

**Nebraska Wheat Board
February Board Meeting
February 3, 2021
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM CST
West Central Research & Extension Center – North Platte, NE
MINUTES**

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

Other Present Royce Schaneman, NWB Executive Director
Sarah Ahrens, Ag. Promotion Coordinator
Jeff Noel, Husker Genetics
Stan Garbacz, UNL
Patty Richards, NDA
Renee Tichota, NDA
Hector Santiago, UNL
Mark Hodges, PGI
Amanda Easterly, UNL
Cody Creech, UNL
Kelly Bruns, UNL
Emma Goosic, NWB Ambassador

Proceedings

- Bob called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM CST. Roll call was taken and crop reports were given. Guests were introduced and welcomed.
- Review of agenda. **Mark moved to approve the agenda; Kent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**
- Review of minutes. **Tyson moved to approve the minutes as presented; Von seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Review of Financials

- Royce reviewed the financial reports for November and December 2020. The projected budget for FY 20-21 may be shorter than expected as production was down over the year. The Board has currently only collected 72% of the projected budget.
- The office will be switching over website hosts from Firespring to Insight Marketing. **Kent moved to transfer \$2,500 out of unobligated funds to website development; Tyson seconded. Roll call vote. Von, Y; Mark, Y; Kent, Y; Tyson, Y; Rick, Y; Larry, Y; Bob, Y. Motion carried.**
- **Rick moved to approve the financial report; Larry seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Domestic & International Marketing

- U.S. Wheat Associates. The Winter Conference has been moved to Dallas, TX for February 23-25, 2021. The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association are sending Brian Schafer and Sarah Ahrens for representation. Royce Schaneman, Bob Delsing, Kent Lorens and Mark Knobel will attend representing the Nebraska Wheat Board.
- Food Aid. Food for Peace purchased a cargo load of wheat from Ukraine to send to Africa. The committee will be discussing this issue heavily in Dallas.
- Bylaws. USW will be discussing whether or not to open their bylaws during the Winter Conference to change who can serve on the Board of Directors if state members are unable to be present. NWB's priority is to have board members be present at every national conference.
- Wheat Marketing Center. The marketing center is currently recruiting for a new food scientist. The NWB will not be sending an educational group on the Portland tour this year, but will send one in 2022. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 25th, 2021. The format of the meeting is to be determined.
- Wheat Foods Council. As of now, the NWB does not have a member sitting on the WFC Board of Directors, even though they receive a position with the funding each year. Sarah has been attending all of the meetings over the past year due to communicator workshops held prior to the meetings. **Tyson moved to appoint Sarah to the Wheat Foods Council Board of Directors; Mark seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**
- Wheat Quality Council. This year's annual meeting will be held virtually. Dave Green will be putting out more information with the date and time of the meeting. Royce will be a participant as he is serving as the Immediate Past President.

First Reading of Funding Requests

- All of the requests that have been submitted are reviewed by the Board. The \$25,000 proposal by the Wheat Marketing Center is clarified to be for membership and the \$8,000 proposal is for the Export Marketing Tour that takes place each year in Portland, Oregon.
- The Board decided it would be better to let researchers know prior to the budget meeting that they will not be receiving funding so that they can look for it in other places.
- The Board would like to fund all proposals but the budget determines how much they are able to spend. Due to a decline in production, income may not be as high in the upcoming fiscal year.
- **Von moved to move all proposals to the second reading except for the following: NE Broadcasters Association Consumer Education 3 month proposal, NE Broadcasters Association Consumer Education 6 month proposal, and Pablo Loza's research proposal "Evaluation of Blends of Dry Rolled Wheat and Dry Rolled Corn and It's Interaction with Corn Silage in Feedlot Diets Containing WCDG;" Mark seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Domestic & International Marketing Continued

- Plains Grains, Inc. Mark Hodges presented the current drought monitor to the Board. Major areas of concern include eastern Colorado, the panhandle and southwest Nebraska. This past harvest season, NASS collected all grain samples for testing instead of Plains Grains sending an employee around to collect them. Overall, the new process went extremely smooth. Mark has begun creating excel spreadsheets with all the data collected from last years' grain collections. All data can be viewed together or viewed via separate grain sheds. The website has been redeveloped and the grain shed map can be found on the "Data and Maps" page.

Dr. Amanda Easterly & Dr. Cody Creech Presentation

Nebraska Wheat Board Issues

- Variety Development & Release Committee. Mark updated the Board on the work the committee, appointed by Dr. Mike Bohm, has done over the past three months in order to create a new small grains marketing program. He reviewed the new model and explained the flow of wheat varieties. The Nebraska Wheat Board will still have a roll in the model, exercising the Right of First Refusal. The new model has been turned over to Dr. Mike Boehm to be presented to UNL stakeholders. Dr. Boehm mentioned he should be back in touch with the committee by March with new information. The Nebraska Wheat Board is giving up their royalty stream in the new model in order to make it functional. The Board requested to have the model sent to them, it will be kept confidential until a new model is adopted.

Executive Director Report

- Pea & Lentil Commission. The NWB office has helped the new commission get on their feet. The office has organized radio interview and sent out a press release to recruit board members. The new commission needs to be in place by July 1, 2021. The NWB will likely help them organize their first meeting, after which they can decide if they would like to contract with the office for administrative support or not.
- Board opening. The Board still needs a replacement for Von Johnson in District 5.
- New Secretary. Lezlee Williams has joined the NWB office and will be working from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST Monday through Friday.
- Internal Invoices. The office has been eliminating extra expenses such as phone and fax lines.
- Computers. The office computers are six years old this summer. There is an option to lease new computers from the State for three years or to purchase our own, in which the office would be charged for any services to them.
- Seed sorter. The University of Minnesota is interested in purchasing the seed sorter for parts as theirs is broken. The Board recommended to ask Dr. Katherine Frels if she would have any use of it in her program or if it would be better used in Minnesota.
- New expense forms. The state has transferred from an "actual expenses" reimbursement to a "per diem" reimbursement. The new form has been sent to all board members with their information already included.
- Adopt policy for travel. According to the Department of Agriculture, travel to and from meetings is not included as an official function. The Corn Board has adopted policy to reflect that travel be included in official functions along with meals. **Tyson moved to adopt the same travel policies as the Nebraska Corn Board but striking "Corn" and adding "Wheat;" Larry seconded. Roll call vote. Mark, Y; Von, Y; Tyson, Y; Rick, Y; Kent, T; Larry, Y; Bob, Y. Motion carried.**
- The new policy and procedure now states
 - Official functions of the Nebraska Wheat Board for purposes of per diem and reimbursement, include meetings, travel and attendance at functions where the board member(s) or staff are in an official capacity and that have been 1) approved by the board of directors and included in minutes; 2) approved by the chairman of the board; and/or 3) approved by the executive director. This would include functions within Nebraska, domestically and internationally and could include a travel day before and day following as part of the official function.
 - Group meals may be part of official functions, in which guests that would be covered include staff and board member(s) of organizations, associations and/or commodities that the Nebraska Wheat Board has a contractual, MOU or MOA association with, has a high level of collaboration with or are guests as part of a trade team.

- No cost extension. Dr. Stephen Baenziger requested a No Cost Extension for out-of-state variety testing to be used in Wyoming, Kansas, and South Dakota. **Kent moved to extend the funding; Mark seconded. Roll call vote. Kent, Y; Tyson, Y; Mark, Y; Larry, Y; Von, Y; Rick, Y; Bob, Y. Motion carried.**
- Budget testimony. The Appropriations Committee has decided to move forward with the budget the NWB requested, therefore the Board does not need to testify. A thank you letter has been drafted and will be presented to the Committee on Friday, February 5, 2021.
- NWB Statute. If the NWB can get an increase in the wheat collection rate through the Governor's office, then that route should be pursued instead of opening up statutes. If it will not be approved through the Governor's office, some other things to consider changing in the statute include: changing district lines, to use actual expense instead of per diem, ask to collect barley and triticale for a checkoff as well, change the name to Small Grains Board instead of Wheat Board.
- Cutting boards. As U.S. Wheat Associates celebrated their 40th anniversary, they have sent cutting boards to each state organization. The office has ordered cutting boards for all NWB board members and they will be delivered once received.

University Report

- Dr. Hector Santiago shared with the Board the Agriculture Research Divisions Annual Report. Research has been able to continue at a good pace despite COVID-19. Faculty have been creative in order to keep their programs moving forward.
- Dr. Katherine Frels' first day will be March 1, 2021. She will have a couple months overlap working with Dr. Stephen Baenziger in order to get understand where the program is and continue the work already in place. A main priority is to update equipment in the Wheat Quality Lab on campus. Dr. Frels recommends selling the seed sorter to the University of Minnesota, as the Nebraska program already has one in functioning order. Her UNL email is active and she can be reached at kfrels2@unl.edu.

Ag Promotion Coordinator Report

- Insight Marketing. The NWB will be transferring website hosting from Firespring to Insight Marketing, a firm based in Sioux Falls, SD.
- Haxby Photography. The Board has been provided with all videos that have been handed over to the NWB up until the current date. Mr. Haxby had informed the office that he had gone over contract budget. The Board will evaluate the videos before adding any additional funding to the project. They recommend sticking to the contract budget until further notice.
- Bake & Take. The annual delivery of cinnamon rolls the NWB partners and State Senators will be postponed for a year due to COVID-19. The office will promote it through radio time and social media.
- Variety survey. The survey will be distributed through the Midwest Messenger listserv of wheat producers in Nebraska that grow over 250 acres of wheat. The survey will help determine public vs. private varieties being planted across the state, in what percentage they are being planted, and get ideas for marketing new varieties.

NWGA Update

- The annual Winter Conference and NWGA's Commodity Classic Conference will be combined into one meeting in Dallas, TX from February 22-25, 2021. They will review and adopt resolutions for the upcoming year.

- Nebraska State Legislature is in full swing with hearings currently taking place. NWGA has contracted with the Nebraska Farm Bureau for weekly updates. Sarah is taking part in weekly Zoom calls with the Ag Leaders Group and State Senators. A weekly update is being sent out to NWGA members on Fridays.
- It is suggested NWGA partner with Wyoming for meetings in order to increase attendance.
- NWGA will work with NAWG to be actively involved in making sure the Stepped-Up Basis Program is not changed or eliminated on the federal level.

Calendar & Travel

- The USW meeting will be changed to week prior to July 4, 2021. The location is TBD.
- The PGI meeting will be added to the calendar when it is announced.
- The next Nebraska Wheat Board meeting will be held on June 9, 2021 or June 10, 2021 in either Sidney, NE or Ogallala, NE. More details will be given once the date and location are set.
- **Von moved to accept the adapted calendar and travel schedule; Kent seconded. Roll call vote. Mark, Y; Rick, Y; Kent, Y; Von, Y; Larry, Y; Tyson, Y; Bob, Y. Motion carried.**

Bob announced the meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM CST.