

**Middlebury Natural Foods Cooperative
Board of Directors Meeting
November 11, 2009
Approved 12/9/09**

Board members present: Kristin Bolton, Ilaria Brancoli Busdraghi, Ross Conrad, Francisca Drexel, Mary Gill, Kate Gridley, Jay Leshinsky, Michelle McCauley, Ashar Nelson (presiding), Johanna Nichols, Tam Stewart

Board members absent: None

Others present: Laura Asermily (front end), Christina del Piero (member-owner), Susan DeWind (staff liaison), Robert Keren (recorder of minutes), Glenn Lower (general manager)

Guest speaker: Jim Merkel

Board monitor: Kristin

Call to order: Ashar called the meeting to order at the Ilsley Library conference room at 6:27 p.m.

Member-owners' business

Christina del Piero expressed concern about the layout of the store.

Ilaria said members have approached her about extending the store's hours of operations until 8 p.m. some nights and, perhaps, until 11 p.m. one night per week.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2009

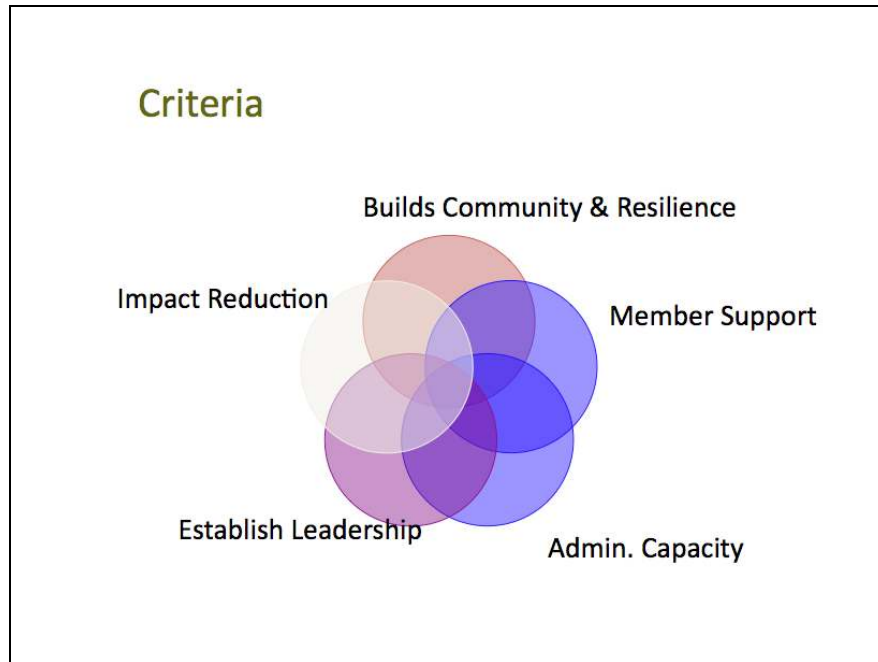
The board amended the October 28, 2009, minutes to add the word "choose," to add a sentence to the GM's report, and to correct the spelling of a name. On a motion by Michelle, seconded by Kate, the minutes were approved as amended on a 11-0 vote.

Discussion with Jim Merkel

Jim Merkel, author of the book "Radical Simplicity," conferred with the board for about 90 minutes concerning his concept of living sustainably on the planet. Key points included:

- Co-ops play a valuable role in food security, social networking, and education
- Humanity now is consuming all the output produced by the Earth, so with continued population growth, what should we do?
- The \$700 billion bailout could have doubled the income of the poorest billion people on the planet for the next seven years.
- Swiss scientists have determined that the amount of "bio-productive space" each person is using now is 4.5 acres each, and that assumes that we leave nothing for other species.

- In the U.S., the per capita “ecological footprint” is 24 acres per person, the most of any nation in the world.
- We could have a sustainable planet in 100 years if every human being committed to having single-child families only.
- Humankind is draining the Earth’s capital faster than it is producing it.
- The theme of “interpersonal equity”
- “My work is helping people see the reality...leading people to voluntarily take less from the pie,” said Jim.
- Board members showed particular interest in the following slide from Jim’s presentation.



The board discussed the possibility of holding a future “visioning session” with stakeholders as a follow-up to the discussion with Jim Merkel. The session should result in a list of priorities, action items, and a timeline. The session could include vendors, management team members, member-owners, the board, and others.

Adjournment

On a motion by Jay, seconded by Ross, the board voted 8-0 at 8:58 p.m. to adjourn. (Kate, Mary, and Ilaria had left the meeting prior to the motion to adjourn.)