



Bassett Healthcare Network
New York Center for Agricultural
Medicine and Health

NYCAMH Advisory Board Minutes
Meeting 3/14/24 11:00-2:30
The Otesaga, Cooperstown, NY

Attendees:

Jim Bittner (virtual), Pauline Boyer, Liz Callahan, Andy Carlson, Keith Clark, Christina Day, Richard Engelbrecht, Alicia Fletcher, Jessica Garcia (virtual), Kitty Gelberg (virtual), Bruce Gibson, Travis Hall (virtual), Brittany Houghton-Dipietro, Andy Johnson, Victor Jones (virtual), Christine Lalonde-Meade, Cindy Levene, Dick Peterson, Erika Scott, James Shuford (virtual), Julie Sorensen, Renee St. Jacques, Peter Ten Eyck (virtual), Dan Zeh, Bill Zittel.

Welcome and Introductions: Bill Zittel

Bill welcomed new Advisory Board members Bruce Gibson and Renee St. Jacques.

He also welcomed those attending virtually, including Peter Ten Eyck who shared that his Indian Ladder Farms received the 2024 Business of the Year Award from the NYS Agricultural Society. Congratulations to the Ten Eyck family! For more on the award, see below:

https://www.lancasterfarming.com/farming-news/news/indian-ladder-farms-named-business-of-the-year-at-2024-nys-forum/article_d0c5438d-329d-5370-81c7-2d709dc5f874.html#:~:text=SYRACUSE%2C%20N.Y.,the%20recent%202024%20NYS%20Forum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpQi4cWtS8Q>

Director's Report and Updates: Julie Sorensen

Julie summarized key items in the Director's Report. She also noted:

- The governor's budget as well as those of the NYS Senate and Assembly all currently include increases for NYCAMH. There are line items of \$1M for NYCAMH, \$250 K for ROPS (Roll Over Protection Services) and \$100 K for JMFSF (John May Farm Safety Fund). The governor is scheduled to sign the final budget around April 1.
- We will draft a thank you letter from the Advisory Board to the chairs of the respective senate and assembly committees to thank them for their support. We will circulate it via email to ensure each AB member receives a copy. It was suggested we also thank legislators from NYC because their support was also critical to obtaining the funding increases.

- HealthWorks conducted two successful on-site farm assessments in October and December. There is demand for this service and more on-site assessments will be scheduled in the future.
- We will be offering a first responder naloxone training course for staff.
- We plan to continue conversations with legislators on the NYCAMH budget.
- We have seen a 75% increase in applications for JMFSF, underscoring the need for continued support for this NYCAMH program.
- Thanks in part to NYCAMH's work, there is now a resolution pending to support adaptive services and rebates for disabled farmers.
- An article regarding Tractors, Trees and Rollovers, appeared in the Journal of Agomedicine in January. Co-authored by Julie, Erika, Pam Milkovich and Andy Johnson, it raises a safety concern, which has not received a lot of attention: ROPS are not designed for protecting operators from falling objects such as trees in tree removal activities and using them for this purpose could result in serious injury.

Advisory Board Appointment Updates: Cindy Levene

Cindy reported that we have one request pending with Senator Hinchey's team. (Renee St. Jacques, NYFB – official appointment). Note: Senator Hinchey's office subsequently told us the request went to the Senate Majority Leader on 3/20 for his consideration.

AB Discussion of Staff Retreat Event

Julie reported that we are planning a staff retreat on Friday, June 14. The evening before, Thursday, June 13, we will host a dinner at The Farmers' Museum, and it is our hope that Advisory Board members will stay following the NYCAMH Advisory Board meeting that day to join us. (Overnight accommodations will be provided for board members who need it.)

Julie asked the Board for input about the event. The following are some of their suggestions/remarks:

- Arrange for staff to interact with AB members who may have a particular affinity for the projects they work on. Seat them together.
- Staff can share posters and demos from research/presentations they have given.
- Be sure to give a history of NYCAMH; illustrate how much the organization has grown.
- What will we do with funding? How will we prioritize needs?
 - What have we been forced to delay/postpone in the past that we may be able to address now with increased funding?
 - Equipment needed?
 - Staff expertise that would be helpful?
- Consider swapping tables over dessert to increase opportunities for interaction.

Emerging Issues:

The Advisory Board was asked to identify any emerging issues that NYCAMH should be aware of. What should we be preparing for?

Their feedback follows:

- The board questioned our ability to feed even NYS in 25 years.
- Farms are running out of arable land; NY is experiencing a declining land base. Every time a small farm fails, farming loses the land.
- Researchers need to share data with policy makers to identify these issues.
- Increasing need for collaboration among groups.
- We also need to educate the public and legislators.
- Pros and Cons of solar panels on farmland were also discussed.
- Can NYCAMH connect the engineering lab and AgFF research activities? What technology do we need to develop and how can it be translated to worksites?

LUNCH

Advisory Board Business: Bill Zittel

Advisory Board Tenure: Proposed Advisory Board terms were accepted. (See attachment)

Revisions to Bylaws: Proposed revisions were discussed and accepted. (See attachment)

New NYCAMH Navigator Role: Christina Day/Pauline Boyer

Pauline introduced Christina Day, whom AB members remember as a NYCAMH Farm Safety Educator. However, Christina recently assumed the new role of Navigator. The position grew out of a desire to identify farmers' most current challenges and adapt our programs to help meet their needs. The Navigator can also put farmers in touch with other resources and assist in making connections.

Feedback on this new role included the following comments/observations:

- Some challenges facing farmers in the future are Human Resources, training and housing.
- Are the needs the same for small, medium and large operations?
- The Farm Navigator position is a good concept: Farm and School Navigators and Health Care Navigator roles have been very successful.
- Information flow will go both ways, the Navigator will connect farms to resources and will also report needs back to NYCAMH and other agencies so they can provide better services.
- It is difficult to address all the rules imposed on farms today.

Strategic Approach to Dairy Farming: Christina Day

In her new role, Christina participates in the Strategic Approach to Dairy Farming. The project is a collaboration among NYCAMH, Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agricultural Workforce Development program and NEDPA (Northeast Dairy Producers). The intent of the project is to look at how all facets of the dairy farm contribute to (or impede) safety. The project is being undertaken by three farms as a pilot

and assesses how processes might be restructured to improve safety. Tools used are Rapid Ethnographic Assessments (REAs), interviews, and farm site visits. Participants also received Lean Six Sigma Training, which enables them to identify root causes of problems and engage in continuous improvement in employee engagement/buy-in, safety and waste reduction. Farms have started mapping out ways to implement the Lean management strategies they learned, which will hopefully lead to tangible improvements in safety. If the project provides positive outcomes, NYCAMH will look for ways to support the endeavor beyond the pilot.

Discussion

- Julie urged AB members to check their calendars for the June 13th date to see if they can attend the dinner event at the Farmers' Museum.
- There was discussion of Assemblyman Tague's plan to bring assembly members from around the state to the area in September to showcase NYS Agriculture. We may want to dovetail an activity with his event.

Adjournment: Bill Zittel

Next meeting: Thursday, June 13 11:00 – 2:30 The Otesaga, Cooperstown, NY

and, for those who are able,

Dinner with NYCAMH staff: Thursday, June 13 5:30-9:00 PM The Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, NY