

Cooperative Governance Director Assessment - Stage 1

Name of Cooperative	
Assessment number	
Date of Assessment	
Enumerator Name	

You have an opportunity to help design a new governance training initiative. Any director improvement effort needs to begin with a careful identification of areas where directors can receive the most benefit. A governance assessment should result in a good understanding of the unique challenges each board faces. As a director of the cooperative, you have the responsibility and opportunity to make sure that the cooperative is providing the best business possible to meet your members' needs. One way to help you improve your performance as a board is to assess the current health of your governance system. You will receive results of this survey so that you can begin thinking about possible governance improvements you might make.

Instructions: For each question below, please MARK WITH a X under the response that best describes the cooperative.		Agree	Disagree	Not sure	Does not apply
Question 1	Our members expect us to focus primarily on one product or service.				
Question 2	Most of our decisions deal with daily co-op operations.				
Question 3	We spend much of our time setting up the organizational structure of the co-op (getting incorporated, proposing bylaws, recruiting members).				
Question 4	We make decisions when everyone can agree on what to do.				
Question 5	Our board members are deeply committed to the cooperative.				
Question 6	Our members are a group of people who have close ties to each other.				
Question 7	The board consistently represents the interests of the members in its decision making process.				
Question 8	The cooperative has equal voting rights for all members (one member, one vote).				
Question 9	Our most important goal is to achieve the mission of the cooperative.				
Question 10	Our most important job is to attract new members and build volume for the co-op.				
Question 11	The co-op has too much business for the board members to manage alone.				
Question 12	We hired a person who does most of the daily work of the co-op.				
Question 13	The cooperative has written rules and regulations that meet all official registration requirements.				
Question 14	We develop written procedures for operating our co-op as we need them.				
Question 15	Our board members are the founders of our co-op.				
Question 16	Our board members are elected by the members of the cooperative.				
Question 17	Our board members are willing to do whatever it takes to make the co-op succeed.				
Question 18	Our board members have a lot of time available to contribute to the co-op.				
Question 19	Our board conducts most or all of its work as an entire group (a committee of the whole).				
Question 20	The cooperative has a regular budget process.				
Question 21	We have a clearly articulated mission that is driven by the needs of our members.				
Question 22	Most of our income comes from member fees, events, grants and donations.				
Question 23	We have an experienced accountant/bookkeeper who keeps track of the organization's finances.				
Question 24	We have an accounting system that includes a chart of accounts, journal general ledger, and trial balance capability.				
Question 25	What is your board's biggest challenge?				