

NWB Board Meeting
Mid-Plains Community College, North Platte, NE
May 29, 2019

Board Members Present

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

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director
Caroline Clements, Ag Promotion Coordinator

Ex-Officio members present

Hector Santiago, UNL

Guests Present

Cindy Allen, Secretary of State's office
Cody Creech, UNL (via teleconference)
Jeff Noel, Husker Genetics
Dr. Stephen Baenziger (via teleconference)
Greg Kruger, UNL

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am. The Open Meetings Act was made available. Roll call was taken with crop reports provided. Guests were introduced.

Board reviewed the agenda. Time for Cindy Allen to talk about trade was added under the International Marketing report. **Von moved to approve the agenda as amended; Tyson seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

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

Board reviewed the financial statements. **Mark moved to pull \$21,000 from unobligated and place \$20,000 in international marketing travel and \$1,000 in NAYI; Kent seconded. Roll call vote: Bob, yes; Tyson, yes; Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Von, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes. 7 yes-0 no, motion carried. Kent moved to accept the financial reports; Tyson seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Cody Creech presented to the board via teleconference on research endeavors. Dr. Hector Santiago (attending in person) also joined Cody in presenting on the new organizational structure of the University of Nebraska crop variety testing program.

Kent provided an update on his trip with U.S. Wheat Associates to the Middle East and Europe. Most of the region purchases durum, but they also blend in Hard Red Winter. Every place asked if Hard White wheat was available.

Von provided an update on the Wheat Marketing Center. Meeting went well and staff is working well together.

Brent provided an update on Wheat Foods Council. There's a lot of talk around a flour checkoff. They are considering lowering the requirements on how many tons per day milled to qualify for payment.

Nothing is finalized yet. Concern on if milling members of WFC would remain part of the organization if paying national checkoff. WFC is considering applying for projects from checkoff if that would become an issue.

Royce provided an update on the PGI meeting. Larry was voted secretary/treasurer. Renewed the contract with Wheat Quality Council and with Mark Hodges. Kansas made some adjustments to their grain shed regions.

Tyson provided a report on the Wheat Quality Council tour. It was interesting to see the diversity in the crowd of those there for the tour. It's interesting to see the exposure wheat gets from industry folks due to the tour. Expect a 47.2 bpa average from the tour.

Larry provided a report on his Peru trade trip. Larry was the only agriculture representative. Went to Lima, and 3 other major cities. They're locations along the southern border next to Chile, basically all the region is desert. The only farm ground is where the rivers come out of the Andes Mountains. They do import wheat: the U.S. provides 1/3 of the wheat. Canada and Argentina provide the rest. At the port of Hilo, did get to see a new, 1-year-old flour mill. They plan to double size in next 2 years. Limited supply of bread available to the people. They do eat bread, but rice is more common. As economy increases, anticipate more consumption of bread.

Royce provided an update on attending the BNSF ag products summit. Talked about how fast technology is changing things. He also talked about his visit to Yuma evaluate the increase plots there. There were 800 F1 plots.

Mark reported on meeting with the Czech ag ambassador at Wilbur. Discussed how interactions and trade could be improved on moving forward. One suggestion was a germplasm exchange.

Cindy provided an update on the efforts of the Secretary of State to promote trade for Nebraska and improve exports. They are developing a 2-year plan and unified export strategy. Looking at trade shows and opportunities to showcase Nebraska agriculture.

Group broke for a working lunch at 12:15 p.m. and resumed at 12:41 p.m.

Mark Spurgin provided an update on efforts of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association. Brian Schafer and Jeff Ruggles are the current NWGA representatives to the National Association of Wheat Growers. There may be a dues increase for the upcoming fiscal year for NAWG. NWGA is examining options regarding the future of the Mobile Baking Lab.

Royce provided an update on administrative matters. An update is being made to the handbook to bring some of the data that has become outdated due to technology changes in line with current status. The handbook edits will be brought forward for review by the board at the next meeting. Department of Ag is looking at a DC trade trip and a Vietnam/Japan mission. Copies of the trade booklet for Mexico and new variety survey were provided.

Board conducted a first reading of a funding proposal from UNL. **Larry moved to waive the first reading of the proposal and advance directly to a second reading for consideration of funding; Bob seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Board conducted a second reading of funding proposals.

Kent moved to enter executive session for personnel evaluations; Mark seconded. Voice vote, motion carried. Board entered executive session at 4:30 p.m. **Larry moved to exit executive session; Bob seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.** Board exited executive session at 5:28 p.m.

Larry moved to add a 3 percent salary increase for Royce and 2 percent increase for other staff members; Tyson seconded. Roll call vote: Tyson, yes; Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Von, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes. 7 yes-0 no; motion carried.

Bob moved to approve the FY 19-20 budget as outlined in the worksheet; Kent seconded. Roll call vote: Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Von, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes; Tyson, yes. 7 yes-0 no, motion carried.

Board reviewed calendar and travel. Wheat workers field day is switched to Lincoln. Next NWB meeting will be held some time August 12-15 in Ogallala. Wheat Marketing Center meeting will be October 30. **Kent moved to approve the travel; Larry seconded. Roll call vote: Kent, yes; Von, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes; Tyson, yes; Larry, yes. 7 yes-0 no, motion carried.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.