

**Florida Agricultural Council**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Holiday Inn**  
**Tallahassee, Florida**  
**Wednesday March 10, 2010**  
**Minutes**

**In attendance:** Larry Arrington, Joe Joyce, Mary Ann Gosa, Mark McLellan, Millie Ferrer-Chancy, Ben Bolusky, Gene Mooney, Ron O'Connor, Brent Sutton, Ray Hodge, Mary Hartney, Wade Grigsby, David Still, Valerie Jones, Alan Shelby, Bryan Cooksey, Mike Milicevic, Ray Capeolouto, Jim Handley.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice- President Milicevic.

Introductions were made by everyone. President Branch could not attend due to a meeting in Washington D.C.

**Minutes to Board Meeting**

Upon a motion made and seconded, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes to the Florida Agricultural Council's annual meeting held on Monday, November 30, 2009 in Apopka, Florida.

**Report of the Secretary/Treasurer**

The Treasurer's report for November 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010 was reviewed. Secretary Sutton reported that 23 members had paid their dues. Members who had not paid were discussed.

**Appointment of Nominating Committee**

Vice President Milicevic suggested delaying in order for President Branch to make the appointments.

**Overview and discussion of FY 2010-2011 Budget**

Dr. Arrington reported on economic impact data that was compiled by Dr. Alan Hodges from IFAS. Agriculture has taken a hit during the recession. 8.4% of the domestic product in Florida is Ag related. 1.61 million jobs in Florida, it is a second to tourism. Handout showing 2008 numbers was presented and discussed. Larry asked for any suggestions for a short presentation that will be given to a group of legislators next week. John Hoblick and Ben Bolusky were asked to give it for IFAS. The following suggestions were made: 1). Point out the taxes that were paid due to Ag. 2). Explain the multiplier effect. 3). Make the 15 minute presentation 10 minutes to allow time for questions.

**IFAS Senior Vice President Search Update**

Vice –President Milicevic asked Jim Handley to give the council an update. Jim said the search was an “excellent process”. Dr. Jack Payne was selected and gave details about his background. He is currently in Iowa and is 63 years old. Mike expressed his appreciation to Jim and Ben Bolusky for being on the search committee. Larry asked the council members to help educate Dr. Payne about IFAS. He starts June 1.

### **Legislative Update**

Mary Ann Gosa presented "2010 Legislative Sessions IFAS Priority" handout with it's mission statement for her. She also reported on the estimated Florida recovery timetable. There may be a possible 10% cut in the Florida budget. Almost 1 billion dollars from the federal government helped pay for unemployment. There is over 700 million dollars lost in property tax value reduction. The first draft of the chairman's budget for UF comes out this afternoon. Discussed handout about the House and Senate Appropriations committee. Dr. Arrington mentioned IFAS was #2 as a priority on the House committee. Second only to tourism. The speaker of the House has an aggressive calendar. The Senate and the House will have an interesting debate. Discussed Senate and House races. Dr. Joe Joyce talked about research and extension ties in IFAS. They are asking for 1.5% growth on the money requested. Larry explained this is for additional students. There is more willingness from campus to use one-time monies. The board of governors budget did not include IFAS. Dr. Machen traveled to Tallahassee to help correct that problem.

Maryann discussed visitation plan for the afternoon.

Joe reported that upcoming RAC meetings will be canceled. Dr. Payne and Dr. Machen may attend RAC meetings in June.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Sutton  
Secretary/Treasurer, Florida Agricultural Council