



Expectations of the Board of Directors and Staff

FARRMS grows sustainable agriculture and strengthens local food systems in North Dakota and the Red River Valley.

We grow farmers through education, peer support and lending.

The stated mission of FARRMS is *to enhance the sustainability of farms and ranches in their communities.*

The stated vision is as follows:

FARRMS empowers people to dream and realize those dreams creating thriving, exciting, diverse, and sustainable communities. We link people, good food, living farms and ranches, and the environment through hands-on educational experiences. We model sustainability by balancing environment, society, and economics through our programming.

Expectations of the Board as a Whole

As the highest leadership body of the organization and to satisfy its fiduciary duties, the board is responsible for

- Determining the mission and purpose of the organization
- Selecting and evaluating the performance of the Executive Director
- Strategic an organizational planning
- Ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management
- Fundraising and resource development
- Approving and monitoring FARRMS' programs and services
- Enhancing FARRMS' public image
- Assessing its own performance as the governing body of FARRMS

Expectations of the Executive Director and Board President

In turn, the Executive Director and Board President will provide the following to members of the board of directors

- Monthly updates on organizational activities.
- Financial reports at least every two months.
- Opportunities for discussion regarding the organization's programs, goals, activities, and status.
- Opportunities for professional development as a board member.

Board members and staff will work together in good faith toward achievement of our goals.



Board Member Responsibilities

As a member of the Board of Directors I understand that I have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure that the organization does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals. I believe in the purpose and the mission of the organization, and I will act responsibly and prudently as its steward. As part of my responsibilities as a board member:

1. I will professionally represent FARRMS and act as an advocate and ambassador for our mission and community.
2. I will read reports and policies provided and know FARRMS' mission, policies, programs, and needs.
3. I will leverage connections, networks, and resources to develop collective action to fully achieve FARRMS' mission.
4. I will share our constituencies' needs and values with the organization, speak for their interests, and on their behalf, and hold the organization accountable.
5. I will make a personal financial contribution at a level that is meaningful to me.
6. I will attend at least four of the six board meetings per year.
7. I will serve on at least one committee.
8. I will excuse myself from discussions and votes where I have a conflict of interest.
9. I will stay informed about what is going on in the organization. I will ask questions and request information. I will participate in and take responsibility for making decisions on issues, policies, and other matters. I will not stay silent if I have questions or concerns.
10. I will work in good faith with staff and other board members as partners toward achievement of our goals.

As a board member I understand that I must

- Follow the organization's bylaws, policies, and board resolutions
- Sign an annual conflict-of-interest disclosure and update it during the year, if necessary, as well as disclose potential conflicts before meetings and actual conflicts during meetings
- Maintain confidentiality about all internal matters of FARRMS.

Signature

Date