



November Board Mtg. Recap – by James Kloor, Board President

On November 7, the Board of Directors met to discuss and review the going's on of our Co-op. We welcomed three new board members, reviewed period 5 financials, and discussed with staff and members the effects of the power outages, both on our stores and in the larger community.

New Board Members: Our new Board members are Roger and Laura Wright serving as General Member Directors, and Kirsten Lindquist serving as an Employee Director. Roger shared that he wants to continue prioritizing the removal of plastics from our stores, he would like to see more worker participation, and help the Co-op find its footing in these uncertain times of power shut offs. Laura has a strong background in sales and is passionate about good food, cares deeply about the ethics of food sourcing, and in finding ways to support our local community. Kirsten has been deeply involved in our Co-op, attending most (if not all) of the Board members over the past year. Kirsten has worked with many other Co-ops and brings with her a level of care and responsibility that will help guide this Board to make decisions best for the members.

New General Manager: The Board of Directors hired Sean Nolan as our new General Manager. He comes to us from Central Co-op in Washington and will be starting the second week of November. Melanie has seen the Co-op through some trying times, I'm grateful for her time with the Co-op, and am curious to see how we grow / change / evolve under Sean's leadership. See the press release: <https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2019/oct/17/north-coast-co-op-hires-new-general-manager/>

Period 5 Financials (which cover roughly the month of August) showed a slight dip in sales to budget, as well a decrease to payroll expenses. Staff is doing a very good job at controlling expenses, which is pivotal when sales don't quite meet budgeted numbers. Overall Period 5 showed a \$28,000 loss, but year to date we are looking at a \$38,000 profit. The financials from the power outages won't be available for a few months, but the sense I get from staff is that it will be flat overall. Last year we were showing a \$478,000 loss at this point in the fiscal year, this year it's a \$38,000 profit – that's a swing of nearly \$500,000. That's entirely thanks to our staff and members.

Planned PG&E power outages: For me personally, knowing the Co-op was available and open was a little slice of normality in the swirling weirdness of a community without power. In the larger sense, the Co-op lived up to its principles of Concern for Community and found itself again as a community hub. Staff's goal during this outage was to lose no product – and from the reports it sounds like product loss was minimal. Staff worked around the clock to make sure this happened and did an amazing job. Going forward the Board will work with staff to make sure we're prepared for the next planned shutoff event, and more critically, the next unplanned event. This whole scenario has been a wake-up call for the North coast, hammering home how secluded and vulnerable we are. But our Co-op is strong and serves to make our community stronger.

Upcoming meetings in November include the Earth Action and Member Action Committees on Wednesday Nov. 13, a Policies and Procedures Committee meeting the following Wednesday, Nov. 20, and a Finance Committee meeting on Thursday Nov. 21. Please check the Co-op Calendar for agenda's, meeting time, location and additional details. The next board meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 5. Agendas for meetings are posted in both stores and the Co-op website calendar page (<https://northcoast.coop/calendar/>) one week prior to the meetings.