

Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting
High Plains Ag Lab – 3257 RD 109, Sidney, NE 69162
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Board Members Present

Mark Knobel

Mary Eisenzimmer

Kent Lorens

Jared Sayer

Tyson Narjes

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director

Jadyn Heckenlively, Marketing Specialist

Taylor Cruise, Ag Promotions Coordinator

Others Present

Larry Flohr – Producer

Amanda Easterly – UNL

Jon Kerrigan – NDA

Hector Santiago – UNL

Derek McLean – UNL

Jeff Noel – NU Horizon Genetics

Dr. Stephen Baenziger (via Zoom) – UNL

Mike Boehm (via Zoom) – UNL

Jerry Radke – NE Wheat Growers Association

Proceedings

Chairman Knobel called the meeting to order at 8:35 am MT

Roll Call

Roll call was taken, crop progress reports given, and guests were introduced and welcomed. New staff member, Taylore Cruise, was introduced to the meeting. Overall crop conditions are dry. Recent snow and rain have board members optimistic about this year's crop with increased moisture.

Review of the Agenda

Proposed to move the University of Nebraska-Lincoln update up in agenda, after the conclusion of review of the minutes. **Narjes moved to approve the agenda as amended, Lorens seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.**

Review of the Minutes

Lorens moved to approve the minutes as presented, Eisenzimmer seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

UNL Report

Derek McLean presented a report on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He discussed the recent search for a new chancellor of UNL to replace Ronnie Green. He had also discussed some recent staff changes within IANR.

Review of Financial Reports

The November report was not included in the meeting book. Royce will locate a copy and present it later in the meeting for approval.

Sayer moved to increase the budget for Home Baking Association an additional \$1000. Lorens seconded.

Roll call vote: Eisenzimmer – yes, Sayer – yes, Lorens – yes, Narjes – yes, Knobel – yes. Motion carried.

Eisenzimmer moved to approve December and January financials. Sayer seconded.

Knobel – yes, Lorens – yes, Sayer – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Narjes – yes. Motion carried.

Domestic & International Marketing

- US Wheat Associates – Knobel reported on updates from the 2023 US Wheat Associates Winter Meeting. Knobel had discussed what were main topics of discussion during visits on Capitol Hill. Lorens reported on updates from main topics discussed during the US Wheat Winter Meeting. The US Wheat building was the main topic of discussion and was determined to pay it off and buy the building.
- Food Aide – Lorens reported that the main discussion was to address cargo preferences for Food Aide. Knobel noted that there is a struggle to in Congress to decide whether to trade commodity or cash.
- Wheat Marketing Center – Schaneman reported that the director seat is now open. Schaneman said that WMC would like the NWB to assign a new board member to their board of directors as

well as an alternate individual to take place if needed. It was discussed to have Eisenzimmer possibly attend the March WMC meeting.

- Wheat Foods Council – Lorens reported that he had attended a recent meeting in Austin, TX. At the meeting they had discussed their budget as well as events planned for this year. They will be hosting a competition for chefs in March and would like to have a chef from Nebraska to participate in the competition.
- Plains Grains Inc. – Flohr reported that there has been the issue of replacing Mark Hodges. Weather caused them to postpone their last meeting that was supposed to be held in Denver, CO. PGI would like to contract with Royce on the position. There will need to be discussion within the NWB on what steps to take to avoid conflict of interest.
- Wheat Quality Council – Schaneman reported that they had a meeting recently in Kansas City, MO. Katherine Frels connected with Grain Craft. Grain Craft is wanting more Nebraska wheat varieties to be used in their mills in California. They would like to host a group of Nebraska producers to tour their facilities. The NWGA will be asked to take on this tour, however, if it doesn't work out NWB will discuss handling later.
- Home Baking Association – Lorens reported that they recently had a Zoom meeting. He mentioned that recently there is a shortage of baking flour in certain areas within the US. He had mentioned Texas and Tennessee being a few. Lorens reported on some staffing changes within Home Baking Association.
- Coalition for Grain Fiber - Narjes reported that he had discussed with individuals at US Wheat Meeting that they are in the process of finding individuals who would like to be involved in projects they are hoping to implement.

UNL Update

Mike Boehm spoke with the NWB via Zoom. He discussed meetings he has had recently and what decisions have been made that will affect the relationships between the university, the NWB, and Nu Horizon Genetics. Boehm would like to ask to vote to give Royce the authority to sign the wheat research agreements for 2022-2023. Boehm also said that the NWB has an invitation to be involved in the UNL Small Grain Variety Development and Release Committee. Dr. Stephen Baenziger also attended the discussion via Zoom and explained the relationship with Lima Grain (something) to the NWB for better understanding.

Knobel appointed Jared Sayer to be the seat on the UNL Small Grain Variety Development and Release Committee and Tyson Narjes as an alternate.

Review of Financial Reports: Continued

The November fiscal report was presented.

Sayer moved to approve November Financials; Lorens seconded.

Roll call vote: Narjes -yes, Eisenzimmer-yes, Sayer-yes, Knobel-yes, Lorens-yes; Motion carried

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association Report

Heckenlively gave an updated about the NWGA. Updates included what will be discussed in their upcoming board meet. There were also updates regarding membership and their QuickBooks that were recently reorganized.

Nebraska Wheat Board Administrative/Office Report

Schaneman reported that the NWB office is now fully staffed along with an SOS employee. Schaneman reported on letters of support that he has sent out on behalf of the board for research projects. Rick Dunbar's at large board position is now open. Schaneman reported that he has several names to reach out to apply and move the process along. Jon Kerrigan, from NDA, spoke to the board about a possible trade mission in the upcoming months to Indonesia. Kerrigan reported that Indonesia has the potential to be a large upcoming customer for US Wheat and would be beneficial to pursue. Schaneman reported on a trade mission trip for beef and wheat to Jordan. Schaneman also reminded board members about the upcoming Transportation Go conference.

Eisenzimmer moved to approve adding Lab, Greenhouse, field supplies and chemical reagents line to Jeff Boehm's USDA proposal. Sayer seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Lorens moves that the NWB paves the way to have Royce negotiate with PGI on the management position, Eisenzimmer seconded.

Roll call vote: Knobel – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Lorens – yes, Sayer – yes, Narjes – yes; Motion carried.

First Reading Funding Proposals

Lorens moved to move all proposals to the second reading, Narjes seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

UNL Research Updates

Amanda Easterly gave updates for Katherine Frels and recent events she has attended for wheat research. She updated that two of the Nebraska wheat varieties were presented at the 2023 Wheat Quality meeting regarding their performance. Easterly updated that on the research she has been working on. She had mentioned the proposals submitted to the NWB as well as match funding for FFAR funding. Easterly also gave dates for the 2023 Wheat Tours.

Narjes moved to execute the previously approved funding for FY 22-23 pending upcoming contracts and attorney general approval; Eisenzimmer seconded.

Roll call vote: Eisenzimmer – yes, Sayer – yes, Lorens – yes, Knobel – yes, Narjes – yes; Motion carried.

Discussion on UNL Funding for FY 21-22

It was discussed by the board to have the research contracts for FY 21-22 be reviewed by the attorney general. The board also mentioned to be sure that funding allegations be written within the contract. The board had asked what kind of equipment researchers may need updated or purchased. Easterly reported that a forage harvester or an updated tractor may be needed in the future.

Lorens moved to pay \$130,000 to Dr. Katherine Frels' "Improving Winter Wheat Varieties for Nebraska" and "Developing Hybrid Wheat for Nebraska" research projects for FY 21-22 with a signed contract and official documentation indicating that the Bayer Crop Science Wheat Innovation Fund and/or University Foundation funds are replenished in the amount of \$130,000. Sayer seconded.

Roll call vote: Sayer – yes, Lorens – yes, Narjes – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes. Knobel – yes. Motion carried.

NU Horizon Genetics

Jeff Noel gave an updated that communication between NU Horizon Genetics and the University of Nebraska -Lincoln has improved greatly. All agreements and discussions between the two parties seem to be moving in the right direction. As of now, the organization is working on finalizing a master license agreement with UNL.

Calendar & Travel Approval

- Update correct dates for WMC Meeting; March 22-23
- In June, Wheat Foods Council will have a meeting in Denver, CO
- Add Wheat Tour dates to calendar
 - Thursday, June 8th: Knobel Farms, Jefferson County
 - Monday, June 12th: V&F Farms, Deuel County
 - Tuesday, June 13th: UNL Stumpf Farm, Perkins County (am) and Peters Seed Farms, Red Willow County (pm)
 - Wednesday, June 14th: UNL HPAL, Cheyenne County (am) and Cullan Farm Seed, Box Butte County (pm)
 - Thursday, June 15th: Jim Wyatt Farm, Banner County (am) and tenBensel Farm, Furnas County (pm)
- Tentative next meeting date: Tuesday, June 6th in North Platte, NE; 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Eisenzimmer moved to approve calendar and travel as updated. Narjes seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

The board was reminded to start thinking of main points on rail issues in Nebraska. These points will be sent to Senator Pete Ricketts to be addressed.

Adjournment

Eisenzimmer moved to adjourn, Lorens seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm MT.