

agInnovation Finance Committee, August 30, 2023, 12:00 pm ET

In attendance: Chris Pritsos (Chair), Rick Rhodes, Matt Wilson, Jose Toledo, Jeanette Thurston, Bret Hess, Gary Thompson, Christina Hamilton, David Leibovitz

agInnovation Finances and Budget

- A budget sheet was enclosed with the meeting materials, which includes:
 - Calendar Year 2024 Proposed budget (George Smith, 2023-24 agInnovation Chair)
 - Calendar Year 2023 Approved budget
 - Calendar Year 2023 Actuals/encumbrances
- The cash balance of the agInnovation Operating account is now known; carry-forward into Calendar Year 2023 was \$133,425.
- A shadow accounting of agInnovation expenses will be kept by Rick Rhodes and David Leibovitz.
- New budget lines proposed in 2024 to support George Smith's initiatives: Strategic Advocacy (\$15k), Planning Team in-person meetings (\$35k), agInnovation 501(c)3 (amount not known)
 - **A proposal was introduced to increase the Promotion line to \$20,000. The line item will parenthetically include "Printing" next to promotion. The increase of \$5k is included to accommodate travel for Jeanette and George, and printing of materials for events related to agInnovation.**
- Swag items are bundled into the Communications and Advocacy line under the umbrella of the re-branding initiative.
- AG-NGINE continues at \$50k / annually through Calendar Year 2025 and will then go away.
- agInnovation may consider increasing its assessments in Calendar Year 2025. This could be mentioned in Grand Rapids as a heads up to Directors.
- The TD Wealth account has not been growing, and the money is not being used. We need to revisit the intent of having this investment account. **The finance committee requested to have a meeting with the TD Wealth money managers to discuss our investment mix.**

agInnovation 501(c)3

- Bret Hess introduced some items which may help determine the annual required expenditures of the 501(c)3:
 - Quickbooks (\$300 / monthly)
 - CPA services (\$700 / annually)
 - Attorney (\$500 / annually)
- The initial proposed seed for the 501(c)3 is \$50,000. We could seed the 501(c)3 with money from the TD Wealth account rather than the operating account.
- agInnovation is retaining an attorney for the 501(c)3; fees are associated with drafting bylaws and incorporating in the state of Nevada.
- Procedure for election and rotation of officers is outlined in the proposed bylaws.
- A quorum will consist of the five EDs and a minimum of three agInnovation Directors.
- Bylaws will be shared formally with the Finance Committee and presented for a vote.
- A formal drafted resolution is also required to incorporate with the state of Nevada.
- **Passage of the bylaws and the resolution can be made concurrently. These documents will be circulated to the board members as identified for electronic signature.**