

**Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting
Hampton Inn, North Platte, NE
February 1, 2022**

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

Others Present:

Royce Schaneman, NWB Executive Director
Dr. Hector Santiago, UNL
Chris Cullan, Wheat Producer
Sarah Ahrens, NWB Staff
Luella Ahrens, Sarah's daughter, wheat producer, special guest

Proceedings:

Chairman Knobel called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. CST.

Roll Call:

Roll Call was taken, and crop progress reports given, guest were introduced and welcomed. Overall crop conditions are dry, but crop looks good despite lack of moisture or winter cover during extremely cold temperatures. Planted acres appear to be up across the state with an estimate of about 10%.

Review of Agenda:

Delsing moved, Flohr seconded to approve the updated agenda. Voice vote, motion carried.

Review of Minuets:

Narjes moved, Sayer seconded to approve the minuets. Voice vote, motion carried.

Review of Financial Reports:

Delsing moved and Dunbar seconded to approve the financial reports. Roll call vote, Flohr – yes, Delsing – yes, Lorens – yes, Sayer – yes, Narjes – yes, Dunbar – yes, Knobel – yes. Motion carried.

Excise Tax Compliance Reports:

Review of excise tax compliance reports.

Producer Chris Cullan joined the via zoom video conference to share his frustration and lack of marketing of UNL produced wheat varieties. Mr. Cullan expressed to the board that UNL and NUtech Ventures seem to intentionally prevent NU Horizon Genetics from licensing and supporting the marketing of small grain varieties produced through Wheat Board funding. A group of certified seed producers have created NU Horizon Genetics to market these public varieties more effectively. The goal of the group is to allow Nebraska producers the first chance to plant and benefit from the checkoff investment, reward the researcher, and grow the UNL small grains program. Cullan was adamant that UNL/NUtech ventures see the big picture and be responsive to stakeholders. UNL/NUtech Ventures need to be better partners.

Domestic & International Marketing:

- US Wheat Associates. The USW board held the joint USW/NAWG Winter Board Meeting in Washington DC, January 10-14, 2022. Those that attended were Knobel, Delsing, Lorens, Dunbar, and Schaneman. USW budget is better due to travel restriction due to COVID-19. The MAP, ATP and FMD funding has been reallocated for another year due to COVID-19. The vote on the by-law's changes, allowing states to choose anyone they want to represent them at USW meeting was voted down, utilizing a weighted vote. Clark Hamilton was elected to the executive board of USW.

NWGA Update:

Sarah Ahrens reported that the next NWGA meeting will be held February 8, 2022, in Culbertson. The NAWG Board is uncertain of their participation in the Commodity Classic due to COVID-19 protocols regarding the in-person meeting.

Domestic & International Marketing – Continued:

- Wheat Marketing Center. The WMC is conducting the search for a new Director of Operations. The WMC is actively showing the building as it is still for sale. The NWB hosted the Export Education Seminar in January with three participants (UNL Wheat Breeder Katherine Frels, Nebraska Department of Ag, trade specialist Jordan Schlake, and KNEB radio reporter Chabella Guzman attending with Royce Schaneman leading the group. The seminar went well despite COVID-19 protocols.
- Wheat Foods Council. No report.
- Plains Grains Inc. Issues with testing were discussed as an extended harvest and COVID-19 protocols at the USDA-ARS lab limited the timeliness of the quality survey. Discussions are ongoing to make updates and changes moving forward. Mark Hodges would like to retire from Plains Grains and asked that Royce Schaneman lead the PGI quality testing program. The PGI Board will need to determine how they would like to see the quality testing and management going forward. Their next meeting will be May 16, 2022, in Manhattan, Kansas prior to the Wheat Quality Council's HRW tour.

Narjes moved and Lorens seconded to give Larry Flohr authority to pursue the Nebraska Wheat Board to manage the PGI HRW and HWW quality survey. Voice vote, motion carried.

- Wheat Quality Council. The WQC is planning to hold an in-person annual meeting in Kansas City, MO on February 22-24, 2022. This will be Schaneman's last meeting as a board member. Guest speaker will be Dr. Stephen Baenziger.
- British Counsel General Meeting. Mark Knobel attended the meeting to discuss trade opportunities with Britain. Wheat may be at a disadvantage, but wheat germ plasm has potential. Other Nebraska commodities may have greater potential in this market.

University Update:

Dr. Santiago reported on the University research division has increased funding for the last 10 years. \$64 million in research awards. Growing about 4% per year. UNL has had the ability to hire in phases. They have hired 50 new faculty. One new hire is Charles Totano, Dean of Extension, who would like to meet with the NWB at the next board meeting. Archie Clutter, Dean of Research will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. Search for a Director of the Panhandle Research and Extension Center is ongoing. Mitch Stephenson is serving as the interim. UNL is seeking a new Cropping Specialist at the West Central Research and Extension Center. Dr. Santiago answered questions about fully staffing Research and Extension Centers across the state? Is UNL actively pursuing adding a Wheat Specialist? Do any researchers in economics specialize in rail issues?

Executive Director Update:

- Royce Schaneman reported on the upcoming office move from downtown to the Fallbrook area of Lincoln. Operational changes will occur after the move with Nebraska Wheat Growers Association, to show a clear separation of the board and the producer organization. The board may ask the NWGA to meet at the same time, so we have greater cooperation between the boards.
- The open position has been advertised and the process is moving forward.
- The Attorney General's Office has some concerns with the Wheat Board contracting with the Dry Pea and Lentil Commission to provide day-to-day administrative services. No decision has been made. NWB will continue to help them this fiscal year.
- The proposed rule change for the NWB is still in process and follow-up in continuing.
- Updates to the Nebraska Wheat Resources Act are moving forward with no opposition. Updates include not collecting excise tax on seed sales, not collecting the excise tax on USDA loan grain, adding language that the board can own, market, and sell intellectual property (a variety of wheat as an example).
- Board would like to discuss a daily per diem while on board business above and beyond the state's meals, lodging, and incidental per diem.

First Reading of Funding Proposals for FY 22/23:

Discussion and review of all funding proposals for fiscal year 22/23. Projects that arrived after meeting books were posted, but added to the list were:

AFAN

Nebraska LEAD Program

NAYC

WQC

NU Horizon Genetics

Narjes moved, Lorens seconded to move all projects to the second reading except the two proposals submitted by the Nebraska Broadcasters Association, due to budget constraints in the publicity and education area. Voice vote, motion carried.

Calendar & Travel:

Added to the printed calendar and travel listing:

February 3 - NU Horizon Genetics Meeting Video Conference – Entire Board & Staff

May 16 – Plains Grains Meeting, Manhattan, Kansas – Larry Flohr & Royce Schaneman

May 16-19 – WQC, HRW Tour, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma – Sayer

June 2 – NWB Meeting, Ogallala – Entire Board and Staff

June 6-9 – USW Summer Board Meeting, Bend, OR – Lorens, Narjes, Delsing & Schaneman

June 9 – UNL Variety Trial Tour, Fairbury

June 20 – UNL Variety Trial Tour, Gosper County

UNL Variety Trial Tour, McCook

June 21 – UNL Variety Trail Tour Field Day, Imperial

UNL Variety Trial Tour, Chappell

June 22 - UNL Variety Trial Tour, Hemingford

UNL Variety Trial Tour, Banner County

Have the Ambassadors do a Bake & Take activity before they are finished in May.

Flohr moved, Lorens seconded to approve the updated calendar and travel. Voice vote, motion carried.

Adjournment:

Delsing moved, Dunbar seconded to adjourn. Voice vote, motion carried.