

***Draft Meeting Agenda
IFOAM North America
Membership Meeting***

February 20, 2019

Noon-5:00 pm

People's Food Co-op

Community Room

315 5th Ave S

LaCrosse, WI 54601

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Minutes</i>
Noon	Register, Check-in	Register voting members, proxies. Lunch will be served.	60
1 pm	Call to Order and approval of agenda	Welcome members, explain procedures, revise and approve agenda	5
1:05	President's Report	Brief history of IFOAM followed by a report on current and planned activities	10
1:15	IFOAM Update	Liz Henderson will provide background on principles and an update on the North American context. Bob Quinn will report back from the Self-Organizing Structures meeting.	15
1:30	Executive Director	Presentation and introduction of the ED	5
1:35	Financial Report	Leslie Zuck will present the 2018 financials, the 2019 budget, and possibly call for the appointment of an auditor (not decided).	10
1:45	Facilitated Brainstorming Session	Discussion led by ED, then breakout into smaller groups to talk about programs, projects, and priorities for 2019.	60
2:45	Elections I	Vote for three open Board seats. Candidate Statements, Hand out ballots, collect ballots	45
3:30	Break	Informal discussion of GA Motions and networking	15
3:45	Elections II	Announce Directors Elected	5
3:50	Wrap up	Summarize brainstorming session and final resolution	10
4:00	Informal Discussion	Members share their thoughts recommendations for areas of focus for 2019 and beyond	60
5:00	Adjourn		

IFOAM / Organics International North America Board

Candidates' Statements

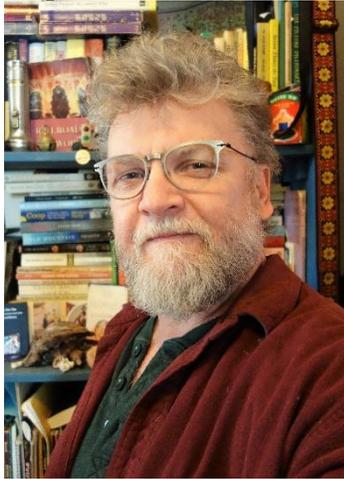
Beth Unger



Please accept my nomination for a seat on the IFOAM NA board of directors. I am Beth Unger, Regulatory Engagement Manager at CROPP Cooperative. I have been involved with the organic community since 2000. First as the primary contact for organic certification at a small family cheese factory where my responsibilities included managing the organic system plan. For the past 14 years I've worked at CROPP Cooperative managing the certification function and then concentrating on the regulatory engagement process. The diversity of CROPP allows for a very unique experience working with over 2000 farmer/members and 100 co-processing facilities. My commitment to the principles of organic production and handling are a cornerstone of my work life.

Experience:

- Managed the organic certification function at CROPP Cooperative for over 11 years
- Developed and executed training for new hires to provide an understanding of organic certification from farm to table
- Worked closely with Product Development to assure only organic compliant ingredients were used during formula development
- Extensive knowledge of the organic supply chain from farm to distribution of products
- Current board member of Midwest Organic Services Assoc.
- Obtained and maintained organic certification at two cheese processing facilities prior to my employment at CROPP Cooperative
- Directed the creation of a Quality Management System for the USDA pilot project for Group GAP (on farm food safety program)
- Facilitated committees comprised of members and staff to develop animal care practice standards
- Past member of Non-GMO Project Standards Committee since 2008 through 2015
- Served nine years on local school board and chaired several committees including Personnel, Negotiations, and Policy
- Served as an emergency medical technician and treasurer of our local volunteer rescue squad
- Attended and participated in every NOSB meeting since the fall of 2008.
- I am willing to commit the time and energy necessary to provide quality, collaborative work
- Long time consumer of organic products

Stephen Walker

I've been part of this organic community for 30 years. As a young adult, I worked a small homestead, inspired by biointensive methods and carbon cycles, driven by sobering statistics on our changing world. I also found bliss and followed that to find my career. I've worked in organic certification with MOSA (and OCIA) since 2001, now overseeing Operations. I've been instrumental in policy and program development as we've grown (2100+ certified operations) with the industry. I've presented lots of NOSB testimony, attended many community events, and actively participated in Accredited Certifiers Association work. I'm serving my third term with the Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council. In the certification community, I'm respected for my balanced perspective and insight. At MOSA, staff appreciate my heart, humor, and voice for the vision. I strive to inspire unity around deep organic values for a better organic, with consideration of community and global neighbors.

I attended IFOAM North America's inaugural meeting in Baltimore in 2016.

Since then, we've done some parallel thinking, much as found in my news and commentary in the [Organic Cultivator](#) newsletter. IFOAM's Principles and Organic 3.0 influenced development of MOSA's vision ("a thriving organic world") and values, including "Optimism - Organic offers viable solutions to urgent global challenges. A thriving organic world must have balance: socio-economic justice, ecological sustainability, and the interdependent well-being of individuals, communities, and ecosystems."

Climate and food security concerns that nudged me toward this work are now more urgent and closer to home. We live in "interesting times." Meanwhile, our organic community wrestles with change in DC, passionate debates over boundaries, criticism of enforcement, market changes, and challenges with regulatory pace. I've pondered moral absolutes, finding common ground with those we perceive as the "other," and working toward our organic vision. This disconcerting time is a call to maintain optimism as we adapt with heads, hearts, and hands. It's also a call for humility. Wendell Berry wrote, "We must abandon arrogance and stand in awe. We must recover the sense of the majesty of creation, and the ability to be worshipful in its presence. For I do not doubt that it is only on the condition of humility and reverence before the world that our species will be able to remain in it."

I'm honored to be considered for IFOAM North America service. I bring passion for the mission, vision and values; collaborative spirit; assessment and verification experience; and urgency balanced by patience. I'm interested in Organic 3.0 verification models, and value inclusivity, systemic perspective, education, research, and innovation.

With gratitude,
Stephen Walker

Jim Pierce

For 45 years IFOAM has been the adult in the room providing leadership, insight, and most importantly vision as organic agriculture crystalized into a global phenomenon. Throughout that time, despite well intentioned attempts, the North American organic agriculture voice has been under-represented. The nascent IFOAM North America is the vehicle to bring the voice of North American Organic Farmers to the global table, making us, IFOAM, and the organic label stronger. As a member of the International Organic Inspectors Association please accept this nomination to be a part of the team that creates this reality.

For thirty years my career has been one of organic and sustainable agriculture immersion affording me the privilege of working with leaders in the organic movement across the country and around the world. Starting in 1989 at the fledgling CROPP Cooperative managing Organic Compliance and NOP policy as the new rule

became established, next with Oregon Tilth, managing Global Organic Program and accreditation including COR, EU and the myriad Equivalency Arrangements, and now as a full time Independent Organic Inspector auditing organic Crop, Livestock and Processing operations. To the IFOAM NA team table I will bring this diverse perspective, along with an ability to communicate effectively and to work collaboratively for common goals.

Understanding that there is heavy lifting to be done, this opportunity to serve on the IFOAM NA Board would be an honor for me and comes at an opportune time in order to provide the dedicated effort that is being requested.

Le Luong

I humbly ask for your consideration for the position of Director on the Board of IFOAM North America.

My roots in farming began when my family arrived in Glencoe, Ontario, Canada in the eighties after fleeing Vietnam in 1978. When we first arrived in Canada, my parents could not speak English and had no skills, so my sponsors taught them how to farm. As I child, I witnessed how hard my parents and sponsors worked on the farms to provide food for the mass population.

My destiny has allowed me to return to my roots, and now I am fully immersed in the organic farming industry. Within the last three years, I have been working with many Canadian and international farmers to provide them with an environmentally friendly and sustainable solution to chemical fertilizer. I have also been invited to speak at many events to speak about the benefits of using bio-fertilizer products.

Prior to being the Operations Manager at Nurture Growth Bio-Fertilizer Inc., I have more than 25 experience in business development, international business, sales and marketing strategies, fundraising and event coordination. I would like to contribute my skills and network to help grow the IFOAM brand in North America, shape the future of the organization and develop fundraising strategies. In addition to my business experience, I have also served on several boards of charities and non-profit organizations and have been successful in helping them achieve their objectives.

I am passionate about organic farming because I have witnessed the negative affects of using chemical fertilizers on the environment and humans. By promoting a more sustainable way of growing, there are many benefits such as:

- improved soil health
- less seepage of chemicals in our water supply
- less impact on ecosystem (flora and fauna)
- reduce greenhouse gases
- humans consume healthier foods

I invite you visit my LinkedIn Profile <https://www.linkedin.com/in/leluong/> to view my professional experiences, recommendations by colleagues and customers, and news articles published about me.

Yours very truly,

Ms. Le Luong

Operations Manager

Nurture Growth Bio Fertilizer Inc.

Maria Pop

My name is Maria Pop, I am currently the Director of Education at Rodale Institute and I would like to be considered for a board position with IFOAM North America. I am very much aligned with the goals and focus of IFOAM and I would like to use the skills and broad experience gained in my over 20 years working at Rodale Institute to help IFOAM-NA with the advancement of organic agriculture and its principles.

My educational background includes a M. Ed. in Adult Education from Penn State University and a B.S. in Horticultural Engineering from the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania. I have extensive experience in planning, development and coordination of comprehensive agricultural education programs for the advancement of organic agricultural practices and for

educating farmers, veterans, students and other agriculture and environmental professionals. I also have experience with development of online courses and training programs.

I believe the set of skills I have will prove useful to your organization's Strategic Planning, particularly Focus #4 – Organic Programs — Assisting Organic Development.

Planning and development of programs that disseminate the results of research in organic production, along with bringing together the most successful farmers and researchers, are some of my key strengths. I work very well as a team member and thrive on finding resolutions to problems. I am confident that these qualities together with my commitment to work will be an asset to your organization.

My enclosed bio will provide you with more details regarding my qualifications and experience. I know that I can bring much benefit with my experience, educational qualifications and skills and I look forward to putting these towards a good cause. Please contact me by phone or email if you wish. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Maria Pop

Maria has been a staff member at Rodale Institute for over 20 years and most currently in the position of Director of Education. Maria's background is in horticultural engineering and she has extensive experience in planning, development and coordination of comprehensive agricultural education programs for ethnic and culturally diverse audiences. In her current position, Maria is charged with creating a new educational platform that will be used by Rodale Institute for the advancement of regenerative organic agricultural practices and for educating farmers, agriculture and environmental professionals and students, health and food industry professionals, as well as consumers, about the benefits of a regenerative food system.