

**Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Hampton Inn, Kearney, Nebraska**

Board Members Present

Bob Delsing, Hemingford
Rick Larson, Potter
Larry Flohr, Chappell
Kent Lorens, Stratton
Von Johnson, Cambridge
Mark Knobel, Fairbury, Absent
Brent Robertson, Elsie

Staff

Royce Schaneman

Guests

Bob Storant, NDA
Stan Garbacz, NDA

Ex-Officio

Jeff Noel, UNL

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. The Open Meetings Act was made available and roll call was taken. Board members provided crop reports and updates during roll call.

Board reviewed the agenda. **Johnson moved to approve the agenda with the change that Tim O’Conner would not be able to present a project proposal in person; Flohr seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

The board reviewed minutes of the previous meeting. **Robertson moved to approve the minutes with the correction to change “waive the second reading” to “waive the first reading”; Delsing seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

The board reviewed the financial reports. **Flohr moved to approve the financials with corrections to the amount spent on the internship line and percent of fiscal year passed on the December report corrected; Lorens seconded. Roll call vote: Flohr – yes, Delsing – yes, Robertson – yes, Larson – yes, Johnson – yes, Lorens – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, motion carried.**

The board reviewed several funding proposals and requests. **Lorens moved to take \$2,000 from unobligated funds to sponsor the USW anniversary celebrations in Tokyo and Taipei; Robertson seconded. Roll call vote: Delsing – yes, Robertson – yes, Larson – yes, Johnson – yes, Lorens – yes, Flohr – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, motion carried.**

Delsing moved to take \$1,950.53 from unobligated funds and add it to the WMC Export Education seminar and amend the contract to increase the total amount to a limit not to exceed \$13,950.53; Flohr seconded. Roll call vote: Robertson – yes, Larson – yes, Johnson – yes, Lorens – abstain, Flohr – yes, Delsing - yes. 6 yes, 0 no, motion carried.

Board members requested the preliminary budget worksheet be sent out for their review no later than May 1, 2016.

Board requested that WMC prepare a handout that indicates in general terms the purchasing specifications of each country.

Board members requested changes to the electronic meeting book layout: General information in one tab, funding proposals in one tab, contractor reports in one tab. The shading needs to be changed on the revenue collection form to make it more legible.

Board members requested an early notice of the next board meeting to ex-officio members.

Board members were reminded to submit their forms to accountability and disclosure.

Board members discussed improvements to the NWB website. Updates need to be more frequent with more timely press releases. This also carries over to the social media sites. We need more positive information released more frequently.

Board members discussed their commitment to participating in the Nebraska State Fair. In order to have board members and volunteers on site for the entire fair costs the board close to \$25,000 in expenses (lodging, meals, transportation, supplies and handouts). Other partners contribute approximately \$5,000 in products to bake with and share as handouts. For this amount of investment the board felt they did not get enough time with consumers to share more information on wheat production or make them aware of the wheat board.

Board consensus was to cease participation in the State Fair with the current arrangement.

Jeff Noel reported on employee updates at UNL. Jeff will inquire about right-of-first-refusal agreements with NuTech.

Robertson reported on WFC efforts and presented a new focus on personal trainers. Robertson also indicated that retired Ardent Mills representative on the WFC Don Brown would be a valuable resource to the board.

Larson, Flohr, Lorens, Schaneman reported on the USW meeting, food aid and reception. Board requested when setting up visits do all the house visits back to back to back, then move over to the senate side and conduct those back to back. Rather than crisscrossing.

Johnson had not report on WMC activities as there meeting would be held later in March.

Storant from NDA reported on new hires, the state budget forecast, biennium budget requests, auditing, personnel cost of living increases set at 2.4%, requests for long term matrix and budgeting charts submitted with budgets.

Flohr and Schaneman reported on PGI administrative services that will be contracted with the WQC. More information will be available after the upcoming meeting in April.

Schaneman reported on the WQC meeting held recently in Kansas City. UNL had one variety of wheat where the quality attributes were questioned and follow up is being conducted. The administrative services for PGI will be taken over via contract. WQC Executive Vice President Ben Handcock will be retiring in February of next year. A job description and search will be underway this spring.

Board reviewed funding proposal from WFC. **Flohr moved to waive the second reading and approve the WFC personal trainer program marketing campaign to move forward not to exceed the \$50,000 that was originally budgeted; Delsing seconded. Roll call vote: Larson – yes, Delsing – yes, Robertson – yes, Johnson – yes, Lorens – yes, Flohr – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, motion carried.**

Board reviewed the funding proposals for FY 2016-2017. **Roberston moved to advance all fist reading proposals to the second reading; Lorens seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Kent Lorens indicated he would seek reappointment for the board opening in district #4.

Board reviewed the calendar of events.

Johnson moved to approve the travel with the following additions:

March 10 – Bake & Take Entire Board and Staff

March 22-24 - WMC Youth Export Seminar, Portland, OR – Ambassadors & staff

March 17&18 – WMC Meeting, Portland, OR – Von Johnson

May 2-5 – WQC HRW Wheat Tour – Kent Lorens

June 2 – NWB Meeting, Stumpf International Wheat Center – Grant, Entire Board and Royce Schaneman

June 20-23 – WFC Meeting, Denver, CO – Brent Robertson

June 22-24 – Latin American Buyers Conference, Portland, OR – Royce Schaneman

Lorens seconded. Roll call vote: Delsing – yes, Robertson – yes, Johnson – yes, Lorens – yes, Flohr – yes, Larson – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, motion carried.

Flohr moved to adjourn; Robertson seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.