

**Nebraska Wheat Board
Teleconference Board Meeting
March 31, 2020
3:00 – 6:00 PM CT
Lincoln, NE
MINUTES**

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

Others Present Royce Schaneman, Executive Director, Nebraska Wheat Board
Sarah Morton, Nebraska Wheat Board
Pam Wurdeman, Nebraska Wheat Board
Brian Schafer, Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
Mark Jagels, Department of Agriculture
Patty Richard, Department of Agriculture
Jeff Noel, Husker Genetics
Claire Oglesby, State Budget Division
Hector Santiago, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Dr. Stephen Baenziger, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Mike Puntillo, American Straw Company/ Direct Refreshments
Josh Dethlefsen, Assistant Attorney General

Proceedings

- Meeting called to order by Bob Delsing at 3:00 PM CT. Roll call was taken, a quorum was present. Guests were introduced and welcomed.
- Review of the agenda. **Mark moved to approve the agenda; Von seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**
- Approval of minutes. **Von moved to approve the minutes; Brent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**
- Financial report. Royce reviewed the February financial report. Under the “Board of Directors - Misc. Board Expense” the Board originally budgeted \$500 but have currently spent \$1,050. In addition, under “Publicity and Education,” the LEAD Program shows a double payment. Patty Richard will check on it and report back to the group at the next meeting. **Tyson moved to transfer \$1,000 out of “Unobligated Funds” to the “Board of Directors Misc. Expenses” fund; Kent seconded. Roll call vote: Von, yes; Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Tyson, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes; Bob, yes. 7 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**
 - **Mark moved to approve the February financial report; Larry seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Check-off Compliance Report

- Patty Richard discussed the Board's concerns about the number of audits completed this year. She informed the group that staffing problems have led to no audits being completed for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. With the current situation of Covid-19, the department is unable to hire for and fill that position. Patty will work with Royce, and determine what steps need to be taken in regard to the contract that is currently in place for this fiscal year. Money out of the current expenditures associated with the auditor position has already been taken out for this year. Patty mentioned that they can take that money and credit it from this year to next year or wait and see what happens in the next couple of months to see if they can complete any audits by the end of the fiscal year. If the department is unable to complete any audits by the end of Fiscal Year 2019-2020, they would modify the contract for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The board agreed to these terms. Patty will work with Royce to develop a plan moving forward.

Presentation from Direct Refreshments/ American Straw Company

- Mike Puntillo discussed the use of wheat to create dinnerware such as plates, silverware and straws. Their goal is to create ecological products from local agriculture sources to bring into schools. Mike is to send Royce samples of his products for the Board to look at, at a later date.

University Contracts

- Royce gave a background on the University research contracts. Brent, Mark, Royce and the Assistant Attorney General had a face-to-face meeting with Dr. Hector Santiago, NUtech, and other University entities. During the meeting the Board presented a draft with four changes they wanted made in the contracts. The University had the contracts for a couple of weeks and then submitted them back to Royce with their changes. Overall, the changes did not reflect what the Board was trying to accomplish. Dr. Santiago mentioned that the University attorney put together a draft with more explanation of their changes. Dr. Santiago sent the new document to Royce who then forwarded it on to the board members.

Executive Session

- Bob formally announced that the Board would move into Executive Session at 4:29 PM CT. **Larry moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing University research contracts; 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.**
- **Kent moved to reconvene open session; Brent seconded. Roll call vote: Brent, yes; Mark, yes; Kent, yes; Larry, yes; Tyson, yes; Bob, yes. 6 yes – 0 no, motion carried.** Open session reconvened at 6:04 PM CT.

Open Session

- Royce asked the group if they want to continue with a simplified version going forward with the UNL contracts. The Board recommended trying to move forward with the changes originally proposed to the UNL agreements for the current year contracts and continue to negotiate more in-depth changes for the next fiscal year.
- NUtech just sent over a right of first refusal for a barley variety. Royce asked if the Board wants him to sign it or exercise their right. The Board agreed to sign it.

Calendar and Travel

- Our country is in unprecedented times with covid-19 restrictions and so most meetings have been cancelled, postponed or moved to an online format. The Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has been moved to an online format. Michele Tuttle will still be presenting as a keynote speaker during the online session. The USW Summer Meeting is still being held. Royce will update the Board if anything changes. Kent, Bob, Royce and Sarah will be attending the meeting. Royce advised the group to book hotel rooms but wait on plane tickets for the time being. **Larry moved to approve the calendar and travel; Mark seconded. Roll call vote: Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes; Tyson, yes; Bob, yes. 6 yes – 0 no, motion carried.**

Other Items of Discussion

- Sarah mentioned to the Board that weekly reports from USDA NASS will be beginning on April 6, 2020. Therefore she will be calling each member to get current crop conditions as well as weather reports to create the weekly Crop Report.
- Tyson mentioned seeing the NWB Annual Report in the *Nebraska Farmer* magazine.

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Brent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM CT.

NWB Calendar & Travel Items

February 2020

- Feb 12-13 – NWB Board Meeting and Bake and Take Activities, Lincoln
- Feb 17 – President’s Day Federal Holiday – State Offices Closed
- Feb 18-20 – Wheat Quality Council Annual Meeting, Kansas City / Royce
- Feb 25 – UNL Research Contracts Meeting, East Campus, Lincoln / Royce - Brent - Mark
- Feb 26-27 – Vietnamese Trade Delegation Activities (hosted by NDA) / Royce - Brent
- Feb 26-29 – NAWG Meetings / Commodity Classic, San Antonio, TX / Sarah
- Feb 28 – Consul General Kenichi Okada of Japan in Lincoln / Royce

March 2020

- Mar 3-5 – USDA’s Ag Connection Café/NE Showcase – Washington, DC
- Mar 9-10 – Governor’s Ag Conference, Kearney, NE / Royce - Sarah – Bob
- ~~Mar 13 – LEAD 38 Recognition Banquet, Lincoln / Royce – Canceled~~
- ~~Mar 16 – World Food Prize Nebraska Youth Institute, Lincoln / Royce – Canceled~~
- Mar 23 – Wheat Marketing Center Board Meeting, Portland-via video conference / Von
- Mar 31 – NWB Board Meeting via teleconference

April 2020

- ~~TBD – UNL Seed Evaluation Tour, Yuma, AZ – Canceled~~
- ~~Apr 1-3 – State FFA Convention, Lincoln / Royce – Sarah – Canceled~~
- ~~Apr 3 – Ag Night at the Stars, Lincoln / Canceled~~
- ~~Apr 7 – Husker Food Connection, Lincoln / Sarah – Canceled~~
- ~~Apr 7-8 – BNSF Ag Products Summit, Dallas, TX / Royce – Canceled~~
- ~~Apr 14-15 – State Administrators’ Meeting, Denver / Royce – Canceled~~
- ~~Apr 16 – UNL Agronomy & Horticulture Club Banquet – Canceled~~
- Apr 24 – Arbor Day State Holiday – State Offices Closed
- Apr 24-25 – NE Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Conference, Lincoln-NIC / Sarah
(may be held via webinar)

May 2020

- May 4-7 – Wheat Quality Tour, Kansas-Nebraska / Sarah
- May 7 – Wheat Workers’ Field Day, Lahoma, OK
- May 10-20 – USW South Asia Trade Team/Indonesia (tentative)
- May 25 – Memorial Day Federal Holiday – State Offices Closed
- May 28 – Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting, Ogallala Holiday Inn Express

June 2020

- June 10-17 – Governor Ricketts’ Trade Mission to the United Kingdom and Israel
- June 19 - High Plains Ag Lab (HPAL) 40th Anniversary Event, Sidney
- June – Mid/Late – USW Sub Saharan Africa Regional Trade / Crop Quality Team (tentative)
- June 22-26 – Tentative USW’s Ecuador & Peru Trade Team in Nebraska

July 2020

- **July 3** – Independence Day Federal Holiday Observed – State Offices Closed
- **July 12 -15** – Wheat Foods Council Summer Meeting, Cincinnati, OH
- **July 13 - 18** – USW Summer Board Meeting, Cincinnati, OH / Kent- Bob-Royce-Sarah

August 2020

- TBD - Tentative Governor's Trade Mission to South Korea and Philippines

September 2020

- **Sept 7** – Labor Day Federal Holiday – State Offices Closed

October 2020

- **Oct 12** – Columbus Day Federal Holiday – State Offices Closed

November 2020

- **Nov 11** – Veterans Day Federal Holiday – State Offices Closed
- **Nov 26** – Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday – State Offices Closed
- **Nov 27** – Day of Thanksgiving State Holiday – State Offices Closed

December 2020

- **Dec 25** – Christmas Day Holiday – State Offices Closed

February 2021

- **Feb 02 – 06** – USW/NAWG Joint Winter Meeting, DC