

**Ashland Food Cooperative  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 2012  
APPROVED**

**Board members present:** Guy Nutter, Gwyneth Bowman, Joanie Kintscher , Phil Johnson, Sheila Carder, Charlie Douglass, **Employees present:** Richard Katz, General Manager. **Others:** Ken Crocker, Facilitator; Abby Lazerow, Board Administrator. **Absent:** Peter Hoyt

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Ken Crocker

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION POINTS</b>	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b>	<b>REMINDERS/ FOLLOW UP</b>
<b>Positive Affirmation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phil Johnson led the positive affirmation.</li> </ul>		
<b>Announcements and Calendar of Opportunities &amp; Expectations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 21<sup>st</sup> of May is the commencement of elections.</li> <li>• Meet and Mingle with the candidates will be held on June 6, 7-8:30 p.m.</li> <li>• The annual picnic and 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party will be held on June 24 in Lithia Park.</li> <li>• All election ballots must be turned in to the Co-op by 9 p.m. on Friday, May 29.</li> </ul>		
<b>Agenda Review</b>	Done	Approved.	
<b>Training Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCMA, Philadelphia. Richard will not be attending.</li> </ul>		Board members are encouraged to attend.
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board unanimously approved all Consent Agenda items.</li> </ul>	The Board approved all Consent Agenda documents.	
<b>List of Nominated Candidates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The four nominated candidates are Joanie Kintscher, Charlie Douglass, Ed Claassen and Pepper Lewis. There are three open seats. Two seats are for three-year terms <b>and</b> one is for a two-year term.</li> </ul>		
<b>GMO-Free Campaigns in State and County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Shaw has been attending GMO-free Jackson County meetings for the past month. The Co-op mission statement supports shoppers to make informed choices about food, nutrition and health. Shoppers have the power to change the food industry and government regulations.</li> <li>• The Co-op now provides a non-GMO shopping list and brochures about GMO-free Jackson County. All products</li> </ul>		

	<p>containing non-GMO certification are listed in this guide. Shoppers are encouraged to look for the non-GMO symbol on specially certified products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current Co-op newsletter provides information about ways shoppers can become involved. Information is also available at the front desk.</li> <li>• The Co-op wants to support the GMO-free Jackson County campaign. The Co-op donated food for a fundraiser and will allow the campaign to place a table in front of the store during the petition drive. The Co-op is also co-sponsoring a talk by Jeffrey Smith, author of Seeds of Deception and a leader in the drive to ban GMOs.</li> <li>• The Co-op will give owners updates about the campaign.</li> </ul>		
<b>GMO-Free Jackson County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Coomes asked the Co-op to consider putting a statement in the November ballot guide endorsing this initiative. He also hoped a short presentation could be made during the annual picnic.</li> <li>• The petition was submitted to the County on May 1. The goal is to obtain 6000 valid signatures to get the issue on the November 2012 ballot. 40,000 voters are needed to pass the ballot measure in the election.</li> <li>• Outreach and volunteering by co-op owners are important to have this petition be successful.</li> <li>• Local farmer Chris Hardy reported there was a Syngenta GMO sugar beet crop being grown for seed close to his farm. These crops could affect the ability of local farmers to save seeds from their crops. Chris has been educating other farmers and food store managers about GMOs. GMO alfalfa would also affect the ability of farmers to produce organic milk and meat. Syngenta won't reveal where their farms are. GMO farms are currently unregulated.</li> <li>• If the GMO-free Jackson county initiative is passed, there will be a legal process to enforce GMO farmers to remove their crops.</li> <li>• A local group is developing a phone app that will allow users to determine if a product has GMOs in it.</li> </ul>		
<b>Owner Forum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deborah Wilson said she was disappointed to read about the violations of the NLRA and asked the Co-op to admit guilt. She said the violations show the Co-op is not aligned with its mission statement.</li> <li>• Sherman Lucas thought the Board and Co-op were doing a great job and the Board has received unwarranted criticism.</li> </ul>		

	<p>The Co-op is in a strong financial position because of good management and cooperative Board action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cate Hartzell asked for a response to her request for information and mediation. Hartzell also said she was unhappy that the Owner Forum was scheduled before the meeting break because she said Co-op workers could not easily attend and people were unsure when it would actually take place. She also didn't like managers attending the Board meetings because they could be intimidating to workers. She also thought that the BoD was breaking the law by giving priority to employees and letting them speak first.</li> <li>• Barbara Commes expressed her appreciation for the work the Co-op has done to help ban GMOs.</li> <li>• Jon Mealy, President of Medford Food Co-op thanked the Co-op for their advice and guidance.</li> </ul>		
<b>Break</b>	A meeting break was taken at 7:04 p.m.		
<b>Forfeiture of Outstanding Patronage Dividends</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The finance committee recommended the Board approve the proposal to forfeit un-cashed patronage dividends from 2007 issued in 2008.</li> </ul>	The Board agreed to approve the proposal.	
<b>Staff Director Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mood in the store has been calm since the NLRB posting.</li> <li>• There will be an orientation for new employees on June 11.</li> </ul>		
<b>2012 Strategic Priorities Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cheese cooler and demo kiosk will be installed in July.</li> <li>• Improved consistency of store policies in all departments are on hold until the elections. Policies cannot be changed while the organization is under the NLRB 60 days posting waiting period.</li> <li>• The role of the product standards and sustainability committees need to be clarified.</li> <li>• The Board will continue to discuss the Co-op's role in the GMO-free Jackson County process in future meetings.</li> </ul>		
<b>Committee Sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grants Committee had 33 applicants and over \$23,000 to distribute.</li> <li>• The Grant Awards ceremony will be held on May 24 at Pioneer Hall.</li> </ul>		
<b>Meeting Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board members appreciated the time to explore the topic of GMOs in depth during the meeting.</li> <li>• The meeting went smoothly.</li> </ul>		

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

**Board Actions:**

**The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:**

- April 2012 Board Meeting Minutes
- April 2012 Executive Session Minutes
- Executive Committee Minutes, April 2012
- Outreach Report, May 2012
- Outreach Committee Minutes, April 2012
- Finance Report, April 11, 2012
- Finance Committee Minutes, April 9, 2011

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on Wednesday June 13, 6:00 p.m.  
***Minutes are not posted until approved by the Board at the next month's meeting.***

Minutes were kept and prepared by the Board Administrator, Abby Lazerow.

**There will be an Executive Meeting following the Board of Directors Meeting.**