

## Co-op Affairs Committee Meeting—Minutes February 17, 2010

Members present at the meeting: Naomi Stamper, Lisa Butterfield, George Stevens  
Employees present: Jacque Torres, Nate Wiesner, Melanie Bettenhausen, Gary Pellow

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Arcata Co-op by Nate Wiesner, Chair.

**Additions to the Agenda:**       GMOs—George  
                                          Community Nutrition--Naomi

**Approval of the Minutes:**     Move to approve the minutes from January 20, 2010 as presented.  
                                          Motion passes.

### Member Linkage Report:

Movies & Munchies—going well with lively discussions. Great suggestions from members for future movies and educational campaigns. Concept of viewing movies with friends, rather than in isolation, was a hit with last group and will hopefully start a chain reaction of people viewing movies with friends for the purpose of discussing the issues afterward and sharing ideas for Action.

Food Security Forum—February 27, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at D Street Neighborhood Center in Arcata. Free to the public but registration required.

Committee Charter/Name Change—Melanie will email copies of the charter to committee members and post online with minutes and leave there as a permanent item.

Patronage Refunds—Board taking a closer look at this in coming months. Co-op will be re-educating members about what it is.

Cornucopia Institute--Organic Dairy Standards ruling, chicken score card—organic standards now clarify what exactly “access to pasture” means. Jacque will post on member-to-member board. Co-op working with Cornucopia to identify egg companies for the scorecard, which will be like the dairy score card they already produce <http://www.cornucopia.org/dairysurvey/index.html> .

### Ongoing Business:

No GMO Project—Coordinating Good Food Buzz themes for March Madness with the No GMO project and trying to guide people toward non-GMO snacks. Buttons, stickers, past articles on GMOs, recipes, no-GMO shopping guide, etc. Request to do no GMO challenge annually. March is a good time because less fresh local food and increased processed/packaged foods and lots of sports/food events. Need to order more no-GMO shopping guides for March. Suggestion to get people to rally around the [Truth in Labeling Coalition's](#) campaign to hold Obama accountable for his presidential campaign promises by having easy petitions/letters to policymakers available at GFB educational display. Lisa will look into an easy option and the Co-op will mail for the consumer. Jacque can reformat into postcard or whatever form would be best.

Resource Libraries—suggestion that remodel of Good Food Gallery should include the resource library

### New Business:

Utilize feedback from Co-op Action initiatives/action items/meetings—already in action during this meeting as members gave feedback to Jacque and Gary regarding Good Food Buzz and other GMO and community nutrition discussion items.

Member Linkage’s role at Board/Co-op Action meetings—Melanie is requested to do an abbreviated overview of Member Linkage report at Board meetings; focus on membership needs and community outreach.

GMOs—Suggestion to have subscription to [The Organic & Non-GMO Report](#) at the Co-op for the Resource Library; Nate will look into email version. [Physicians for Social Responsibility](#) is a newsletter that has been focusing on bovine growth hormone (putting pressure on OR dairies to go hormone free) and pharma-crop rules for the state of OR. We (community) still don’t know--other than verbal agreement--that Humboldt Creamery is RBGH free (no signed affidavits from farmers). Jacque will look into Foster Farms’ plan to make Humboldt Creamery organic. Other questions raised: Is CCOF the only certifier? What do onsite inspectors look for? One way to combat GMOs is elementary school based education about GMOs and testing policies—students see animals choose non-GMO feed over GMO feed. Suggestion to make a similar video for educational purposes. What companies are using GMO sugar and what products have GMO sugar from beets? Beet and chard cross-pollination could be as far as five miles; means that any seed company is concerned about contamination. “[Grow GMO Free](#)” campaign failed in Humboldt County due to faulty wording; money is still available—what to do with it?

Community Nutrition--Link between healthy eating and healthy environment—“foodprint”—is being developed for the Eat Local Challenge (adapted from a [Minnesota model](#)). Harvest of the Month program and store tours already in action. Suggestion to include more community nutrition connections in our education.

#### “Parking Lot”:

- Informing members of food issues: the larger picture [Includes signage placement, content, shelf-talker tablets.] What issues to include? Education policy in Admin. Code. Info in area where consumers make choices. Places for employee favorites/comments as they have in bookstores.
- Sustainable Food Forum/Food Security Summit
- How to increase member awareness of public policies/ how they affect animal husbandry, organic standards, genetic contamination, etc.
- Member-to-Member Board revamp
- How to increase member participation
- Co-op Action Committee T-shirts “Get in on the Action!” “Co-op in Action!”

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 6 p.m. in the Eureka Co-op Community Kitchen

#### Next Agenda Items:

- Buzzworthy Buys
- GMO sugar beet development and education around seed contamination

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes taken by Melanie Bettenhausen

**CONTACT: Nate Wiesner, Arcata Deli Manager, Board Director 707-826-8670 ext. 114**