

NWB Meeting minutes
August 24, 2016
West Central Research and Extension Center, North Platte, NE

Board Members Present

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

Ex-Officio

Jeff Noel, UNL

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director
Caroline Brauer, Ag Promotion Coordinator

Guests

Randon Peters, NWGA
Hector Santiago, UNL
Chris Cullan, Hemingford, wheat producer
Gary Hein, UNL

Meeting called to order at 8:37 am and the Open Meetings Act was made available. Roll call was taken and crop reports given.

Board reviewed the agenda. Added a travel event for Kent to the Food Security Conference. Also got a new funding request from Conjo Studios. **Mark moved to approve the agenda; Bob seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. **Von moved to approve the minutes; Kent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Board reviewed the financial statements. Questions were raised on a few negative numbers and line items were posed. Board also discussed the process of coding items in the budget by the Department of Ag when processing financials. **Larry moved to approve the financials; Kent seconded. Roll call vote: Bob – yes; Rick – yes; Larry – yes; Kent yes; von – yes; Mark – yes; Brent – yes. 7 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**

Board moved to election of officers. **Larry nominated Brent Robertson as chair and Bob Delsing as vice chair; Von seconded. Kent moved nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast; Mark seconded. Rick – yes; Larry – yes; Kent – yes; Von- yes, Mark – yes; Brent – yes; Bob – yes.**

Board discussed marketing issues. Rick presented on the Taiwan visit to Lincoln, while Von presented on his trip to Taiwan with the Department of Agriculture and Governor's office. Bob, Kent and Mark presented on their participation in the USW meeting in Fargo.

Brent provided an update on Wheat Foods Council and the changing of the board members there. Larry provided an update with a few small changes on PGI: they're still in a position to establish an agreement with WQC regarding a possible merger. Said data showed while protein levels were down, the quality of the protein was still good.

Royce discussed his participation at the Latin American Buyers Conference. There was more domestic participation this year. Nebraska was only state to bring brochures and data to pass out to participants. Think the Trimex team is a result of participation in the conference.

Rick presented on his participation in the BNSF town hall meeting and the conversations about the larger cost of wheat freight than corn or other commodities on rail transportation.

Jeff Noel presented a UNL updates. Some of the varieties showed high yields in the trials. There's interest in a reselection in Overland with some resistances. Going to do some winter increases of some new lines, but it looks like a historic low for Foundation seed sales. Guides will be out shortly and will include data on different research items supported by NWB. Committee is looking at applications to replace Ronnie Green's position at IANR.

Randon Peters presented an update on NWGA. Group participated in several certified seed day events and the Chase County Fair parade. Hosted the annual golf tournament in Imperial. Will be doing Aksarben Rodeo. Growers are looking at more state policy involvement but determinant on budget in next year. With NAWG, working on a farm bill plan and priorities. Expect Farm Bill hearings to start immediately upon start of 115th Congress. Sharing a Farm Bill survey with members to help guide priorities. Concerns over wheat acres and the potential that more producers are going to pull wheat and go to corn or yellow peas in areas despite record yields this year. Growers talked about the development of a wheat snack product made in Nebraska. The company, Rowdy's, wants to use either the NWGA state logo or NW logo on packaging to show it's a product of Nebraska.

Kent moved to allow NWGA to use the NW logo in participation with advertising on Rowdy's snack food, pending a copy of the artwork be made available to NWB & NWGA for approval prior to development; Bob seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Bob provided a report on his meeting with Deb Fischer. Royce provided an update on office issues. The progress reports from contractors and correspondence received in the office are uploaded to the board documents webpage. Board discussed the updated handbook. **Von moved to approve the amended handbook; Mark seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Gary Hein presented on the wheat virus and curl mite research being conducted. Question raised on impact of cover crops. Said probably need to screen better when looking at cover crops to make sure no becoming hosts, particularly with some cereal grains. Question raised on movement of mites: they can move into grasses, but they're not as good as wheat.

Brad Roth presented on the role NuTech Ventures plays in licensing of wheat varieties developed at UNL.

Board discussed the contract amendments for projects with Dr. Baenziger and Jeff Noel including a no-cost extension of a project.

Board discussed contract requests submitted. Board discussed the Fusarium project request from USDA-ARS. Concerns were expressed that with price of wheat, the budget would be even smaller than anticipated. Board discussed funding of the baking lab.

Board also discussed lack of participation in the 2016 state fair. Board agreed a blanket statement should be put out about why the organization isn't participating in the state fair.

Board discussed the calendar of events. The following events were added to the calendar:

WMC meeting, October 26-28, Portland – Von

NWB meeting, November 11, Lincoln – board and staff

NWB networking event, November 12, Lincoln – board and staff

Larry moved to approve travel as amended; Rick seconded. Roll call vote: Larry – yes; Von – yes; Kent, yes; Mark – yes; Brent – yes; Bob – yes; Rick –yes. 7 yes – 0 no, motion carried.

Bob moved to adjourn; Kent seconded Voice vote, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.