

NWB Board Meeting Minutes
August 14-15, 2019
Lake McConaughy Visitors Center, Ogallala, NE

Board Members Present:

Bob Delsing, Hemingford
Tyson Narjes, Sidney
Larry Flohr, Chappell
Kent Lorens, Stratton (absent)
Von Johnson, Cambridge
Mark Knobel, Fairbury
Brent Robertson, Elsie

Staff Present:

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director
Caroline Clements, Ag Promotion Coor.

Ex-Officio Present:

None

Guests Present:

Mark Spurgin – NWGA
Dr. Stephen Baenziger, UNL
Jeff Noel, UNL

Meeting called to order August 14, 2019 at 1:02 p.m. MDT. The open meetings act was made available. Roll call was taken with harvest reports provided.

Board reviewed the agenda. **Von moved to approve the agenda as presented; Bob seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. **Tyson moved to approve the minutes as presented; Larry seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Board reviewed financial statements. **Mark moved to accept the financial reports; Larry seconded. Roll call vote: Bob, yes; Tyson, yes; Larry, yes; Von, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes. 6 yes-0 no, motion carried.**

Board moved to election of officers. **Mark nominated Bob for chairman. Bob accepted the nomination. Call for additional nominations. No other nominations made. Voice vote, Bob elected. Von nominated Mark for vice chair. Mark accepted the nomination. Call for additional nominations made. No other nominations made. Voice vote, Mark elected.**

Bob and Royce provided an update on the US Wheat Associates summer meeting. Updates were made on staffing changes to new offices, and conversations during committee meetings were informative.

Tyson and Von provided an update on the US Wheat Associates Mexican Buyers Conference. The conference included bilingual headsets that made information sharing easier. Conversations on infrastructure improvements in Mexico for moving more grain was interesting. They were pleased on SPS quality standards updates. Overall felt conference was a success.

Mark and Royce provided an update on the Philippine Trade Team. Talked about parameters the team looked for with wheat and the U.S. works with FGIS standards to meet specifications on orders. Team received good participation from partners like the Governor, Secretary of State, and Congressman Bacon. Joe Sowers the current US Wheat representative was also able to meet one of his predecessors from many years ago, Nebraskan Ron Maas.

Royce provided an update on the Peru trade team visit. The team schedule changed quite a bit prior to the team's arrival. Weather caused delays in their flights so the team had just over one day in Nebraska. They visited Joe Thimm's farm as Mark Knobel was unavailable. But the team visit went well. It rained so harvest wasn't occurring, but let each person drive the combine in a part of a harvested field. It was a smaller group than the Philippine team, but conversations were good. The team still represented 85 percent of the nation's million capacity.

Von provided an update on the Wheat Marketing Center. Undergoing a restructuring with their partnership, and they're getting set up with a new partner for building management.

Brent provided an update on Wheat Foods Council. They met in June. New officers were elected. Continuing to target personal trainers and still getting a good response. The wheat flour checkoff conversation is still being monitored. Concern about losing some member support at WFC if current members are also having to pay a checkoff. WFC is examining options to continue programing if that funding is lost. WFC has applied for some trademarked phrases.

Larry provided an update on Plains Grains Inc. Overall for the HRW wheat harvest, yields were good, protein was low with some variability, but some good kernel milling characteristics were reported.

Royce provided an update on both the Wheat Quality Council and the Bayer CropScience Grow Rural Education meeting.

Mark Spurgin provided an update on NWGA. The group was represented at the seed day events and will be participating in a few field day and congressional roundtable events. NWGA will not be doing Chase County Fair and is examining options for selling the Mobile Baking Lab. NAWG is doing a dues increase of 10% with a 2 year sunset.

Brent moved to enter executive session for strategic planning purposes; Von seconded. Voice vote, motion carried. Board entered executive session at 3:45 pm.

Mark moved to exit executive session; Brent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried. Board exited executive session at 5:03 pm.

Meeting recessed August 14, 2019 at 5:05 pm.

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Meeting resumed on August 15, 2019 at 8:34 am MDT.

Brent moved to return to executive session to resume strategic planning discussion; Von seconded. Voice vote motion carried. Board entered executive session at 8:35 am. **Brent moved to exit executive session; Tyson seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.** Board exited executive session at 9:24 am.

Board discussed administrative and office matters. The board discussed and reviewed the organization handbook. A request was made to discuss the handbook further at the next meeting to allow more time for edits review. Board discussed US Wheat Associates committee participation.

Brent moved to pull funds from unobligated to increase staff salaries of Pam Wurdeman and Caroline Clements to a 2.3% increase instead of the 2% increase voted in original FY 2019-2020 budget; Von seconded. Roll call vote: Tyson, yes; Larry, yes; Von, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes. 6 yes-0 no, motion carried.

Jeff Noel provided a report on UNL activities. Variety trial data was made available this week. They're in the process of transitioning the program to Amanda Easterly and Cody Creech. There are 3 field day events next week. Board questions if there would be options to add a spring wheat to some yield trials or studies to increase information available to producers with an expanded interest in adding spring wheat to a rotation.

Board discussed the upcoming calendar of events. Participation in a roundtable event with Congressman Bacon was added on August 27 and an event in Alliance with Congressman Smith on the 27th as well. The board discussed wanting the next board meeting held the afternoon of November 14th and all day November 15th. Staff directed to attempt to arrange meeting in Lincoln area if lodging and meeting space rental is available. If not next board choice is York or surrounding Lincoln area. **Brent moved to approve the travel and calendar; Tyson seconded. Roll call vote: Larry, yes; Von, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes; Tyson, yes. 6 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**

Larry moved to adjourn; Mark seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned August 15, 2019 at 12:49 pm.

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