

**Date:** May 13, 2026

**Location:** Online via Zoom

**Time:** 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Attendance**

Present: John Bonvechio (President), Donna Frederick (Vice President), Debby Warren (Treasurer), Diane Standaert (Secretary), Kim Ionescu, Anwar Simon, Summer Alston, Steph Carter, Amy Cao.

Others Present: Jason Bowers (General Manager), Amy Zimmerman (Board Assistant), Molly Phipps (Columinate), Anne Jones (Co-op Owner).

Absent: Neisha Reynolds

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Agenda Review:**

The agenda was reviewed. The introduction of Molly Phipps and introduction of Molly Phipps from Columinate and Amy Cao were added.

**Welcome to New Board Member**

John introduced Amy Cao, new board member and welcomed her to the board.

**April 2026 Minutes**

**Vote, April 2026 minutes:** Debbie moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Steph. The April 2026 Board Meeting Minutes were approved without objection.

**GM FYI Report – Jason Bowers (GM)**

Jason Bowers presented the General Manager’s FYI report. The report was received and placed on file. No vote was required.

The FYI report included updates on an inquiry from the Durham Housing Authority regarding a possible second location, sales performance, quarterly financial results, customer experience metrics, ADP integration, NCG initiatives, tax matters, facilities maintenance, community events, staff and HR matters, website and technology improvements, and industry trends discussed at the NCG spring conference. Sales exceeded the monthly budget despite being lower than the prior year, and the Co-op reported positive net income for both the quarter and fiscal year to date. Additional updates included progress toward implementing NCG’s Common Chart of Accounts, website migration planning, customer service and cleanliness initiatives, and discussions regarding labor control, margins, and long-term financial preparedness. The report also noted upcoming NCG dividend distributions and continued community outreach efforts.

**Monitoring Reports - Jason Bowers (GM)**

The BI – Financial Condition and Activities monitoring report was received and filed, as included in the board packet.

**Vote, BI Financial Condition and Activities:** Debbie proposed to accept the BI Monitoring Report. Kim Seconded. There being no objection, the motion was approved.

## **Board of Directors Minutes – May 2026**

### **Columinate CBLD program**

Molly Phipps (Columinate) provided an overview of the Columinate CBLD program, including board consulting services, educational and leadership development opportunities for directors, board retreat planning and facilitation support, and the consultation hours and resources available to assist the Board in its governance work.

### **Board Retreat**

The Board discussed planning a board retreat for summer 2026, including possible dates and agenda topics. Discussion centered on transitioning from crisis management to long-term strategic governance, reviewing the cooperative's Ends policies, strategic planning and vision development, evaluating the multi-stakeholder governance structure, supporting management through economic challenges, developing a plan and communications strategy for owner loan repayment, and strengthening board education and leadership development.

Molly Phipps agreed to provide available dates for July through September, and the Executive Committee will meet separately with her to continue retreat planning.

### **Nominations and Elections Committee Update**

Kim Ionescu reported that the 2026 Board election had concluded successfully. Welcome to Amy Cao and congratulations to Diane. Cindy will join us next month.

The committee discussed onboarding plans for new board members, including store tours, implementation of a board buddy/mentor system, and coordination with the Education Committee to support orientation and integration of new directors into the Board's governance work.

### **Education Committee Update**

The Education Committee reported that it is proceeding with new board member onboarding in coordination with the Elections Committee, including recommending virtual CBLD training and offering store tours. The committee discussed adding worker-owner members to the Education Committee, including Watson and Kirsten, to help complete the current year's charter and develop the next year's charter. The Education Committee will be sending an email with some updates.

### **Self-Monitoring Survey**

The Board reviewed the results of the Board Self-Monitoring Survey. The survey is a tool to track board effectiveness and capture feedback. Board members were reminded to include initials with their feedback.

### **Other Business**

#### **Events, reminders, and action items**

President John Bonvechio and General Manager Jason Bowers reported that they would attend the CCMA Conference in Tacoma, Washington, and would share key takeaways with the Board afterward.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.