

Addison County Maple Sugarmakers Association
Minutes of Directors Meeting
October 9, 2025
Draft Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Moe Rheaume at 6:12pm

In Attendance:

Moe Rheaume	Barb Rainville	Brad Clark
Mike Christian	Ken Button	
Steve Willsey	Kenn Hastings	

Absent:

Dave Folino	Maurice Trayah	Don Gale
Trent Roleau	Andrew Rainville	Jim Rowe

Secretary's Report

Brad read the Secretary's report on the June 19, 2025 meeting. Motion made by Mike Christian to accept the report. Motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report

Barb presented the Financial statement.
The check book is around 40,000.

Money market is at \$21,000
Blake Roy fund is at \$6,400.
CD \$26,261.16 came due October 7. Will renew with a different interest rate.

Mike has contacted Rutland County about the Blake Roy fund, so that is kind of in the works to transfer half of it to them.
Mike made motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Field Days update - Andrew Rainville.

Written report given.
Mike mentioned that our 3 top days at Field Days bested some of the days they had at the Big E. Field days had roughly a 35,000 attendance. Might be higher if you also counted all the season ticket holder for each day. In 2022, the adult attendance was 25,000. This year it was 23,500.

Cream machine did have some issues. Mike & Kenn worked on it after the fair and found a bad seal in the plunger.

Mike also thought too many donuts were made up ahead of time & put in the cooler.

Borrowing equipment is all good, but we have the funds to get the equipment we need.

It was good to see using shaker containers. Mike suggested to think about going with a couple more sizes. The 3 oz size goes well at the Big E.

Creemee machine – one side was down for all of the fair. They never came to fix it while we were at the fair. Without looking at it it probably needs a new compressor, with an estimate of \$3000 to replace the compressor. We got a line on a small machine at Country campground, but it is too small. Our machine is a Taylor 794. We will have it looked at it in the spring, to get it fixed and see what else it needs.

Allison is donating 3 cases of cotton candy bags to Addison County.

Moe put out that we may want to think about selling those maple cream cones also.

Brad advised he made a total of 75 gallons of slushy mix, making a few batches every day. Moe thought it would be good to make 40 gallons or more up at the beginning of the fair.

Field Days board – Ken Button

Their fundraising for the capital campaign is going okay. They are at \$113,000 now, with an additional \$7,500 coming from ACMSA tonight. The donations are still coming from unpredictable places.

Repairing the fairgrounds after the heavy rain before the fair cost \$20,000 for fill, \$5,000 for trucking.

Capital grant request for next year is \$40,000 for gravel in parking lot and horse pullers want softer dirt. New lighting in some buildings, and some electrical upgrades.

The septic tank that services our building at the fair is cracked and needs to be replaced. The Lions tank also needs to be replaced. Initial estimate is that ours will cost \$12,500, and we would split cost with the fair. \$4,980 for the tank alone. The Maple directors thought the cost of the rest seems steep, and they should get some other estimates.

State Association – Mike Christian

BigE

They have to pay the state 15% of what is sold. All of the extra tips they got using the Square app canceled out their charges for the credit card.

19,000 mini-cones of maple cream sold.

Kenn Hastings is hosting the State director's meeting on November 13th.

Kenn & Mike made 2800 pounds of syrup at the Big E.

The coffee from Speeder & Earls went well. The only sweetener available at the building people to add to their coffee was maple syrup.

Lots of people from Addison County were helping the first week.

Old Business

Maple grading school in Addison County. Nothing further.

New Business

Discussion of the Management fee we pay to Andrew. Steve Willsey made motion to give him a \$500 bonus this year, and it will be \$1500 next year. Motion seconded by Ken Button.

Motion carried. We need to reevaluate this each year.

Henry Marckres is willing to come to Addison County to have a talk on his experiences with being a maple tester in the state. Thought to have him come to the annual meeting and hold it in Burnham Hall in Lincoln in June.

Discussion on renewing the CD. Suggested Barb to shop around a little bit to see some other rates and also look at Money Market accounts.

Barb will send half of the Blake Roy fund to the Rutland County Sugarmakers.

State Maple Conference - Takes place in December. Seems to cater more to the larger sugarmakers.

Moe asked if we are interested in getting back into a maple school for January 2027, since it is too late for this coming January. Discussion. Barb wondered how having 2 or 4 sessions, all in the auditorium with breaks between sessions would work. Mike also suggested we could hold the grading school for 20 people, that would have to be paid ahead of time.

Moe suggested we think about it, when to do it, and where to do it. We'll have another Director's meeting before end of year to discuss more.

Mike Christian brought up about the sap hydrometer testing kits that the state would like to purchase, and would like Addison County to donate \$3,200 toward this effort. Mike advised them that if we did, they would have to guarantee to have a sap hydrometer in Addison County. Barb made the motion to put up the money as long as we get a sap AND syrup hydrometer testing kit in Addison County. Motion was tabled pending more discussion with the state. Moe will attend the State Director's meeting in November to discuss the distribution of these tests to have more in the South.

Adjournment

Kenn Hastings made the motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradley Clark, Secretary