



## January Board Meeting, 1/12/2026, 10:00 am

### 1. Welcome

- a. Thao Schlichte – present
- b. Bambi Press – present
- c. Michelle Clausen Rosendahl – present
- d. Ellen Ciarimboli – present
- e. Jim Dickson – present
- f. Michelle Boyd – absent
- g. Merri Cross - present

### 2. Board seat nomination and election process – **Thao**

- a. Review and approve timeline chart
  - i. Set dates for upcoming Board meetings to help firm up the timeline
    - 1. February choices:
      - a. Thursday 12: 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
      - b. Monday 16: 10-11 am, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
      - c. Tuesday 17: 11am-12 pm, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
      - d. **Choice is Thursday Feb 12 2-3 pm**
    - 2. March choices:
      - a. Monday 16: 10-11 am, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
      - b. Tuesday 17: 11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
      - c. Wednesday 18: 10-11 am, 11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm
      - d. **Choice is Monday March 16 10-11 am**
    - 3. April choices:
      - a. Monday 13: 10-11 am, 11 am – 12 pm, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
      - b. Tuesday 14: 11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
      - c. Monday 20: 10-11 am, 11 am – 12 pm, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
      - d. **Choice is Monday April 20 11 am – 12 pm**
  - ii. Set date for spring General Meeting (meeting space is available)
    - 1. April dates:
      - a. Tuesday 28: 1-4 pm
      - b. Wednesday 29: 1-4 pm
      - c. Thursday 30: 1-4 pm
    - 2. May date:



a. Tuesday 12: 1-4 pm

3. **Choice is Tuesday April 28 1-4 pm**

b. Finalize details on nominations and voting process

i. Review the timeline sheet – is everyone in agreement with the structure and planning for the election?

1. The date for the April Board meeting was changed. The timelines in the sheet were approved.

a. The updated sheet will be emailed to the Board along with these meeting minutes.

ii. Discuss current Board and the nomination process

1. **Board members are asked to send Merri an email regarding their decision (to remain on the Board or to be removed), to be received prior to the February Board meeting**

2. Those seeking re-election will be on a draft nomination slate, discussed at the February Board meeting.

3. If Board members do not wish to remain, they may nominate someone in their place, but the nominee will need to be contacted for their acceptance on the slate at a later date (unless the Board member asked for their approval in advance). These nominations will be discussed.

4. The Board will give authorization for the Secretary to send a call for nominations to the members.

5. The email will be formulated during the February meeting, as well as determining the timeline for accepting nominations.

6. No questions or comments were received on these details.

3. Preliminary Planning for Spring General Meeting - **Thao**

a. Discussed in November having an in-person meeting with no virtual option (due to the vote)

i. Is this still preferred?

1. Ellen asked how many people generally travel from outside the metro area. She asked if we could consider a hybrid version.

2. Merri said the rooms have the availability to do Zoom meetings but she and Thao have not tried to do meetings outside of the room Zoom to see how it works, as far as the camera and microphone. The installed speakers work well.



3. Thao said we should strongly emphasize this is an in-person only meeting when we send the meeting materials out.
4. Bambi said we shouldn't decide on the format until we settle on speaker(s), if they can travel to the office. She is in favor of incentivizing their attendance at the meeting.
5. Thao suggested shelving the final decision until speakers are determined, to keep the option of a virtual link open.

**6. Final determination will be made at the February Board meeting.**

b. Discussion on potential speakers

i. Review speaker topic spreadsheet

1. Ellen liked the Agricultural Products on the Farm, in favor of a panel with presenters from different backgrounds; discussing topics and challenges.
2. Merri asked if they agree reaching out to the suggested panelists, as listed on the sheet. Ellen said Hannah Hansen is a good one to reach out to. Jim agreed she would be good due to her different perspective, working with small businesses.
3. Thao said Dr. Jason Henderson is a professor at ISU and has an appearance request link on his [bio page](#). We could still reach out to him and he can either approve speaking or suggest a replacement who might be a different fit.
  - a. He is the Vice President for Extension and Outreach as well as an ag economics professor.
4. Erin Norton is the director of the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute.
5. Merri suggested having Hannah Hansen be the main presenter on the panel, and regulators be there
6. Jim said Dr. Henderson would talk more about generalities and the big picture, but Hannah would be better to talk about her experiences. He also said ask Dr. Polking or Janis to see who would be available.
7. Merri asked if there was still a desire to have a mushroom expert join the panel. Ellen is working with an expert from Nebraska especially regarding cooking temperatures for mushrooms and each state's requirements.
  - a. Ellen will share the expert's contact info with Merri.



- b. The current expert at ISU is Dr. Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca, who has presented at a previous Task Force meeting.

8. Thao and Merri will work together on the panel invites and potential backups.

- a. A potential backup speaker could be Kemi Oni from IHHS. Ellen asked if DIAL is seeing an increase in foodborne illnesses reported – Thao said she isn't sure, but said there is no increase in investigations.
- b. The better second option for a backup presentation could be the banned ingredients/dyes.
- ii. RRT and DIAL updates will be on the agenda
- iii. There will be no advisory board update, however, there could be an introduction time of current board members prior to the floor nominations/voting
- iv. Will we have voting first, then speakers? Or save voting to the end?
  - 1. Michelle and Thao would like the voting at the beginning. Merri said we could decide at a future Board meeting.
- v. If the agreement is to keep the meeting as a strictly in-person meeting, time could be allotted for networking.

4. Agenda items for February Board meeting – Thao

- a. Create and approve slate of nominations
- b. Discussion on status of speakers
- c. Decide if the general meeting will be in-person or hybrid.
- d. Finalize the general meeting agenda
- e. Are there other items to add to the agenda?

5. Open Discussion

- a. None

Meeting adjourned 11:00 am

Merri Cross, DIAL

Advisory Board Secretary