

NWB Meeting minutes
March 4, 2015
Hampton Inn, Kearney, NE

Board Members Present

Bob Delsing, Hemingford
Rick Larson, Potter
Larry Flohr, Chappell
Kent Lorens, Statton
Von Johnson, Cambridge
Steve Wiese, Wilber - Absent
Brent Robertson, Elsie

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director
Caroline Brauer, Ag Promotion Coordinator

Guests

Michael Thomas Jr., NWGA
Hector Santiago, UNL
Jack Whittier, UNL PHREC

Ex-Officio

Jeff Noel, UNL
Steve Roth, Dept. of Ag

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 a.m. Roll call was taken and board members presented crop reports on their areas.

Board added several projects to the first reading of funding proposals: NASS, Ag in the Classroom, Haxby video productions, US Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative, and Meltwater group. **Larry moved to approve the agenda as amended; Kent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Brent moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Bob. Voice vote, motion carried.

Board reviewed the financials. Bob moved to approve the financials; Larry seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Michael Thomas Jr. presented an update from NWGA. The organization is working on participation in Nebraskaland Days and a golf tournament with the Chase County Fair. He updated the board on the NAWG staffing changes and policy issues in Washington, DC that NAWG is working on.

Hector Santiago presented an update from UNL. Bayer CropScience's new research station had its grand opening. Station will work on wheat and soybeans. UNL is expecting great cooperation between the two groups. Innovation Campus greenhouses are up and running. Will be one of the top greenhouses in the US and world, as only one allowed to let plants grow to 2.5 meters in height and has 360 degree imaging. Working on a 1 acre field phenotyping facility – will be at ARDC in Mead, have 3 sites choosing between, and have the initial funding in hand. The Stumpf International Research Center has construction underway, and ceremony for it is tentatively June 26. Center will house research, variety testing, and has two partners at the moment: Bayer CropScience and Monsanto. \$430,000 will come out of Foundation to support wheat research.

Board reviewed all correspondence.

Board conducted a first reading of all presented funding proposals. **Brent moved to waive the second reading; Von seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Board began reviewing second reading proposals and examining the budget.

Board broke from reviewing the budget and second readings for a presentation from Jack Whittier with the UNL Panhandle Research and Extension Center.

Group had a presentation from Brian Olson and a tour of the Monsanto Learning Center.

Board took a working lunch.

Von presented about WMC. The building is in need of repairs. The building may be at full occupancy if get a final renter. Dave Shelton hasn't set a deadline yet, but a committee has been set up as he's looking at retirement. Committee is also working on a succession plan for when other company members would retire.

Brent presented about WFC. Judi is officially retiring. They've gone through the process to hire a replacement and hope one will be in place by the 15th of June.

Larry presented about PGI. There is an increase in the proposed rate, as rates haven't changed for several years. The organization is looking at new state members. Looking at guidelines for associate type member as some states can't or don't want to put up the upfront cost to be a fully seated member with a board vote. Reviewed the mapping system and updates. Next meeting will be just prior to the fall USW meeting.

Von presented on his USW trip to Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico. He said the gluten free issue is just starting to hit that region. A lot of the companies are excited about the ready to eat or instant meals. Bob presented on his USW trip to Taiwan and the Philippines. They met with the Taiwan Flour Millers Association. More soft wheats used because they like the white color.

Rick presented on the BNSF trip to Dallas. Got good information. BNSF commodity people looking at what yields were going to be, where, and how to have the infrastructure to meet the demand.

Royce presented an office report. The rules change is still a work in progress. The staff assistant position was opened for application. It's advertised at half to ¾ time position.

Kent moved to go into executive session; Larry seconded. Voice vote, motion carried. Board entered executive session at 2:17 p.m.

Kent moved to go out of executive session; Bob seconded. Voice vote, motion carried. Board left executive session at 3:08 p.m.

Bob moved to give Royce a 5% raise and staff a 2.25% raise effective July 1, 2015; Larry seconded. Bob, yes; Rick, yes; Larry, yes; Von, yes; Kent, yes; Brent, yes. 6 yes – 0 no, motion carried.

Board resumed the second reading of funding proposals. **Brent moved to approve the FY 2015-2016 budget as projected and presented; Kent seconded. Roll call vote: Rick, yes; Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Von, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes. 6 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**

Board reviewed the calendar. Brent travel to Denver for WFC on May 7-8, 2015 was added. Travel for board and staff to Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island, September 15-17, 2015. Next meeting set for August 27, 2015 in Grand Island. **Brent moved to approve travel; Larry seconded. Roll call vote: Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Von, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes; Rick, yes. 6 yes -0 no, motion carried.**

Bob moved to adjourn; Von seconded. Voice vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.