



**MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (MWI)
Board Meeting Minutes**

March 20th, 2024 at 9am

PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Debra Barrett | President |
| Liz Chongva | Acting President Elect |
| Debra Barrett | WI/FWIC Representative |
| Mallory Makinson | Office Administrator |
| Michele Gurman | MB Government Appointed Member |
| Jacqueline Chartrand | Eastern Regional Rep |
| Vacant | Southwest Regional Rep |
| Vacant | Northwest Regional Rep |
| Thelma Blahey | MB Ag Representative |
| Gisela Nolting | Winnipeg-Interlake Regional Rep |
| Ann Mandziuk | Home Ec. Rep |

Call to Order 9:07 a.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Moved by Ann Mandziuk that the agenda be adopted as amended.

Seconded by Michele Gurman. **CARRIED**

Amendment – change to item 9 and addition of item 11

2. Approval of Minutes for January 17th and February 21st, 2024 (AGM focused)

Motion: Moved by Michele Gurman that the minutes from the Board Meeting held January 17th, 2024 be approved as amended. Seconded by Jacqueline Chartrand. **CARRIED**

Amendment - add an e to the end of Michele's name, item 1.

Motion: Moved by Liz Chongva that the minutes of the AGM focused Board meeting of February 21st, 2024 be approved as circulated. Seconded by Michele Gurman. **CARRIED**

3. Acceptance of the Financial Reports

Motion: Moved by Liz Chongva that the financial reports for January 2024 and February 2024 be accepted as circulated, for informational purposes. Seconded by Michele Gurman.

CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 E-mail request from Huguette Labelle, Chair, Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments.

Discussion around possible nominations for Senate.

Decision: Rochelle Squires to be put forward for nomination.

Action: Liz to follow up with Debra on providing the support letter.

4.2 Quilt draw for FWIC at 2024 Convention – e-mail.

Action: Ann Mandziuk will put quilt draw information into the April newsletter and more information will be discussed at the AGM.

5. OA Report

Report reviewed and filed.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Recruitment to Vacant Board Positions

Regional representatives are required for President-elect and for both the Southwest and Northwest Regional reps. **Issue** – no Pres-elect to step into President position at AGM. Appointments of Board representatives to Southwest and Northern Regions. Thus far Ann Mandziuk in a second role for Southwest.

Decision: Still need to find a president elect and still need to find a Northern Representative. The president-elect has a criterion; you have to be on the MWI board for a few years and be fully knowledgeable about the in's and outs of WI. We will keep looking.

Action: Liz Chongva will write an article for the April newsletter describing the president-elect role.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Quote for Review Engagement Services

Proposal to Provide Professional Services from Rawluk & Robert Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. **Issue** – Quoted for a lot more money than we currently pay Sensus.

Decision: Ballot decision from members.

7.2 Supreme Court Decision - Renaming Women to “person with a vagina.”

Jaqueline Chartrand informed the committee that it was proclaimed by a supreme judge in Canada, that to use the word woman was confusing and unfortunate. Jaqueline is concerned about the trend removing the word woman. The word woman should be something cherished and defended not denigrated this way or allowed to be. Well intentioned inclusion means that the dominant majority of women can't identify as women in the courts, there is something severely wrong. The fact that we are in a women's institute means we should think about possibly putting forward a resolution next year addressing this issue.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Executive – Debra Barrett

The Executive Committee met to discuss specifics regarding the AGM mail-in vote. The process is on schedule; however, there appears to be a slowness to Sensus responses. Bylaw 2021 appears to have a conflict regarding reviewed statement which will need to be corrected for AGM 2025.

8.2 AGM 2024 and MWI Women's Day – Gisela

Have three speakers. Lunch entertainment – Rolly Gillis, sing and plays on his guitar. Starting at 10:00 a.m. Registration form will be in the April newsletter.

8.3 Marketing & Promotion – Ann Mandziuk

Our social media reach continues to increase each month.

Mallory refreshes the website as needed. The last newsletter was added. The Committee structure was updated. She has cleaned up the website and got rid of spam comments on our newsletter. As an admin on the Facebook page, I get to see some of the interesting comments that happen, but they don't get posted for others to see.

We added a guest counter on our website and the number of visits continues to increase. Our Women Entrepreneurs Series is well underway. Our February speaker was very well received, Prairie Oils and Vinegars owner from Steinbach.

March 21 is Teri Urban and Amanda Lynn. April 18 will be Heather Klassen and Krista Powell.

We would like to try an idea at the AGM/Women's Day program. We would come up with a question regarding programming for the M & P committee to focus on for the coming year. We would ask that members post their ideas on a board.

Decision: At the end of the AGM meeting, we can take two minutes on the program to explain the question and answer for Marketing & Promotions on a sticky note.

8.4 Bylaw & Policy – Debra Barrett

Policies continue to be updated as required. The Bylaw will not be updated at AGM 2024. The issue regarding the criteria regarding who is acceptable to perform a reviewed yearend financial statement will be corrected at AGM 2025.

Decision: Next year put on the ballots to correct the error.

8.5 Resolutions – Debra Barrett

The 2024 resolutions feedback has been positive. The 2023 resolution regarding the transport of live horses for slaughter has become a public news item. Possible resolution for 2025 is the renaming of “woman” to “human with a vagina.” Should we wait or proceed with action now.

Issue: Nobody registered for the March 13th zoom question and answers it was disappointing. Perhaps it wasn’t specifically stated. Possible people were content in the way the resolutions were presented.

8.6 Scholarship – Gisela Nolting

Availability will be advertised in the Institute News as well as on the Red River Ex website. Please let your friends and relatives know about the Women’s Institute’s scholarships.

Issue: A page for the Red River Exhibition foundation didn’t add our two scholarship recipients for 2023.

Action: Gisela Nolting will investigate the missed information.

8.7 Finance – Debra Barrett

Finance met on March 18th to discuss:

- Yearend Review – there is a need to recruit an alternate accountancy provider due to the poor quality of Sensus to ensure the reviewed statement was received by the deadline to ensure members had the documentation on time. The report was received two (2) weeks late.
- Review of February Financial Reports
- Finance considered billing Sensus for the OA’s extra hours to finalize distribution of Book of Reports/Financial Report and disbursements.

Issue: We receive \$5,000 in kind. Entered as income, but we never enter any expenses in that regard.

Decision: Remove the \$5,000 from income for next fiscal year.

Action: Address Sensus with a letter, but not bill back.

8.8 IPG – Heather Cummings

They are working hard to get all 5000 cacti and succulents planted in the conservatory (sounds like it could take months yet). Annual membership is \$50. That includes everyone in the car (sounds like the best deal) Otherwise it is \$10 per day per person. They rent winter cabins out on weekends, have cross country skiing paths and several dinners coming up.

8.9 FWIC – Debra Barrett

FWIC Board highlights are included in each MWI News. The FWIC Convention is in its final stages of development. Registration requests are few thus far, there is a concern that in-person conferences may not be the preferred method of meeting due to the cost of travel and accommodation. Manitoba will be represented by Liz, Ann, Gisela, and Debra. Angela Scott has let her name stand for FWIC President-elect, to date she is the only nomination.

FWIC Connection editor requests monthly articles from each province. A suggestion will be made to have 1 month dedicated to a province per year thereby not creating an extra task for each province per month.

Four board members will be attending.

8.10 MB Agriculture – Thelma Blahey

The House is now in Session, so we are seeing a lot of new legislation coming forth on a variety of issues.

Fiscal year end is **March 31st**, so lots of work in making sure projects are completed and paid for before the new fiscal year.

My branch meeting in March was held at the brand-new Manitoba Egg Producers learning center at the Farm Food and Discovery Center in Glenlea. It is an educational setting featuring chickens and how they live, with educational materials showing the process of egg gathering, storage and sales.

Minister Kostyshyn will be planning to attend the Manitoba Royal Winter Fair, in Brandon, the last week of March.

Pay attention to your media. New government – interesting legislation.

Issue: Who could MWI nominate for the MB Agriculture Hall of Fame. There were individual MWI members who have been nominated over the years.

Decision: We can get nominations from our memberships next year.

8.11 Agriculture & Rural Development – Gisela Nolting

MWI brought forward a resolution about live horse exports to Japan last year. An animal rights group is proceeding with a private prosecution against a meat horse exporter from Swan River. The exporter is accused of violating the federal Health of Animals

Regulations by failing to have a contingency plan in place if their transport exceeds 28 hours without a break for food, rest and water. The delay was due to a snowstorm.

Food waste: Environment and Climate Change Canada proposes targets to reduce plastic pollution, such as requiring 75% of fresh fruits and veggies to be sold in bulk, without plastic packaging by 2026, and 95% by 2028. Some produce bruises and spoils faster than others during handling and shipping and touching at the store. Will this lead to more food waste?

Food waste can be composted, plastic waste not so much.

Agriculture in the Classroom – the AGM for Agriculture in the Classroom is on April 18, 2024, either by Zoom or in person at the Caboto Centre in Winnipeg. Registration is online.

8.12 Nomination – Liz Chongva

We addressed this issue above: item 6.1.

8.13 Strategic Plan – Debra Barrett

The Committee continues to review the plan to ensure compliance.

8.14 Made in Manitoba Project – Michele Gurman

There are no changes as of right now. There are as of right now 17 blankets that have been donated to various care homes, lodges etc. A lot of them will probably not be

finalized until April/May. Some said that they will collect and distribute at that point.

8.15 Restructuring Committee – Debra Barrett
Committee on hiatus for 2023-2024.

8.16 ACWW – Gisela Nolting

Canada Area President Marie Kenny joined the Zooming Monarchs to inform about the works of ACWW and to discuss food waste. A lively discussion followed. April 29 is “Women Walk the World”, the main fundraiser for ACWW. You can google the event. More details will be in the next Institute News.

You can do your walking in May as well.

Action: Debra Barrett was interviewed by a Brandon Sun reporter.
E-mail the Brandon Sun the next April newsletter with our AGM information.

Action: Short board meeting after the AGM.

9. Other

Action: Debra Barrett was interviewed by a Brandon Sun reporter.
E-mail the Brandon Sun the next April newsletter with our AGM information.

Action: Short board meeting after the AGM.

10. In-Camera Session

No discussion

Next Board Meeting Date: May 15th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Ann Mandziuk. Meeting adjourned by Debra Barrett at 10:42 a.m.