread the cost over the entire fiscal year, so they don't appear in the hole right off the bat. It can even things out, such as in our case – where we know the max amount our health care plan will cost for the entire year – but not the monthly variances.

I'm happy to announce that Dave Dahler will be joining us on the Finance Committee. Laura Jones recently completed her term on the Finance committee. I'm incredibly grateful to Laura for bringing her knowledge and history with the Co-op to the Finance Committee.

We approved a revised budget for FY 2020 that forecasted a roughly \$350,000 profit, assuming a 1% increase year over year for sales and some tweaks to total operating expenses. If we can meet these revised numbers, we'll be in a much better position to serve the members, the employees and the community. I know we're asking a lot, and at times it may feel like we're trying to squeeze juice from a turnip – but I know that we can do it. We've all heard stories of when the Co-op made it through tough times in the past, and right now we're on the upward swing from one of those tough times.

I would like to acknowledge that our meetings have been very "Financial Bottom Line" heavy in recent months. We aspire to be a triple bottom line business – placing emphasis on People, Planet & Profit. We've been in a tough spot, financially, and I'd like to see us find our equilibrium – where we can again focus on all aspects of the Triple Bottom Line – People, Planet & Profit.

As always – please join us for the **next board meeting Thursday August 1** from 6-8 pm at the Aquatic Center in Eureka. You can see the other meetings that we have coming up on the Board Calendar(<https://northcoast.coop/calendar/>). Full minutes from the July board meeting will be available in the August Board meeting packet. You can get a copy of the board packet at the customer service desk about a week before the board meeting, or by email if you request it by emailing [emilywalter@northcoast.coop](mailto:emilywalter@northcoast.coop).