



June Board Meeting Recap – by James Kloor, Board President

At the top of the June board meeting agenda was the removal of Robert Donovan in accordance with Bylaws section 5.19-5.21. Robert Donovan missed three consecutive Board Meetings and has been absent from the majority of the meetings over the past six months. Given the vacancy, the Board decided to reassess the officer slate and made some changes. The officers and directors as follow: James Kloor - Board President & Treasurer, Colin Fiske - Vice President, Leah Stamper – Secretary, Cheri Strong - Nominating Committee Chair, Ed Smith & Ivy North - Directors on the Board.

A bylaw change regarding the Board absence policy was approved and Colin was authorized to communicate with the Board attorney about the change before it's implemented. At the May Policies & Procedures Committee meeting it became apparent that the Purchasing & Merchandising Policy didn't apply to the items that we purchase – just to items that we sell. The committee felt this was an oversight and corrected it. It's a simple modification to the Policy – and it felt like an important one.

We discussed the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan Final report. I appreciated this sentiment from Melanie Bettenhausen: "The strategic plan served as a through line as institutional knowledge left the Co-op, making it possible for new leadership to continue the trajectory established in prior years. While we did not fulfill all the strategies identified, our achievements over the last few years have resulted in positive impact for the Co-op and the community." Spanning nearly 15 pages the Strategic Plan final report captures our activities over the last five years.

Period 12 (the final period of our fiscal year) showed strong numbers – with net income of nearly \$125,000 (3.8% of sales). Staff is putting in a tremendous amount of work to make these numbers happen – and it's certainly showing. The "realistic detailed budget" is going to force the Board to have some tough conversations – and we started some at the June board meeting. We spent over an hour working through various budget scenarios and hearing from Staff & Management – and we still need more time. We're also realizing that the benchmarks we adopted that closely match the recommended benchmarks of NCG might not fit our Co-op. At the next Board meeting we'll revisit the budget, and in the interim the Board will meet separately to discuss the benchmarks. I hope with those in conjunction we can give Management the clarity they need to adjust the budget to meet the needs of everyone at the Co-op. It's difficult to say "We need to increase sales" without acknowledging that staff is giving it their all right now. I feel like I sound like a broken record – but staff is really doing a tremendous job at keeping us profitable.

It feels like we're turning the page into a new chapter at the Co-op. Over the coming months we will have the Employee Board of Directors' election, interviews for the GM position, the Annual Membership Meeting, and the general Board of Directors' election.

Full minutes from the June board meeting will be available in the July 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.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, July 11 at the Arcata Community Center