



Cascade Co-ops (CC) Board Meeting Minutes, Virtual Meeting

Date: 2.21.2023, 5:30-6:15 pm

Facilitator: Deborah Craig **Notes:** Kris Buettner **Interpreter:** Natali Kahm

Meeting Agenda:

1. Communication with Tierra y Libertad regarding concerns. CC response and communication to membership
2. Choosing officers
3. Appointing a third Board Member
4. Starting an Outreach/Marketing committee
5. Board meeting schedule

Attending:

Michael Marques	Board Member, CC Representative for Skagit Food Cooperative
Ashanti Monts-Treviska,	Board Member, CC Rep for Cascadia Deaf Nation
Deborah Craig	Consultant, Northwest Cooperative Development Center (NWCDC)
Kris Buettner	CC Steering Committee, CC Administrative Support
Natali	Interpreter
Rei	Cascadia Deaf Nation

Communication with Tierra y Libertad regarding concerns: CC response and communication to membership.

Considerations:

- Tierra y Libertad informed CC Steering Committee that they were no longer part of CC.
- The CC Board of Directors responded with a letter to them. CC will continue to support them and wishes them the best.
- CC has not heard back Tierra y Libertad since the CC Board sent a response letter to them.
- Our responsibility is to the CC member co-ops.

Suggestions:

- CC to inform CC members that Tierra has chosen to leave CC
 - They will reconsider at a future time.
 - Wish them the best.
 - Keep communication about the situation simple and straightforward.

Decision: Inform the CC members by newsletter about Tierra y Libertad's decision to leave CC.

To do:

- Draft options for communication to the members and submit to the Board for revisions. (Kris)
- Add notice to CC members to the February newsletter. (Kris and Laura)
- Review and edit draft communications via email asap. (Ashanti and Michael)

Choosing CC officers

Considerations:

- Our structure requires the Board to elect officers and we need to elect a Chair or President.
- Ashanti is nominated and open to serve as CC Board Chair.

Decisions:

- Ashanti is elected as CC Board Chair.

Appointing a third Board Member

Considerations:

- We could ask Board members from Anacortes Food Co-op to be on Board for CC?
- The CC Steering Committee engaged representatives from all the co-ops and strongly encouraged them to serve on the CC Board prior to the Member Meeting last month.
- Skagit supply Co=op- Michael will check in with them to see if
- We could consider asking all the co-ops to engage their Board of Directors to find another CC Board member.
- Nancy from the NW Meat Co-op may be willing to join the Board.
- A co-op representative can be appointed by the current Board to serve.

Suggestions:

- Continue to consider how to engage co-ops to provide a Board member.

To do:

- Engage with Skagit Farmer's Supply Co-op and invite them to join CC (Michael)
- Add suggestion to the newsletter for co-ops to ask their Board of Directors to step up to serve on CC Board. (Kris and Laura)

Starting an Outreach/Marketing committee

Consideration:

- Ryan from CFC will be on the outreach committee. Doesn't want to do the committee alone.
- A marketing workshop from the NWDCDC will be available to CC committee.
 - Opportunity for outreach person from CC to do marketing plan for CC
- It would be helpful to have input from the CC Steering Committee for marketing.
- Inspired by Directors collaborative work on letter response from Tierra y Libertad.
- Ashanti and Michael are excited to work together.
- Michael will join the marketing committee.

Decision: Set a CC marketing committee meeting in March. Consider inviting CC Steering Committee

To Do:

- Put out requests for marketing committee. (Deborah)
- Check with Laura to see if she will consider marketing committee (Kris)

Board meeting schedule: The Board discussed their schedules and options for regular Board meetings.

Considerations:

- Michael- Likes after 4pm for meetings. He doesn't work on Monday. Fridays are preferable. Tues is not a good day for meetings.
- Ashanti- Likes Mon-Thur after 4pm. Fridays are preferable, before 4pm.
- Both Board members prefer in-person meetings.
- Members who attend the meetings should have the option to attend via zoom.

Decision:

- Board Meetings will be on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1pm.
- Minutes will be approved by the Directors and eventually posted on the website for review by CC co-ops.

Next meeting: 3/20 at 1pm. In person and zoom meeting. Meeting location: Ashanti's office.

Agenda Item added: CC as Transformational Inclusive Community: Ashanti shared her enthusiasm for leading CC with these values.

Considerations:

- CC could work towards equity for all - We don't practice the illusion of being inclusive.
- Be truly inclusive of different realities and transform linguistic and cultural barriers for co-ops.
- CC could truly be support for all co-ops, including housing co-ops.
- Be a model for other co-op groups and inspire other co-ops to be more inclusive.
 - Talk about the strategies to be inclusive- Strategically plan to be inclusive.
- Overall vision for CC- Engage co-op membership in two counties.
- Inspire the conversations.

Suggestion:

- Ashanti- keep this conversation going for our co-op network.