

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm (In-person)

Present: Laura Weiss, Heidi Beierle, Erin Grant, Jessica Gillis, Alexander McIntyre, Randy Rydel, Noa Kauanoe, Jade Vantreese, Lisa Sedlar

Absent: Margaret Gerard, Diane Krapf

Guest: Jenny Low, Basilio Rodriguez Grueso

Facilitator: Holly O’Neil **Administrator:** Annabelle Wesley

Topic	Key points	Outcome
Welcome, introductions, check-in, agenda review	Jade was welcomed as a temporary Board Admin while Annabelle is on leave.	--
Member Forum & Board Announcements	- A member shared his concerns that he saw some front-end staff celebrating about a recent news event. He would like the Co-op to make a statement that we do not condone any violence. - Whatcom County Farm Tour on Saturday.	Lisa has reached out to the Store Managers and there will be a follow-up meeting and investigation.
Study & Engagement: How can we be the most sustainable grocery store through the lens of plastic?	- A representative from D6 joined to share about a new partnership which will expand our recycling program. They have a wash line where they collect materials (bail to shelf). Everything they do is domestically produced. There is new legislation where there will be a fee for companies for each piece of plastic sold. Each month a load of material is shipped back to Texas. They will be able to show what amount is put back into product. EPR programs are spreading. Their main manufacturing sites are in Texas. Set up “close loop collection programs.” - Base fees for different material types, which vary depending on how challenging it is to recycle. - New Seasons In-House Thermoform Recycling Program is carbon negative on packaging. - D6 is building shipping containers for recycling for rural markets. It is driving store growth as people are bringing back recycling material and then shopping in the store. - Utilize domestic waste as a resource. There has been no incentive to bring in recycling as the price has been too high. With lowering the price, the interest will grow. - The life cycle of recycling PET can continue to be recycled, which is more than other materials. - Customer education is important to get them to bring materials back. They tried with Walmart and Sam’s. They found participation was high. A lot of items don’t come from the stores themselves. They will accept all items as long as it is PET. - The recycling process requires energy and water. They use a calculator for carbon neutral. They are carbon negative because they have no input in water. - There is sorting equipment which will take out anything that is not PET. - Ridwell serves a larger market.	The Sustainability Manager will work with D6 to implement the program.

	• With New Seasons they are shipping once a month with material aggregated from all stores. • PET is prolific in bakery and deli.	
Consent Agenda: • 8/13 BOD Minutes • 8/14 Finance Minutes • Key Indicators for August • 8/27 BDC Minutes • Memo regarding advocacy requests • Farewell to Foam Act Advocacy Request • Endangerment Finding Advocacy Request	• The facilitator confirmed everyone had read the meeting packet. No concerns.	Approved by consensus.
Board Chair Report	• Jade will be filling in for Board Admin • The 55 year party was fun. Tie dye, juggling, face painters, square dancing. Look at how to be a regular day. • The Eat Local First branding went live in the stores.	
Executive Session: Advocacy Process Debrief	• The Board went into Executive Session at 7:35 pm. • The Board debriefed the advocacy process.	
Adjourn	• Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm	

These minutes have been approved by the Board of Directors.