

## **Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting**

West Central Research and Extension Center  
402 West State Farm Road, North Platte, Nebraska 69101

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM CT

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

### *Board Members Present*

Mark Knobel, District 6, Chairman  
Kent Lorens, District 4, Vice Chairman  
Bob Delsing, District 1  
Larry Flohr, District 3  
Tyson Narjes, District 2  
Rick Dunbar, District 7  
Jared Sayer, District 5

### *Staff Present*

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director  
Becky Rezac, Ag Promotion Coordinator

### *Others Present*

Jeff Ruggles, NWGA President  
Dr. Katherine Frels, UNL  
Dr. Amanda Easterly, UNL  
Dr. Nicolas Cafaro La Menza, UNL  
Dr. Jeff Bradshaw, UNL  
Jeff Noel  
Kevin Shearman, NDA Finance (zoom)  
Mark Spurgin, NWGA member  
Rick Larson, past NWB Member

### *Proceedings*

Chairman Knobel called the meeting to order at 8:39am CT.

### *Roll Call*

Roll Call was taken, crop progress reports given, and guests were introduced and welcomed. Overall crop conditions are dry. The lack of moisture and hot weather have stressed any crops that are left.

### Election of Officers

Chairman - **Dunbar nominated Knobel, Lorens seconded.** Roll call vote, Flohr – yes, Narjes – yes, Delsing – yes, Knobel – abstain, Lorens – yes, Sayer – yes, Dunbar – yes. **Motion carried.**

Vicechair - **Flohr nominated Lorens, Dunbar seconded.** Roll call vote, Flohr – yes, Narjes – yes, Delsing – yes, Knobel – yes, Lorens – yes, Sayer – yes, Dunbar – yes. **Motion carried.**

### Review of Agenda

**Flohr moved, Lorens seconded to approve the agenda. Voice vote, motion carried.**

### Review of Minutes

**Dunbar moved, Sayer seconded to approve the minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.**

### Review of Financial Reports

**Delsing moved, Narjes seconded to approve the financial reports. Voice vote, motion carried.**

### Domestic & International Marketing

- US Wheat Associates: Lorens reported that many staff and administration are no longer in the DC building and many are working from home. This prompted the board to consider the future of the building. USWA needs to be held accountable to board members on buildings and people in those buildings.
- Food Aid: Lorens reported lots of extra money has been put into Food Aid. High transportation cost will impact shipments. Senator Joni Ernst put forth a bill to address cargo preference, but it will have to be dealt with in a commerce bill and it will be hard to pass. Many other issues like caps can be addressed in the farm bill but any transportation issues will have to be done through commerce.
- Wheat Marketing Center – Dunbar reported that Mike Moran’s transition to Executive Director is going well. End of October a board meeting
- Wheat Foods Council – No representative for the WFC, so no one attend their June meeting in Charleston, SC, celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Plains Grains Inc.: Flohr reported no meeting since the last NWB meeting. A meeting will probably be held in the fall and top of the agenda will be Mark Hodges’ retirement transition and the future of PGI. Flohr shared harvest updates that PGI publishes weekly. Schaneman stated that Kansas is concerned about the PGI transition. NWB might assume some of those duties. Mark Hodges’ in his transition is helping to streamline processes and testing.

- Wheat Quality Council: Schaneman reported that he was not able to attend a tour WQC gave.
- World Staff Conference: Dunbar reported that he got to meet many staff members and make connections. During a breakout session Dunbar learned more about gene-splicing research being done at K-State. How they may develop traits that are not GMO. Schaneman reported it was a good meeting and made connections to hopefully bring trade teams back to Nebraska.
- Governor Ag Summit: Lorens reported he thanked the Governor for signing the bill. A group from Vietnam was looking for companies to invest in their country specifically milling. Lorens had their information and expressed that NWB needed to reach out to companies and get a dialogue going between the groups. International trade was also discussed, and the Governor would be bringing wheat up on his Ireland trip.

#### University Report – Dr. Katherine Frels and Dr. Amanda Easterly, UNL

Dr. Easterly reported on crop testing. Winter and spring wheat did not fare well because of the hot weather and lack of moisture. Irrigated trials were not reported because of extensive hail damage.

Dr. Frels gave an update on the breeding program—tough year and much of the panhandle sites were lost to crop damage so limited data was taken. Selections for this year will be based on last year’s data. Breeding targets are competitive yield and UNL varieties are showing to be consistent performers. Another target is developing viral resistant varieties. Trying to establish more areas for trials in west and central Nebraska to have more of a variety in where they are grown and tested. Working on triticale lines, but challenges on marketing material and licensing with NUtech. Working with the Coalition for Grain Fiber with active breeders in every region and their objective is to increase the fiber in wheat and market the health and consumer benefits for it.

Dr. Bradshaw reported that his team and others are seeking federal funding for the wheat stem sawfly research. Trying to solve the problem with the sawfly by conducting a survey on where the sawfly is and where it isn’t and why.

#### Nebraska Wheat Growers Association Report – Jeff Ruggles

Ruggles reported the NAWG board is working on the Farm Bill and Ruggles shared a handout detailing top priorities in the bill. Preserving crop insurance is very important. The ERP program payments have started phase 2. Lorens asked Ruggles if transportation was being addressed in the Farm Bill but Ruggles explained that was not discussed at this last meeting. Knobel asked that Ruggles mention to the farm organizations that a top priority should be to address the inheritance tax, estate tax, etc. because these are devastating the future of agriculture.

### Executive Director Report

Schaneman reported that the Marketing Specialist position is now posted and is open for applicants. Looking for Flohr's replacement on the board have a couple in mind just need to reach out to them. Field pocket guide project is being discussed in meetings with all the commodities. Possible app to have on your phone or a simple version of a printed book was discussed. A group wants to host the Soybean Rail meeting in Nebraska, but funds will need to raise for this, and NDA, Soybean, and Corn boards have all said they would contribute. Committee Assignments handout was passed around. Nu Horizon was discussed, and the possible conflict of interest and the Attorney General's office is concerned about voting members.

**Narjes moves to affirm our budgetary choice to fund Nu Horizon Genetics in the sum of \$31,000. Lorens seconded.** Roll call vote, Flohr – yes, Delsing – yes, Dunbar – abstain, Sayer – yes, Narjes – yes, Lorens – yes, Knobel – abstain. **Motion carried.**

### First Reading of Funding Proposals

The consensus was to pass on the Bott Radio proposal.

**Lorens moved, Delsing seconded to fund the US Wheat Associates Special Project South Asia Buyers Conference to the sum of \$1,000 out of unobligated.** Roll call vote, Flohr – yes, Delsing – yes, Dunbar – yes, Sayer – yes, Narjes – yes, Lorens – yes, Knobel – yes. **Motion carried.**

**Delsing moved, Narjes seconded to fund the Transportation Go project in the sum of \$5,000.** Roll call vote, Flohr – yes, Delsing – yes, Dunbar – yes, Sayer – yes, Narjes – yes, Lorens – yes, Knobel – yes. **Motion carried.**

### Calendar & Travel Approval

**Delsing moved, Dunbar seconded to approve the next meeting NWB meeting to be held on Friday, November 18, 2022. Location to be determined.**

**Lorens moved, Dunbar seconded to approve the calendar and travel for board members and staff. Voice vote, motion carried.**

**Lorens moved, Delsing seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 pm CT.**