



2025 NAFEC Executive Committee Meeting
January 5 - 6, 2025
MCM Elegante Hotel
Lubbock Texas
Minutes

Sunday, January 5th- Meeting Location Parlor Room #604

The meeting was called to order by Executive Vice President, Craig Turner, at 1:30 pm. Craig requested that Tammy Eibey become the recording secretary for the meeting. Motion by Dan Noteboom and second by Bob Braden. Motion carried. Tammy did roll call and those present were:

Executive Vice President- Craig Turner- Tx
Sec/Treas- Bob Braden- IA
MWA Director- Dennis Kuhlengel- Il
NWA Director- Dan Noteboom- WA
SWA Director- Coy Poitier- TX
Texas State Director- Art Chaney
Leg Consultant- David Senter
NAFEC Marketing Director (Dillards) Kevin Dale-OK
NAFEC Asst. Marketing Director (Dillards) Tammy Eibey-IA
Guest- Joyce Jobgen- South Dakota (past SD STC, AAM)

We opened the meeting with a conference call with Jim Zumbrink, President due to his concern of the Avian Flu with his turkey flocks. He explained where it was near his buildings and what is all involved with the testing and if test positive, the flock euthanasian. Jim asked that we call him back to let him know the details of the meeting.

We moved on to have a discussion on general items– dinner plans tonight, discussion about how things are going. The group stated that the newsletters are going out and they like the information that is provided in them , COC orientation email to SED's was a success. Tammy and Kevin has sent out an email



SED's with a letter and a packet for the COC organizational meetings, Tammy stated that there were several states SED's that replied and had sent the information out to all the CED's in their states and thanked us for sending the information. Tammy and Kevin shared examples of the Dillards new member packets that are being sent. The group was happy with the product. The group present then discussed the NASCOE National Convention in Whitefish with dates of the meetings, travel plans, and NAFEC reservation of a large House about 12-15 miles from the meeting hotel that can lodge up to 20-26. The group also discussed the change in Administration. The nominated Secretary of Ag is from Texas and the group will try to develop a good relationship with her if she is appointed.

Craig Turner Executive Vice President & presiding officer asked the group to do The Pledge of Allegiance and then Art Chaney led the group in a prayer. Craig thanked Kevin and Tammy for being there and helping so much for NAFEC. He stated that the relationship with Dillards continues as they don't dictate NAFEC on policy. They do a lot to help through mailings of newsletters and educational information.

There was a review and approval of agenda presented, the motion was made by Bob to accept and the second by Dan. Motion carried. Kevin then presented the minutes from the teleconference of 8/20/24. There were no changes made so a motion by Dennis to accept the minutes and a second by Bob, the motion carried.

Discussion started about potential fly in to DC as soon as Administrator is appointed and try to meet with the new Administrator and the House and Senate Ag Committee chairs. Craig stated that Brooke Rolings is very involved in Texas agriculture and NAFEC should continue to educate her if appointed and also build a good relationship. We can also try to work through Texas House and Senate members to help with that mission. A good discussion of Farm Bill Letters that the group had previously approved and used. The thoughts are to make revisions and make it also educational and a combination into one letter. It would include the requested CRP language and previous Farm Bill letter language and also concerns of the Equity Commission recommendations. The revised letter would be sent to the House and Senate Ag Committee members. Possibly ask for help from Hunter on getting it out timely. David stated that he hopes the working relationship with NASCOE and NAFEC continues.

We had 2 states send recommendations for State NAFEC Director Appointments plus there is a recommendation for 1 replacement – Kevin provided recommendations from states:

Michigan- Waylon Smolinski (new)

Oklahoma- Vidal Rodriquiz (replacement)

Maryland – Arthur (Chip) Paul Easton III (new)

Motion but Dan to approve submissions, Second by Bob. Motion carried.



We called Jim Densberger, NAFEC Vice President, to be on while we had the legislative discussion. Jim said he wish he could have attended but is recovering from knee surgery.

David Senter provided the legislative update to the group. David believes if this Secretary of Ag is appointed, the SED announcements will quickly follow as they may bring previous administration appointments. This may also include STC's. Kevin asked David if he would coordinate a DC fly in meeting with 2-4 people. NAFEC would also include NASCOE COAC Chair Brian Gould. David stated His issue with this type of .meeting is the cost factor to NAFEC. If it is a planned, He recommends Jim Z and Craig represent NAFEC. The group will have to decide how to handle this as they do want to build a good relationship with the new Administration and hitting it early would help especially with Farm Bill negotiations happening. The group asked David to reach out to Steve Peterson to remind him that NAFEC asked at the National Convention to be included again when the other associations are asked to come to DC to meet with management. David stated that the CR only goes in to March and the debt limit is reached soon after! Perfect storm. There is a lot of pressure to get a farm bill passed without the SNAP portion. The new program passed in the CR with funds for farmers is to be out within 90 days! Right at the end of the CR. DC working on policy and CO's fielding a lot of calls with questions. Stressful!

Administrative Business –was presented by Bob Braden, Secretary Treasurer

Financial Update – checking account has \$31,000.

Travel Reimbursement for 2025 to Whitefish:

House/lodging provided by NAFEC (1/2 of the fee has been paid)

\$200 flat rate for each member for the meeting.

Motion by Dennis to accept the report and reimbursement for Whitefish, Second By Dan.

The motion carried.

Discussion began regarding FLM's being appointed as CED's without COT training. Tammy state she was hired that way but had 15 years of CO work experience. The reason the can be converted from GS to CO and be a CED is that the FLM has management experience. CED's can become FLM's but go through training because they need to pass testing to get loan approval authority. This is not a new rule or option being offered. They have to apply, interview and COC hire. The group also discussed the expanded hiring for CED's for a direct County and not go through the CEDT training, it is modified and some states are using more than others.

Joel Foster , NASCOE President joined the group meeting via zoom. Joel was asked about the FLM hiring as CED's and the expending hiring of CED's. He stated the same as the discussion by Tammy as the FLM is not new and some states using the CED expanded hiring more than other states. Some of that is working well and others are not. Depends on FSA work history/knowledge. NAFEC thanked Joel for the push by NASCOE to get out the Organizational



Packet through Facebook and their email network. Joel said that the National COC training modules need to be updates, can NAFEC ask again? Joel talked about the NASCOE trip to DC in early December. Joel, Kayla (VP0, David Wayne and Amanda Ahrens (Leg Chairs) when and gave Administrator Zach and Marcus Graham plaques or appreciation. Zach for the continued cooperation through his appointment and Marcus for his hard work on PT reclassification, issues with the 444's to update new dues amount.

Joel stated that the 444 issues is a mess. There is no handbook that addresses this or how to fix. There was some training sent out to DAFO last August. They worked Martin B. to get NASCOE 444's corrected. Joel offered his helped to get NAFEC's fixed with NFC.

Joel said they had a good meeting with Steve Peterson. DC Working on the Economic Assistance for 8 crops passed in the CR due out within 90 days of the President's signature. How this will be figured is still unknown. The rumors are that it will be based on certified acres but a factor of 70% and possibly another factor applied. There was also money for 23/24 Disasters.

They also met with legislators and had some position papers. He will share with NAFEC.

Everyone is asking for a piece of the pie! We need to point out why we (FSA CO and COC's) are different than NRCS regarding CRP. Point out NRCS is funded through program funding, reducing amount available to the farmers as FSA is funded through appropriations. FSA then needs funding for training and staffing. This Section 12 issues is not good and Joel asked for NAFEC to help push that FSA Administer CRP. He also asked that there is residual fallout from the Equity Commission so need to include some language to acknowledge that. NAFEC told Joel that we did send one letter on this issue but will reiterate that in our new, revised Farm Bill Letter we are working on to be sent out to the House and Senate Ag Committees. Be part of the solution, not the problem. Keep local control. Members of Committees are pushing for back to work and revoking telework.

Joel went over Brian Gould's notes regarding the COAC committee. Joel asked for us to continue to work together. The group thanked Joel for his time and told him they appreciated the open forms of communication and hope to keep the working relationship strong.

Kevin gave an update on Area Rallies:

All South in Wichita Kansas April 3 -5

NWA & MWA in Cortland New York, Greek Mountain Resort, April 27 – 29).

NAFEC members who might can attend, as well as discussion on next year's meeting in Whitefish June 22-26



Monday, January 6th – Meeting Location - Parlor Room #604

Craig called the meeting to order and Reconvened and opened the meeting at 8:00 am

Dillard Financial Benefit Update – Tammy stated that we have several products available to hand out at meeting plus we have updated the Benefits Booklet for 2025. We should look into getting a link to Dillards on the NAFEC home page. (Make it easier to find). Include more from Dillards on the Facebook page as well. Tammy will talk to Teresa. Discussion on Dillard benefit group meetings – Kevin talked about the benefits of having small group meeting in different areas to discuss membership and benefits. This has worked out well in several states. Kevin encouraged the directors to help set up meeting in their areas. Kevin and Tammy are there to help and coordinate with Teresa.

Membership listing update – Tammy stated that she and Dillards are keeping membership listings but there is still a lot of clean up to be done. There are many that are on the list but it is hard to determine if they paid membership as the date is not current and not listed as a 444 dues withholding. There are several missing email addresses/phone numbers/ mailing addresses. Tammy said that is a project she hope to dedicated time to in the future. Any thoughts or suggestions?

Craig Turner, Executive VP updated the group on the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) website, membership and cooperation with NAFEC. They are a strong Ag Coalition Partner. They are revising their website but the want to put a link to NAFEC on their site and Craig suggests that we do the same once they get the new one up and going. The group had no problem with this suggestion.

Fund raising discussion and presentation was given by Coy Poitier, SWA Texas Director. Kevin also spoke about the call meetings they had regarding fundraising since the National Convention. Kevin the group developed a contract that was presented to the group. Coy stated that NAFEC need to look at the value of the website and facebook plus some other social media. How do we find value? What is an annual goal for fundraising? \$10,000-\$20,000. Coy asked if Dillards in control? They do own the website and pay the webmaster but they give us control of content. Craig will discuss with Teresa. Dillards should get a large ICON link on the main page. Craig said in past conversations with Teresa. It would \$1,000 minimum for website and no competitors. She had suggested:

1. Written info based on size on page
2. Web site and link \$1,000
3. Facebook posts – Craig and Tammy are administrators

Coy said we need to create value on the website, Facebook page as those who would pay to advertise need to see what they would get out of it. How to we do that? Post more- minimum of 3 posts a day. Doesn't necessarily need to be just NAFEC content. We can share other Ag Partner information, post on our individual page and # NAFEC. Tag NAFEC. What would the group like for monthly donations? \$850 month need 8 sponsors. \$1,000 month need 10 sponsors.



There was a review of the contract developed. There was an agreement on how collaborations and referrals done by NAFEC Officers/Directors and how the graduated reimbursement would be made/shared. The group liked this arrangement and agreed to the plan. Motion to accept made by Bob, Second by Craig. Motion carried. Coy signed and we will work to get Jim's signature. Coy thanked the group for their support and he stated that he always felt welcomed and included with the group. The group said he is a great addition and appreciate all his efforts for NAFEC.

The group set the dates and times for quarterly calls in 2025 as the 1st Wednesday of the Month at 11:00 am central time. (12 eastern, 9 Pacific. 10 Mountain)

Feb 5, May 7, August 6, Nov 5

A conference call was made with the officers & area directors unable to attend: Jim Zumbrink, Jim Densberger, Cole Sims, Stuart Fitzgerald, Dan Pillsbury. They were updated with the plan of action for the next couple of weeks/months:

1. Getting website updated
 - a. New approved state director listing
 - b. Pictures from Lubbock meeting
2. New Farm Bill letter once approved- send out
3. Scholarship information for 2025
4. Prepare information for quarterly calls and new state director training
5. Begin work on Spring Newsletter- Jim Zumbrink to be highlighted member
6. Work to get more State NAFEC Directors (hopefully more to be approved in June)
7. Continue to work on updating membership listing
8. Coordinate with Coy on Fundraising
9. Work with NASCOE and COAC /Leg Committee
10. Get the 444 deduction corrected (follow up with Joel for assistance)
11. Possible DC Fly in

Craig stated the regular meeting had concluded. Bob made a motion to adjourn and Dennis seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

The group reconvened at 1:00 with CED's, COC's Ag Partners, Congressmen/Farm Organizations/Ag Lenders:

Those attending were:

Corey Moore- FSA DD- NAFEC Member
Lori Ross- CED FSA
Stehanie Inswell- CED FSA
Angie Martin- Texas STC and Texas Corn Growers
Kody Bessent- Texas Cotton Growers
Cary Franks-Capital Farm Credit
Mark True- Texas Farm Bureau
Kyle Longoria- CED FSA



Walt Hagood- Texas Cotton
Kaci Morris House Member Harrington
Shelbie Hannum- Texas Farm Bureau
Bill Lockett- Former COC Member and Texas Cotton Growers
John Fehr- COC
Kelly McMillin- FSA DD NAFEC Member

Craig spoke to the group and said NAFEC's goal of the meeting was to build coalitions, educate about NAFEC to build support, share ideas of farm issues and work together, share information on the Farm Bill and help with all the group's needs.

Craig shared that NAFEC has a website www.nafecfsa.com and also a Facebook page National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC) . Craig went on to say that NAFEC represents all producers, not a specific group, commodity. NAFEC wants to keep and improve local control/authority of the local COC's.

Comments made by the Agriculture Partners:

Cody-(Cotton Growers) Grateful at the end of the year- Farm Bill talks have been going on for 3 years. 1st write up was bi partisan but not enough to get to the house floor. Economic Assistance in the CR and this need to get out within 90 days of president's signature. NO is working on policy to get to CO Offices. PL and factors, deductions for crop insurance premiums/payments. CR goes until March 15th. Debt Ceiling reached soon after...Many unknowns. CR included funds for Disasters in 23 and 24. Economic Assistance and 1 year Farm Bill extension.

Angie-(Corn Growers) Hope that all work together because several needs in the farm bill are issues for members from all commodities/organizations. She stated that Ag needs to be kept in the baseline budgets as a line item. Membership in the organizations are cheap and together, through membership dues can push for the betterment of Farm Policy. (STC) There has been many issues with programs that had limited guidance and self - certification. STC do support COC's. TX STC does push for more COC training. Need to ask for dedicated funds for COC in policy. Texas is pushing to fill open positions.

Cary-Capital Farm Credit had hoped that the Farm Bill would get passed to get funding for program and get to clients. There is extreme funding pressure in the Ag Community. Crop insurance is a big issue as lender push to carry to help minimize risk. He is happy to be here and work with NAFEC and other organizations.

Walt-Cotton Growers- Work together but need to remember that Farm Policy is difficult as there is such diversity from region to region and even the same crop has diversity in growing/issues. We need to be united as growers/farmers as we fight to get the same dollars. Farmers are entrepreneurs and Trump likes farmers. It is a waiting game now. Hurdle is in DC not local CO offices. General public is clueless about agriculture and



where food on their table comes from so education needs to be ongoing. There needs to be support of groups through membership and donations to their PACS.

Kaci- Congressman Harrington believes in the farm sector and believes we need to save the backbone of America which is Agriculture. He appreciates all those that are involved with farming and supports his constituents. They are open for communication from all of the groups present at the meeting.

Shelby- She represents 20 counties for Texas Farm Bureau. They work hard to educate as they feel that is the key to keep non ag people interested in farming and the issues. They use social media, podcasts to find information and build relationships and coalitions.

Mark- New Texas Farm Bureau Board and admitted he didn't know about NAFEC and really the COC. (?) He has seen many sides of Agriculture and said it is utmost to build coalitions. He believes education in the schools is a must to keep involvement and interest in farming. He promised to learn and represent Farm Bureau members and partners better. Don't overlook the obvious and just assume.

Bill- Stressed the importance of Coalitions especially with all the pulls on funding and now with budget limits and cuts a major concern. Advocacy is a team effort and needs support.

Coy- NAFEC is looking and promotion and believes in the mission for the NAFEC Organizations. He wanted the group to understand who NAFEC is, who they represent and the importance of COC's local control and the grass level importance. We need to have the group value NAFEC for what they do and hope for their support. That includes becoming associate members, follow on Facebook and share our information plus share items of NAFEC through their organizations leadership for support. Coy said to contact the group for more information or for presentations to their groups.

Open discussion with visiting COC's, CED's and DD's

Kyle- Specialty crop sign up started Mid December and ends January 10th. There is no handbook and limited guidance. They can't have a register. Some counties are being overwhelmed with this program. NAFEC help?

Corey- He thanked the group for the invite. He stressed that he hopes that NAFEC can push for more staffing and better state ceiling levels.

NAFEC asked about the Deputy SED position. It is a grade 14 and some states it is a new position and some replaced that position description for the Administrative Officer.

Craig thanked the group for attending the meeting and sharing information with the open discussion. He hope that NAFEC could work with them in the future as Ag partners. Everyone was dismissed for evening social & dinner together at 4:30 pm