

**Meeting Minutes of the Organizing Board of
Organic Farm Co-operative Inc. (OFC)
June 7, 2017**

Agenda

Introductions

1. 60-day Report(s) and activities
2. Financial audit requirement
3. OFC Scope
4. Member engagement and participation
5. Membership tracking
6. Treasury
7. Election(s)
8. Fundraising
9. Web presence and programming
10. Other

The meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. at #510, 600 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario.

Present were Richard Archambault, Royce Hamer, Pearl McWaters, Jim Namaste, Hugh Reilly, Salem Saikali, and Bill Wu

Jim Namaste, who has been assisting as organizational development and web presence consultant (pro bono), served as the meeting facilitator and secretary.

1. 60-day Report

Jim started the meeting by reviewing the recent completion of the organization's incorporation process and receipt of the Certificate of Incorporation from the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO). After the various delays that were experienced on OFC's end, Louise Robichaud, Manager at the Licensing Division responded directly and helped process OFC's application within hours. This is possibly an indication that OFC is getting attention as an innovative program. In an case, the division's quick assistance deserves appreciation.

Jim stated that several tasks will need to be completed, within 60 days or sooner, to move the corporation forward. He will review the requirements and report back to the group after he returns to Oregon on June 20.

2. Audited financials required

Jim also stated that OFC is required to file audited financials. This has been discussed with Royce and Richard, who are contacting Richard's daughter, an accountant, to look into this further.

3. OFC Project Scope

When OFC was first started, the originating idea was to enable individuals to have ownership in a farm

property, including land and animals. The co-operative form of organization was seen as the best strategy to structure a way for land-owners to work together in developing their ownership interests.

Royce Hamer, who started the project introduced it to Jim Namaste, who was helping Royce with web presence activities. Jim's professional career has been in the area of organizational development, including large-scale, long-term planning and socio technical systems design, with an emphasis on cultural processes. Jim recognized the potential of- and need for scaling co-operative organizations that emphasize the connections among people, health and food. He agreed to serve pro bono as a consultant for the project with the understanding that OFC's mission would include a component for expanding and scaling its programs using socio technical systems design principles. Specifically, these principles would apply and combine "viable systems" methods and web presence technologies.

At a later meeting in the Fall of 2016, when Royce and Jim met with Hugh Reilly to invite Hugh to join the project's organizing board of directors, Hugh indicated that he also was familiar with viable systems theory. Hugh had served as a director for two co-operatives and wrote a co-op principles document that he would like to see used by the project.

Jim requested that each member of the group vote on a resolution that "OFC make it a priority to plan and implement its programs with the goal of expanding and scaling co-operative organic farm operations nationally and internationally."

During the discussion, everyone agreed that OFC would encourage openness and experimentation with various organizational forms as much as would be practical.

4. Member engagement and participation

An active board of directors and member involvement are critical to the success of any organization, but especially co-operatives. A multi-stakeholder co-operative has additional challenges to meet. The idea of a "frequent participation" system was brought up, and Jim suggested that he would talk with Aaron Baugher, OFC's programmer to set up a web-based points program that would include gamification processes.

5. Membership tracking

OFC has been very successful in attracting interest, especially with Facebook, where its Fan Page has more than 3,000 supporters. The success has made it difficult to keep track of the many persons who have at various times engaged with OFC, while at the same time maintain communications to encourage more involvement and participation. This has been a key obstacle with membership development.

For the most part, the focus has been to interact with persons who have been more pro-active in being land-owner members, as there has not been enough time to communicate with others.

Salem Saikai agreed to help with membership activities as well as newsletter communications.

6. Treasury

Pearl McWaters has been helping with keeping track of financial transactions. She has agreed to continue to do so as needed. Pearl will also coordinate with Salem.

7. Election(s)

In its confirmation letter, FSCO suggested that elections be held soon to elect the Co-op's board of directors and also to appoint a President and Secretary. A process will need to be put in place and a date set to schedule elections.

8. Fundraising

OFC has been quite successful in generating interest for the project and attracting land-owners, but other fundraising efforts have lagged simply because there has not been enough time to execute the communications and the tasks that are required for effective fundraising.

Now that several other persons have volunteered to be involved, more time resources can be devoted to this activity with corresponding positive results to be expected.

The Organizing Board's decision to have a broad mission will also expand OFC's appeal to a larger audience.

Further, OFC, now that it has been incorporated as a not-for-profit co-operative can also pursue grant funding.

9. Web presence and programming

Jim has been supporting OFC's web presence as much as possible within his time constraints. He has been discussing programming support with Aaron Baugher, who is a professional programmer and has been working on a crowdfunding platform with Jim. This platform can be used to obtain donations for OFC's programs.

Aaron has indicated that he is willing to enter into a partnering arrangement with OFC to assist with its programming needs. Salem mentioned that her son may be able to assist as well.

10. Other

OFC intends to experiment with innovative cost-effective methods and techniques that will advance both organic and nutritional food goals. Royce has been doing a considerable amount of research in this area, building on his farming and engineering backgrounds.

In addition, Bill Wu's invention appears to be a promising bio reactor system that OFC can deploy to process wastes and increase nutrient production. Bill and Royce will be working identifying and using technical solutions to advance OFC's farm operations.