

Policy and Development
2018 Summer Conference Minutes
June 13th, 2018

Chairman, Cyndi Johnson

Staff, Kelsie Harbert and Chelcie Cargill

Meeting called to order 4:30

The committee focused on how to move forward with “clean-up” of Montana Farm Bureaus policies. Directing the meeting with questions and ideas to send resolutions forward from counties, to continue achieving being a grassroots organization, while correcting errors and amending policy in the book.

Cyndi started the meeting by suggesting a training for articulation on policy writing for our counties, also proposing a yearly county meeting for *only* policy resolution and development. There was frustration voiced regarding the inability to suggest and identify policies that need to be amended, seeing the actual Policy and Development committee is not allowed to change the policies. It was asked to look into past minutes to find out clearly if the committee is allowed to suggest policy change.

It was pointed out the book has several errors regarding double wording and simple housekeeping.

Example given- Under we support. Policy starts with- We favor. So it would then read; We support we favor.....

Suggestions were also made to attach the county name to the policy in the book when implemented, so each county would be responsible to maintain and keep their policies accurate. MFBF staff voiced the possibility of doing this would only be for the last few years, as we do not have record before that.

Another suggestion was to put a timeline on the policy book, and that every “5 years”, policies get flagged to be looked over and evaluated. A goal to accomplish this has been set.

Everyone attending the meeting agreed that policy changes and recommendations needed to be brought back to the county level to continue true grassroots policy development. We need to work through the entire book to make sure the focal point of our organization is in each policy, as well as fixing simple housekeeping items.

The committee sent one recommendation to the board to hopefully quicken the process for evaluating the policy book. The recommendation being; We recommend the board allow our lobbying team to highlight areas of concern in our MFBF policy manual, to then allow the counties to finalize, review and recommend policy amendments and changes.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20.