



## May Board Meeting Recap – by Colin Fiske, Board President

**Finances** - Sales continue to be lower than we'd like, but on average close to the revised mid-year budget. While there are always fluctuations, other benchmarks appear to be mostly holding steady. Our financial situation is far better than it was six months ago, but a lot of progress still needs to be made.

**Pumpkin Patch** - Given the financial situation, the management team has been looking at ways to reduce the cost of the annual Pumpkin Patch event. Concerns have been raised about the impact of these reductions to this beloved local institution. The board discussed this with employees, management team members, and Pumpkin Patch farmer Paul Giuntoli, who attended the meeting. The biggest cost to the Co-op for putting on the event is staff time, and due to reductions in staff we no longer have the staff time available. Various ideas for reducing costs while continuing to serve all the children who learn from and love this event each year were discussed. The management team will report back to the Board at our next meeting on their progress toward finding solutions.

**Pacific Outfitters Marketing Partnership?** - Pacific Outfitters co-owner Aaron Ostrom attended the meeting to express his interest in some kind of mutually beneficial marketing or outreach program involving the Co-op and either Pacific Outfitters or its associated non-profit organization. Board members and staff asked Aaron about some controversial topics, including the fact that Pacific Outfitters sells guns and has waded into the local debate over needle exchanges. Aaron told the Board that Pacific Outfitters provides gun safety training and education, and that its only position on needles was that they shouldn't be left on the ground. The Board didn't take any immediate action on this item.

**KHSU Underwriting** - This item was on the Board's agenda due to Board member concerns about continuing to underwrite KHSU since the HSU administration cut all local programming and fired almost all the staff. However, by the time of the Board meeting, the Co-op had already ceased underwriting since KHSU broke our contract when they changed the underwritten programs without notice. The Board discussed briefly what the future of KHSU may hold and directed staff not to renew underwriting the station at any point in the future without approval of the Board.

**Consent Agenda Actions** - The Board approved several items referred from the Policies & Procedures Committee in its consent agenda, including:

1. A potential Bylaws change to clarify the eligibility date for voting in elections held without a meeting (currently unspecified). This will be reviewed by the Board's attorney and possibly sent to the members for approval at a future election.
2. Ideas for social and environmental benchmarks to complement the Board's adopted financial benchmarks. These ideas were sent to staff for feedback on feasibility and measurability.
3. A new official Board policy that Board members are expected to serve on at least two committees (this has long been an unwritten expectation).

The full minutes will be available in the June 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).

### Next Board Meeting

Thursday, June 6 at the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center, Eureka.