

Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting
Fallbrook State Office Building
245 Fallbrook Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68521
Hearing Room 031, Garden Level

Board Members Present

Mark Knobel

Bob Delsing

Mary Eisenzimmer

Kent Lorens

Jared Sayer

Tyson Narjes

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director

Jadyn Heckenlively, Marketing Specialist

Others Present

Larry Flohr

Jeff Noel

Chris Cullen, Nu Horizon Genetics

Sarah Ahrens

Luella Ahrens

Dr. Stephen Baenziger

Dr. Katherine Frels, UNL

Steve Wellman, NDA

Chabella Guzman, KNEB

Jeff Boehm, USDA-ARS

T.S. – Tatineni, USDA-ARS

Xiwen Cai, USDA-ARS

Cory Water, UNL

Mike Boehm, UNL IANR

Proceedings

Chairman Knobel called the meeting to order at 8:37 am CT.

Roll Call

Roll Call was taken, crop progress reports given, and guests were introduced and welcomed. New board member Mary Eisenzimmer was introduced to the meeting. New staff member Jady Heckenlively was introduced to the meeting. Overall crop conditions are dry. Emergence has not been consistent due to lack of moisture.

Review of the Agenda

Delsing moved, Lorens seconded to approve. Voice vote, motion carried

Review of minutes

Sayer moved, Delsing seconded to approve changes. Voice vote, motion carried.

Review of Financial Reports

Sayer moved, Narjes seconded to approve. Roll Call Vote: Delsing-yes, Lorens-yes, Eisenzimmer-yes, Narjes-yes, Knobel-yes, Sayer-yes. **Motion carried.**

Domestic & International Marketing

- US Wheat Associates - Lorens reported that many of the staff have not been working in the DC office, but rather working from home. There is discussion as to the future of the building to reduce wasted cost. Discussed situations of known staff members and their situations relating to working from home and traveling to DC.
- Food Aid – Lorens reported there was another shipment of Ukrainian wheat bought by USAID to go to Nigeria. Lorens reported that delegations will have to be hit hard in January and February due to the new farm bill to keep the funding going to Food Aid.
- Wheat Marketing Center – Schaneman gave a summary for new members and staff about what Wheat Marketing Center does. Dunbar reported through email, first quarter financials looked solid with operating income at 28% of budget and operating expense at 24% of budget.
- Wheat Foods Council – nothing reported.
- Plains Grains Inc. – Flohr reported and gave a summary of PGI for new members and staff. Discussed that Mark Hodges is nearing retirement from the executive director position and board will need to find a successor in hopes that Nebraska wheat can be involved in that transition. Royce reported that a PGI meeting has just been proposed for December 13, 2022, in Denver, CO and the board will need to take action as Hodges wants to transition out.
- Wheat Quality Council – Schaneman, nothing to report
- Home Baking Association – Lorens reported, gave a summary of Home Baking Association for new members and staff. The director and communications staff members are retiring and will be looking to fill positions.

- Coalition for Grain Fiber – Narjes reported there has had recent meetings to decide the next steps for the coalition to continue to promote the importance of grain fiber in our diets. Dr. Katherine Frels reported there has been a lot of activity on the science and research side with a recent quarterly meeting. Dr. Frels stated so far there is a very promising start with progression of beginnings of invitro research.

PGI – Mark Hodges

Hodges reported over Zoom. Flohr states he will be involved with meetings with PGI during transition. **Delsing moved to appoint Flohr as a representative for PGI through transition and to cover those expenses. Sayer second;** roll call vote Tyson Narjes – yes, Mary Eisenzimmer – yes, Bob Delsing – yes, Jared Sayer – yes, Mark Knobel – yes, Kent Lorens – yes. **Motion carried.**

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association Report

No representative present. Schaneman reported they need to do their annual meeting and are still thinking about dates. Staff has put together a draft agenda for their meeting. Through the national yield contest, the association was able to gain 16 members. Schaneman is going to encourage the association to invest in the Life Cycle Analysis.

Nebraska Wheat Board Administrative/Office Report

- Executive Director Report: Schaneman reported that Becky had left the office and her position is currently being advertised. Schaneman was asked by US Wheat to video tape the crop quality presentations for HRW wheat to be used to other presentations. Schaneman has also presented this data live over Zoom to the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand. It was also reported that there are many initiatives happening with Sawfly. Schaneman has written letters of support for two of the three initiatives Nebraska is involved in. Schaneman suggested that the board thinks about a solution to come up with a Nebraska Wheat Foundation to be able to accept gifts or donations. The Secretary of State's office submitted a funding request to the Emerging Markets Program to promote wheat and beef in Jordan. It has been recommended for funding and was noted to have board members start thinking about the trip.
- Committee assignments – Schaneman reported that he had spoken with US Wheat about getting members moved around to different committees. Schaneman is going to keep in contact with US Wheat to be able to move board members to different committees in areas they are interested in if possible. Schaneman reported that Narjes will be the producer to participate with Coalition for Grain Fiber.
- Correspondence for review – Thank you letters from Ag Sack Lunch Program and others were passed around during the meeting. Knobel suggested that Public Service Commissioners may be invited in future meetings.

USDA – Jeff Boehm, Xiwen Cai and T.S. – USDA-ARS

Jeff Boehm gives presentation on his research within Integrated Basic and Applied Wheat Breeding. Boehm's mission is to use wheat breeding as an instrument to solve problems and make a positive difference in people's lives. Boehm presented the board with research he is currently doing within breeding. Boehm works closely with Dr. Frels and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to continue both of

their research developing wheat varieties. Boehm is looking at long term genetic gain from varieties released overtime from UNL and how they have evolved over the years.

Xiwen Cai gives presentation on research of wheat breeding and genetics in Lincoln. Cai gives a brief introduction of himself and his experience. Cai's presentation focuses on the common genes that wild grasses and wheat contain and how they are using these genes in breeding research for more versatile wheat varieties.

T.S. presented topics relating to development of new traits for resistance against wheat streak mosaic virus in wheat. T.S. explained how using genes against wheat streak mosaic viruses in wheat breeding can benefit wheat varieties against the virus.

UNL NWB Funded Project – Cory Walters, UNL

Cory Walters presented about the role of quality characteristics in pricing hard red winter wheat. Walters focused on quality data and how that is changing the price of wheat. There was discussion on how there is a disconnect between the producers and how their wheat is marketed based on quality scores. Discussion of using this presentation for the wheat quality committee (US Wheat Associates).

Administration of the oath of office

Presented to Mary Eisenzimmer

Nu Horizon Genetics

Chris Cullan reporting updates on Nu Horizon Genetics. At their last meeting, a board was set up for Nu Horizon Genetics consisting of Dr. Baenziger, Mark Knobel, Rick Dunbar, Leon Krisel and Chris Cullan. Royce sits on the board as a liaison. They would like to invite an ex officio from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to ensure they are aware of things Nu Horizon is doing as an entity and organization. Also, at their last meeting by-laws and membership criteria were approved. Recently added on Jeff Noel as executive director. Have five licenses in place as well as field testing started. Royce added that Knobel and Dunbar have signed conflict of interest paperwork and will abstain from voting when the NWB will vote over funding related to Nu Horizon Genetics. Mike Boehm noted that he would need written partnership clarity between the NWB and Nu Horizon Genetics to be able to offer an ex officio from UNL.

Recognition

Dr. Stephen Baenziger Awarded

Larry Flohr Awarded

Jeff Noel Awarded

Updates from Dr. Katherine Frels - UNL

Frels reported that field days will likely be the week of June 12th. Frels discussed FFAR funding proposal that will be coming up needing a \$30,000 match.

Notes from conversation with Mike Boehm

Mike discussed conversations had with the NWB and the history of the relationship. Discussed what they have been doing to change things and where the university stands with the relationship currently. Royce gave Mike minutes and financials to clarify fundings. Discussed what type of contracts are needed for

partnerships relating to Nu Horizon Genetics. To be determined length of contracts for NWB according to state regulations. Discussed if they can get research agreements on behalf of the NWB signed. Discussed the confusion surrounding the wordage of sublicensing in the research agreement. Discussed that further conversations will be had in hopes to advance in research agreements and partnerships with Nu Horizon Genetics.

Calendar & Travel Approval

Add:

January 31st – February 4th US Wheat Associates Meeting (Tuesday January 31 – Hill Visits and Reception)

Portland Trip – January 11th - 13th

PGI Meeting in Denver, CO – December 13th

Tentative date for next meeting, Tuesday, February 28th location to be determined possibly Ogallala or Sidney.

Lorens motioned, Delsing second voice vote. Motion carried

Adjournment

Eisenzimmer moved to adjourn. Sayer seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm CT.