

Board of Directors Meeting
Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association
December 20, 2018
9:50 a.m. – 12:04 p.m.

Location: Carr’s Coffee Shop at Northern Lights and Muldoon

Present: Mark Wolbers (President), Debbie Hinchey (Vice President), Gary Masog (Treasurer), Susan Miller (Secretary), Val Glooschenko, Karen Leis, and Mark Findlay

1. Minutes Approval. The November 15 board meeting minutes were approved.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Gary handed out his Profit and Loss Sheet and his Balance Sheet for January 1 to December 20. Gary noted that he had added as an “Other Asset” the cost of the 2019 Rootstock purchased at the Lawyer auction (\$1389.50). Board members noted that a problem with the Profit & Loss statement is that it does not list the cost of the fruit grinder as an expense. Gary will look into that. Gary said he wrote about 50 checks to refund to some members money they spent on cherry bushes. The refunds for failed Romance cherry bushes purchased in 2018 totaled \$2009.00 (\$17.00 refunded for 118.18 bushes). The board approved the report.

\$100,000 CD that expires December 27 (a one-year CD earning 1.35%). Susan’s December 18 chart on current interest rates shows that the highest rate for a one-year \$100,000 CD is the online TIAA Bank at 2.68%. The highest rate for an Alaska financial institution is Northern Skies Federal Credit Union at 2.33 %. **MOTION:** Reinvest the \$100,000 CD at Northern Skies FCU for one year (moved by Gary, seconded by Debbie, approved unanimously).

3. Future Membership Meeting Programs.
 - a. **January 10.** Mark W. will be absent. The topic will be raspberries. The speaker will be Rusty Foreaker from the Plant Materials Center. Mark W. will confirm the details with the speaker.
 - b. **Feburary 14.** Karen will probably be absent. Judith James will speak about how fruit is grown in southern Poland and the country south of Poland. Debbie will confirm the details with the speaker.
 - c. **March 14.** Speaker and topic not yet certain. Mark W. will email Kevin about possibly speaking about honeyberries. Gary will contact Steve Masterman about possibly speaking. Debbie volunteered that if no other speaker can be found, she could speak about plant propagation methods (taking cuttings, stooling, timing, etc.)
 - d. **Honorariums.** Gary suggested that we pay the January and February speakers a \$30 honorarium because they will have to travel to our meeting. Val recommended raising it to \$50. **MOTION:** The club will pay a \$50.00 honorarium to the scheduled January and February speakers (motion by Gary, seconded by Karen and Val, approved unanimously).
 - e. **Special Program.** Mark W. said he has exchanged emails with Dr. Amy Iezzoni at Michigan State University about possibly traveling to Anchorage to speak to us about sour cherries. He indicated that Dr. Iezzoni is “the sour cherry expert of the world.” In 1984 she introduced a new cherry variety, called Balaton (named for a

lake in its native Hungary), into the United States. Mark will keep us informed about his progress in this effort.

4. Grafting Workshop. The 2019 workshop will be April 13. **MOTION**: Debbie is authorized to spend up to \$300 for rent and insurance at the Church of Love for that date (moved by Karen, seconded by Gary, approved by all).

5. Plant Orders/Shipping.

- Gary said Steve Masterman would like to trade some of the 900 Selkirk crabapple rootstock he purchased at the Lawyer auction for some of the 2400 *baccata* rootstock we purchased. Gary will ask Steve what terms he would be interested in (price and number). Gary has offered to allow Steve's Selkirks to be shipped with our *baccata* from Fife, Washington to Anchorage in order to reduce the shipping cost for both of us. Gary will also try to make sure the Selkirks are boxed separately from our rootstock. Debbie will contact Alaska Fast Freight (the company that ships our plant material from Fife to Anchorage) and ask how they establish their price (by box size or weight or both and whether there is a minimum charge).
- Debbie stated that a club member has almost all the currant and gooseberry varieties discussed at the November membership meeting and may be willing to give cuttings to other members.
- Debbie will draft and send to club members a list of questions about what plants they are interested in buying through the club. There was much discussion about which plants should be included in this email. Gary said at least 100 gooseberries and currants would have to be ordered for there to be any savings in a bulk order and the order would need to be submitted very soon. Debbie will draft the email and send it to the board for review. Mark W. suggested that it would be good if the cherry survey could also go out soon.

6. Website – Member Directory. The board discussed the option of having each member type whatever contact information they want in the “Members” section of the website in order to create the Member Directory. The board decided against this option. Instead, the board reaffirmed its July 25 decision on the directory:

7-25-18 Minutes: **MOTION**: Diana is asked to put the following information about members in the Members Only section of our website: name, city, email address. This information will be posted only for members who have checked the box on the membership application form allowing their information to be included in the club's directory. (Moved by Val, seconded by Mark, approved by all)

Debbie will send Mark F the latest Excel spreadsheet of members which lists members contact information and indicates which members have agreed to be listed in the directory.

9. Next Board Meeting: January 17, 2019 at 2nd Floor of Fred Meyer on N. Lights

Susan Miller, Secretary
December 21, 2018