

**Nebraska Wheat Board  
Board Meeting  
November 15, 2019  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM  
Nebraska Farm Bureau, Lincoln NE  
MINUTES**

**Board Members  
In Attendance** Mark Knobel, Vice Chair, District 6  
Von Johnson, District 5  
Larry Flohr, District 3  
Brent Robertson, District 7  
Tyson Narjes, District 2  
Kent Lorens, District 4  
Bob Delsing, Chair, District 1

**Others Present** Royce Schaneman, Executive Director Nebraska Wheat Board  
Sarah Morton, Nebraska Wheat Board  
Pam Wurdeman, Nebraska Wheat Board  
Jeff Noel, University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Patty Richards, Department of Agriculture  
Josh Dethlefsen, Assistant Attorney General  
Hector Santiago, University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Robert Enven, Nebraska Secretary of State  
Dr. Laila Puntel, University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Daryl Obermeyer, Farmer  
Mark Spurgin, NWGA President, via phone

**Proceedings**

- Meeting called to order at 8:40 AM CST. Roll call was taken and area crop condition reports were presented.
- Review of the Agenda. The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association report was moved to 9:15 AM CST to allow for Mark Spurgin to call in. The addition of a World Staff Conference report from Mark Knobel was added to the reports section. **Von moved to approve the agenda as amended; Brent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**
- Approval of Minutes. **Brent moved to approve the minutes as presented; Larry seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**
- Royce addressed that there have not been any compliance reviews since the previous meeting. Patty suggested that a report should be available by the next meeting; arriving in February or March of 2020.
- *Financial Reports*
  - Royce presented the last quarter financial statements. Patty points out where to find comparative information from year to year, being in the bottom left hand corner of the page. Larry inquires if interest income is reflected in the balance and if there are any additional investments on the side. Patty provides that interest is reflected by the fund and that it is in a short term pool at the State of Nebraska. It is noted that income from Research and Development fees is a little higher than in previous years. **Mark moved to approve the financial report; Tyson seconded. Roll call vote: Tyson, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes; Mark, yes; Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Von, yes. 7 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**

· *NWGA Update*

- Mark Spurgin welcomed Sarah Morton as the new Agriculture Promotion Coordinator and Executive Secretary for NWB and NWGA. The Mobile Baking Lab received a bid from Ardent Mills for \$32,000, which will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. NWGA's next meeting will be held on December 2 at 10 AM MST in Paxton, NE at Ole's Big Game Steakhouse. Upcoming events include: NAWG Strategic Planning (Brian Schafer will attend), Winter Conference, Commodity Classic, and Annual Meeting in January. NAWG sold their building in Washington D.C. and is looking for new office space. Property tax remains a large focus for the growers. It is suggested that NWGA goes through strategic planning to focus goals for the future.

· *Domestic and International Marketing*

· US Wheat Associates

- Tyson and Larry attended USWA Fall Meeting in Santa Fe, NM. Larry mentions that Ag Trade Promotion (ATP) funds give an additional 108 million to invest in wheat promotion around the world. 2020 marks USWA's 40 year anniversary; updates will be made to all social media and promotional materials. There will be a vote for the new Board of Director during the January meeting. Tyson reports that acres continue to decline but production is staying flat.

· Wheat Marketing Center

- Von was scheduled to travel to Portland but weather prohibited the arrangement. Royce has a flash drive with all information. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was postponed.

· Wheat Foods Council

- No update

· Plains Grains Inc.

- No update

· Wheat Quality Council

- Royce is working to organize speakers for the meeting in February. The focus will be on how agronomy effects quality. Mark had trials done on his farm. The research suggested that the fertilization applications slightly boosted protein but the cost was more than the added protein value.

· World Staff Meeting

- The United States has two classes of wheat with competitive advantages: US soft wheat and white wheats. Linda Hoog will be leaving the Netherlands and USWA due to medical reasons. Mike Spier is the new Head of Overseas Operations. Dalton Henry is back with government relations.

· *Funding Request*

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln requested \$8,442.00 for Quad Jr. Experimental Flour Mill. **Kent moved to transfer \$8,442.00 from the Unobligated to UNL Project #56700003, Developing High Quality Nebraska Wheat for Domestic and International Markets and fully fund the requested amount; Larry seconded. Roll call vote: Kent, yes; Larry, yes; Bob, yes; Von, yes; Tyson, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes. 7 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**

· *Nebraska Secretary of State – Robert Enven*

- Secretary Enven presented on potential opportunities he thought were available for wheat including the Philippines, Chile, and Morocco. Kent brought up pricing issues that have been faced in Morocco in the past. Larry highlighted the possible opportunities that are arising in South America for the Secretary to look into. Mark raised the issue of transportation, specifically with railroads. Secretary Enven offered his help on the transportation issue and will work to schedule a meeting in the near future.

· *Nebraska Wheat Board Issues*

· Executive Director Report

- Royce welcomes Sarah Morton as new staff at the Nebraska Wheat Board. Name recommendations for the Portland trip were collectively offered to fill the remaining spots. Royce is currently serving on the hiring committee to fill Dr. Robert Graybosch's USDA research position. The handbook was not able to be sent out in time due to computer issues in the office. **Tyson moved to table the decisions on the handbook until the next meeting, Bob seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.** USWA has a spot reserved for Nebraska Wheat on the Mexico Unified Export Strategy (UES) trip in February.

· *University of Nebraska – Lincoln Report*

- Hector Santiago announced that UNL is supposed to double their research expenditures from 300 million to 600 million dollars. The CASNR office is currently searching for an Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education; there is three finalists starting the interview process. They hope to have one hired by the beginning of the year. There is a lot of interest in growing industrial hemp across the state now that it is no longer under the Controlled Substance Act. The Wheat and Weed Project Fund started four new projects this year. Jeff informed the board that Foundation Seed Sales are at a record low this year.

· *Dr. Laila Puntel Presentation*

- "Opportunities for Wheat in Nebraska"

· *Executive Session*

- Delsing formally announces the Board would move into an Executive Session at 2:58 PM CST
- **Brent moved to enter into Executive Session to receive legal counsel regarding contracting and legal litigation; Tyson seconded. Roll call vote: Larry, yes; Von, yes; Bob, yes; Kent, yes; Tyson, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes. 7 yes- 0 no, motion carried.**
- **Tyson moved to reconvene open session, Mark seconded. Roll call vote: Bob, yes; Kent, yes; Tyson, yes; Brent, yes; Mark, yes; Von, yes; Larry, yes. 7 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**
- Open session reconvened at 4:20 PM CST

· *Open Session*

- Kent believes it would be advantageous to have Royce work with our legal counsel representative from the Attorney General's Office and bring in a Special Assistant Attorney General to work on some of the Identity Preserve aspects. **Mark moved that we direct Royce to work with Josh and allow Josh to explore and possibly hire a SAAG to help with contract exploration of negotiations; Brent seconded. Roll call vote: Kent, yes; Brent, yes; Mark, yes; Larry, yes; Tyson, yes; Von, yes; Bob, yes. 7 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**
- **Kent moved to have Royce pursue a marketing agreement with BASF; Von seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

· *Calendar and Travel Approval*

- PGI meeting on December 17, 2019 in Denver, CO was added. Wheat Foods Council meeting from January 27-31, 2020 in Atlanta, GA was added. The next board meeting will be held February 18-19, 2020 in Lincoln; the meeting will take place the 18<sup>th</sup> and Bake and Take will be on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Governor's Ag Conference on March 9-10, 2020 in Kearney, NE was added. Royce will represent the NWB on the Mexico UES trip February 3-7, 2020. **Brent moves to approve the calendar and travel with amendments; Von seconded. Roll call vote: Bob, yes; Mark, yes; Tyson, yes; Von, yes; Kent, yes; Larry, yes; Brent, yes. 7 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**

· **Von moved to adjourn the meeting; Kent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

· Meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM CST.