

Directors Update - Sep 2023

Update for Members:

We had our latest Directors meeting on September 21, 2023.

Membership and Finances - We have roughly \$3,600 in Cash and Receivables and have paid most of our expenses for the year outside of the Annual Meeting and some ongoing marketing costs. We have collected 77% of our Membership Renewals and have a total of 75 entity Members, an increase of 44% this year.

IFAS / FFGT Key Project - Kevin Barley reviewed some perspective about what the Key Project's data is telling us:

- Strong production potential of 6,000 - 10,000 lbs per acre is predicted for these young farms and this is helping with the proof of concept for the economics of bamboo farming. These numbers will become more reliable as we reach the end of the season.
- Harvests are such a small portion of the production as to not appear meaningful. This has inspired interest in how to increase the harvested portion by more frequent harvests and greater diligence.
- Team Makeup - this varying robustness may be explained by freeze impacts. This is underlining the value of freeze protection.
- Pathway to Maturity - this is showing that maturity in plants can be achieved in 5 years, subject to environmental impacts.

Annual Meeting - Robert Merrick is following Lynn Beha's weekly communication plan to Members about the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Rick Turner, representing the Nominating Committee, provided a slate of Nominees for the upcoming election that were approved by the Board. We have 3 Directors with expiring terms (Kevin Barley, Ben Norris and Peter Chaires) and the Nominees are:

- Lance Bennett, Grower
- Rick Aspend, Grower
- Alex Marks, Allied
- Kevin Barley, Allied

- Ben Norris, Grower
- Peter Chaires, Allied

More information will be communicated to the Members over the next few weeks regarding the election process.

Next Meeting - this is scheduled for October 17th.