



The North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association, Inc.

## North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association Annual Board Meeting Minutes January 12, 2026

Members Present: Sue Balcom, Eric Hegg, Quinn Renfandt, Janel Anderson, Jodi Faaborg, Julia Seiler, Keith Knudson (executive director), Jenna Nieters (NDDA Representative). Desiree Carlson, Johnathon Moser, Dawn Rognerud, Bonne Munsch were not present.

President Renfandt called meeting to order at 7:04 PM (Quorum established)

First item was the introduction of board members.

Minutes from October 18, 2025– Jodie asked that the spelling of her last name be corrected. Jodi moved to approve minutes as corrected, Janel seconded. Minutes approved.

Financials – Keith stated there was \$32,475.29 in the association account. Sue moved to approve the treasurer's report, and it was seconded by Julia. Treasurer's report approved.

Keith presented the budget for 2026. Line items were discussed in detail. Current funding from a private funder designates \$31,000 annually to be given out as grants to the association's members. There is also \$9,000 that is allocated from this fund that is to go to educational materials and events for the association's members. Jenna from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture discussed the NDDA budget items that may be used in collaboration with events by both organizations in the coming year. Budget is on hold for now. The budget item will be picked up again in the March meeting.

2025 Conference discussion

- Board members stated fall season does not work well with most members as they are still selling at markets.
- Discussion was held on the heatmap created by Eric from the membership database. It showed higher membership in the four major population areas in North Dakota. Quinn expressed his appreciation for the work Eric had done to create the heatmap. This information will be factored into the decision on where we plan our next conference.
- Members felt that we should work with other local foods organizations in North Dakota to increase the participation at our next conference.
- Conference survey was discussed. Everyone felt this year's conference topics were good. Survey indicated the use of more panels.
- A conference committee will be created at the March board meeting to begin working on the conference for 2027.

2025 Grant update

- Keith told the board members that we had fifty-nine grants. There are six grants still pending closure due to grantees not submitting all their receipts.

### New Business

The 2026 Spring Newsletter will be coming out in March. Sue will put the newsletter together to be published. Board members should submit ideas and articles to Sue by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Items to be included are:

- Membership
- Grant opportunities and application



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- Introduction of new board members
- Articles from the President and Executive Director

2026 Grants - Board review the grant program to see if there was a desire to update the present grants. There was a discussion on possibly increasing the amounts. Jodi felt the Farm to School Grant amount was not large enough to really be effective. The current amount for this grant is \$300.00. It was also suggested that a grant fund be established to support vendors and farmers markets that hold special events. The funds would help cover the cost of the event. President Renfandt assigned a committee to work on grant funding updates. Members are Quinn, Janel Julia, Jodi, and Keith. The committee will plan to hold two meetings before our next board meeting in March. Keith will set up times to meet. Website cost \$825.00 annually. Keith reviewed the email from Design Wizards that explained the items covered by the annual fee. There was no further discussion.

Jenna presented the ND State Fair Ag Education event to be held at the North Dakota State Fair in July 2026. The NDDA is requesting a \$500 donation to assist in the cost of the event and to also become a partner in the event. The Association would be able to have information at the event and could also participate in daily activities, including having an educational presentation. The board members discussed providing funding beyond the \$500, however that was tabled and will be brought up at the next meeting. Janel moved to donate \$500 to the event. Sue seconded the motion. The motion to donate \$500 was approved.

2026 Annual meeting – There will be further discussion at the March Board meeting on how to best handle this.

Bank updates. Lynnette Vollmer, First International Bank and Trust had requested the board review signatory information. There are two changes the board will make.

1. Jodi Faaborg moved the removal of Mike Pretzer and adding of Jodi Faaborg as signers to the checking account. Sue Balcom seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
2. Janel Anderson moved to remove Holly Mawby and Mike Pretzer as signers from the First Reserve Loan and request that account be closed. Sue Balcom seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next Board Meeting – Members decided to have the next board meeting first part of March. Keith will send out a doodle poll to find a date that works well for the board members.

Julia moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM, on January 12, 2026.

Minutes by

Keith A. Knudson, Executive Director