



Policies & Procedures Committee Meeting Minutes
October 19 2016 Ten Pin Building Conference Room

Present:

Board: Mary Ella Anderson, Colin Fiske, and Leah Stamper

Staff: Melanie Bettenhausen, Alisha Hammer, Ellie Christensen, and Kala Eichamer

Member-owners: John Lucas

Meeting commenced at 4:06 pm. Colin Fiske welcomed everyone, introductions were made and consensus options reviewed.

Agenda Review. Nothing to add

Minutes. **Consensus to approve September 21, 2016 minutes.**

Board Meeting follow-up. The Board approved the two recommendations sent to the last meeting.

Availability of Current Version of Board Policy Manual: Discussion, Current version of policy is not easily available at this point. Can we add document to the website as a locked PDF. Should be available to everyone. New members of the board should receive a copy of the most current version. Recommend to the board that each time Policy Manual is updated the newest version will be published in a locked format on the website. Kala will perform this task when the board has approved. Consensus, thumbs up.

Purchase Policy Discussion: Review the homework everyone took on from last meeting to score different items.

Colin: Peanut Butter Scores:

Bulk:32

Once Again: 23

Santa Cruz: 16

Field Day: 16

Used 2 if he didn't know anything about the producer. Researched on internet and asked Joel in bulk. Bulk peanuts had highest score by far. Problems with production location scores. With bulk production happens in store but source of ingredients is Mexico. Some products he didn't know origin of peanuts but of processing location. Bulk packaging is theoretically recycled. Score was also affected by jar materials, production location and who the company is owned by. Example: Santa Cruz Organic is owned by Smuckers which as a company does all sorts of not good things in the food system. Bulk scored 32 and Santa Cruz and Field Day scored 16 Once Again 23. Further discussion of ingredient origin score when it is unknown. Mary Ella comments that the factor of number of jars created by prepackaged products as opposed to the minimal packaging of the bulk peanuts seems correct. She agrees with the packaging scores.

Mary Ella: EarthPaste Toothpaste and Eco Dent Powder. She chose tooth paste now that even Tom's brand is owned by a large corporation and even has added ingredients. Earthpaste is made in Utah, discussion of how to score as ingredients are all right there and local even though they are more than 1,000 miles away. She wanted to give them extra points for using a local clay. Gave a four, short ingredients list. Packaging is typical of every other product on market, a tube that ends up in trash. The company is a Cooperative she gave a five for that. Mary Ella acknowledges that she is not using the rubric to reach her scores. Ecodent: The company is in Wisconsin. Product comes in a small bottle and you use only a small amount so it lasts a long time. The ingredient list is short only baking soda and sand. Colin and Mary Ella discuss if the score related to product location should be based on the distance from us or distance ingredients are transported to production location. The location is partly to do with food miles and partially with local economy. Ideally Ingredients should be local and sustainable and processed locally. Discussion of Wild Planet fish that is caught locally and shipped and canned in Thailand.

Discussion of how the rating system will be presented to the shopper. The category related to community and Social impacts should say "Negative Impact".

Ideas presented about how to best get information to the consumer. Melanie discusses “How Good” a company which has an app and expanded rating system that allows companies to request to add small producers. Gives specific information about product. We could push them to add packaging as a scoring factor. Discussion if rating system is to influence store buying or consumer buying. End goal is to provide minimum standards. Colin is concerned with the idea of using an outside program to establish our purchasing policy. Committee should research how the “How Good” company gets their information. Leah is concerned that using an established app would make us prone to favoring larger companies vs. small local producers. Colin adds that we don’t have control over how they score.

Decision to continue discussion of rubric of products and have a separate presentation by How Good in another meeting to get more information about it.

Alisha reports on 12 ounce Coca-Cola sales in Eureka for September:

524 units of Coca Cola

249 units of Blue Sky all flavors combined

34 units of Hansens

Not broken out member/nonmember, Alisha will try to bring those numbers next meeting.

Leah: Apples. 17 choices Local Organic 39, Local non-organic (Clendenen’s) 30, bulk apples california w/stickers 27, bulk apples Washington & Arizona w/stickers 21, bulk in plastic bags 24/18. Bulk in plastic scored lower because of stickers and packaging. Discussion of local orchards fit into labor standards, and community well-being. Though Apple end caps should be local and promoted more. Melanie mentions that keeping a variety of local and non-local apples, even of the same variety is important to customers. Endcaps are often what is on sale so need more volume e.g. endcaps. Bagged apples are smaller and popular for lunchboxes. Some local farms do not have enough product for both stores (Swallow dale Farms).

Alisha: potato chips two brands. Kettle brand has two locations in Salem Oregon and Wisconsin. They scored 16. Good website. Low on major ingredients potato source, they are trying to increase organic sourcing. Packaging scored 1, they are looking for better packaging. Environmental 5, they recycle oil and use for alternative energy source. Part of Blue Diamond Corporation.

Boulder Chips: Scored 14. It was harder to find information about the company, possibly owned by a larger corporation. They offset energy use, the packaging meets sustainable forestry initiative. Produced in Colorado.

Melanie: Consideration of adding category for dietary needs (vegan, gluten free) of customers/demand. It is important that the Coop not take on the role of the food police. We need to continue to listen to members and do not want to lose customers in implementing this policy. Discussion of how this policy will impact customers and the Coop's image of making decisions that are smart for consumers. There could be outside exceptions to the scoring rubric for popular products.

Continue discussion in next meeting and Colin will amend Proposal as discussed.

Agenda items for next meeting.

1. Approve Agenda meeting minutes
2. Hot List
3. Discussion of election results-follow up
4. Board Meeting follow-up.

Next Meetings: November 16 @4pm. Kala Eichamer will take notes and _____ will facilitate.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm by consensus.

Minutes by Kala Eichamer

Recommendations for Board:

1. Recommend to the board that each time Policy Manual is updated the newest version will be published in a locked format on the website.