

Nebraska Wheat Board August Meeting
Thursday, August 31, 2023
Holiday Inn Express, Ogallala, NE
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Board Members Present

Mark Knobel

Tyson Narjes

Kent Lorens

Bob Delsing

Jared Sayer

Mary Eisenzimmer

Mark Spurgin

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman; Executive Director

Jadyn Heckenlively; Marketing Specialist

Taylor Cruise; Ag Promotions Coordinator (via Zoom)

Others Present

Katherine Frels; UNL

Amanda Easterly; UNL

Jeff Ruggles; NWGA

Jerry Radke; NWGA

Others Present via Zoom

Martha Mamo; UNL

Hector Santiago; UNL

Derek McLean; UNL

Jeff Noel; NU Horizon Genetics

Proceedings

Chairman Mark Knobel called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken, crop reports given, and guests were introduced and welcomed.

Eastern region of the state that moisture has increased recently. The wheat crop at harvest was considered poor yielding roughly 30 bu/ac. Southern panhandle harvest was very good. Yields ranged from 40-80

bu/ac and producers who handled weed control had success. Seed quality has decreased and has been an issue for seed dealers in the area. The southwest region reported that the wheat was better than expected. Yields averaged 60-80 bu/ac. The quality fluctuated due to increased moisture. The northern panhandle reported that yields ranged 40-60 bu/ac. As for quality the test weight was adequate, and protein was average. Planting is going along well and should be good moisture to get the crop started. The southcentral region reported that late rains improved wheat harvest in the area. The region is currently very dry and has received a lot of hail recently.

It was reported that there is limited seed and the quality is low. The low supply is due to drought and a significant amount lost to scab.

Approval of Agenda

It was discussed to move up the approval of the minutes before the oath of office.

Delsing moved to approve the agenda with the changes made, Sayer seconded. Voice vote; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were made to change Mark Knobel's vote to read abstained rather than yes and added the start time of the executive session.

Lorens moved to approve the minutes with the changes made, Sayer seconded. Voice vote; motion carried.

Oath of Office

Mark Spurgin was sworn in as the At-Large board seat for the NWB.

Tyson Narjes was reappointed and sworn in as the District 2 board seat for the NWB.

Election of Officers

Knobel nominated Lorens as chairman.

Delsing moved that nominations cease and cast unanimous ballot, Eisenzimmer seconded. Voice vote; motion carried.

Delsing nominated Narjes as vice chair, Sayer seconded.

Eisenzimmer moved to cease nominations and cast unanimous ballot, Knobel second. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

Delsing moved to accept the financials; Eisenzimmer seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Excise Tax Compliance Reports

Wheat checkoff records were reviewed for 2 firms from July through August 2023. The audit covered the period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

- Audits completed:
 - Ardent Mills – Minneapolis, MN
 - Country Partners Cooperative – Gothenburg, NE
- Audits in progress:
 - Crossroads Coop – Sidney, NE
 - Farmers Cooperative – Dorchester, NE
 - West Plains LLC – Hays Springs, NE
 - Cenex Harvest States – Inver Grove Heights, MN

Domestic & International Marketing

- US Wheat Associates Summer Meeting – Royce Schaneman attended the summer meeting recently. There was not great attendance due to being around wheat harvest. An area that received a lot of discussion was transportation and the importation of wheat from Poland. There was an update on the GMO wheat in Argentina. They are currently applying for use in many countries and starting the process to have it be grown in other countries.
- Food Aide – Kent Lorens reported that the American Farmers Feed the World Act was passed in June.
- Wheat Marketing Center – Mary Eisenzimmer reported that she plans to attend their next meeting in late October. They have had many milling groups in for workshops. The dates for the next grower’s workshop have been set for January 10 – 12 and board members have been encouraged to recruit growers in their area to attend.
- Wheat Foods Council & Home Baking Association – Kent Lorens reported that they are currently using personal trainers to promote the use of wheat and flour by emphasizing the importance of carbs and energy with wheat in the diet. HBA annual meeting is coming up in late October, Lorens does not plan to attend. They recently Kris Kirby from the Oklahoma Wheat Commission who will replace the two individuals in HBA that recently retired.
- Plains Grains, Inc. – Royce Schaneman reported current events with PGI. All of the samples have been collected and are on their way to be evaluated with harvest wrapping up in HRW states. Everything has recently been moved to Nebraska. Schaneman discussed the combining of the HRW and HRS dashboards. However, there are some hurdles for cost as the dashboard licensor is wanting to charge \$20,000 to combine and an annual maintenance fee of \$60,000. There is thoughts to find another group to create the dashboard so HRW & HRS can have ownership of the dashboard and decrease the maintenance fee.
- Wheat Quality Council – Schaneman reported that they recently had their spring wheat tour and Schaneman did not attend the tour. They will be hosting their annual meeting in February in Kansas City. They recently switched venues for the annual meeting and are having trouble getting a location secure.
- Coalition for Grain Fiber – Tyson Narjes reported there has been correspondence on funding recently. Schaneman added that they recently met with Director Sherry Vinton and Hilary Miracle to discuss issues. Katherine Frels reported that grants have been awarded to increase collaboration between different colleges and groups. They plan to put on an additional conference.
- Nebraska Ag Forum – Mark Knobel reported that he attended the forum in Washington DC, and it was an effective trip. The group visited the US Wheat headquarters which he believed was eye opening for other Nebraska representatives seeing the efforts of marketing wheat globally.

Knobel said that the group met with Senator Boseman for well over an hour and was able to discuss wheat issues for this upcoming Farm Bill.

- Governor Pillen Roundtable and Ag/Econ Conference – Lorens reported that he was pleased with the Governor and his interest in wheat issues.
- Senator Fischer’s Roundtable – Bob Delsing reported rail issues, food aide, and crop insurance were main points of conversations. Delsing stated the Senator Fischer did not have many answers however, believed issues were discussed effectively.

Ex-officio Reports

- UNL – Hector Santiago reported that there are new faculty transitions educating them on key stakeholders and industries relating to ag in Nebraska. Santiago gave background information on new leadership and how they can benefit the NWB. There are other faculty openings that were discussed and the status of recruitment for those positions. UNL president Ted Carter has taken a position at Ohio State University and recruitment for this position will begin. CASNR has reported to have the second largest incoming class since 2019. Santiago informed the board about Mesonet and participation within the group. The variety development and release committee recently met. Katherine Frels’s variety was approved for release and a name will be determined later. Santiago has been working with NU Horizon Genetics to finalize ongoing license agreements.

Katherine Frels reported on crop conditions for variety/breeding trials this year. Frels informed the board on different practices to avoid scab in their wheat crop in the future. Frels discussed that there are no varieties that are resistant to the disease however there are some that are moderately resistant and proper fungicide application can give producers more control. As of now, Frels is not recommending that producers change their practices however, it will need to be watched and if scab becomes more frequent then they will have to change their recommendations. As for the breeding program, there was no barley data and seed collected due to drought and winter kill. The triticale plots had severely reduced yields due to drought. Amanda Easterly reported on events happening in the panhandle and how varieties have been doing in that region.

- NDA – No representative from NDA were present.

NU Horizon Genetics Report

Jeff Noel reported on the outstanding licensing agreements and the progress of them. Noel discussed variety trials that he is currently coordinating.

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association Report

Jeff Ruggles gave a report to the board on recent events within the NWGA. Ruggles attended Commodity Classic in March and received notes from the NAWG meeting in June. Main topics at the meetings are relating to the Farm Bill and priorities related to it. Jadyn Heckenlively gave an update on current events and membership as well as putting together a newsletter for NWGA and NWB.

Executive Director Report

Schaneman gave a report to the board on recent events happening in the office. He reported that the Taiwan and Philippine trade teams were successful. Schaneman reported on the Latin American Buyers Conference. There were roughly 80 buyers present at the conference. Schaneman presented at the South American Buyers Video Conference. Many of the information presented was similar to the Latin American Buyers Conference. Schaneman discussed the goals of Mesonet and the support they are asking

for. They are wanting a board member to sit on their steering committee. Schaneman will be attending the upcoming meeting and report back to the board on further information on the group and their intentions. Frels explained to the board what the Wheat Genetics Resource Center is and their request for funding. Frels explained the benefits of the group and what it will do to improve her abilities to do research.

Knobel moved to waive the two readings and take \$50,000 from unobligated to research for Wheat Genetics Resource Center funding. Sayer seconded. Roll call vote:

Delsing – yes, Sayer – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Spurgin – yes, Knobel – yes, Najres – yes, Lorens – yes.
Motion carried.

Calendar & Travel Approval

Tentative next meeting date: November 27th in Lincoln

NWB Calendar & Travel Items

January 2024

- **January 1st** – **New Year's Day Observed, Offices Closed**
- **January 8-10** – Nebraska Crop Improvement Association, Lincoln
- **January 10-12** – Wheat Export & Marketing Workshop, Portland, OR – Mary & Jared
- **January 16th** – **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Offices Closed**
- **January 27** – USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council Meeting Teleconference – Royce
- **January 22-26** – USW Winter Meeting; Hill Visits & Reception, Washington D.C. – Board & Staff

February 2024

- **February 19th** – **President's Day, Offices Closed**
- **February 22-24** – Wheat Quality Council Annual Meeting, Olathe, KS – Royce
- **February ??** - Secretary of State Trade Mission Israel and Jordan
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March 2023

- **March 15-16** - Transportation Go Conference, Omaha, NE – Royce
- **March 17** – NE Ag Leadership Council Annual Meeting & LEAD Banquet
- **March 22** - Omaha Bryan Urban Ag Academy – Jadyne & Taylore
- **March 22-23** – WMC Board of Directors Meeting, Portland, OR
- **March 29-31** – Nebraska FFA State Convention, Lincoln, NE – Jadyne & Taylore

April 2023

- **April 8-10** – Yuma Seed Plots, Yuma, Arizona
- **April 17** – Agronomy and Horticulture Banquet, Lincoln, NE - Royce
- **April 18** – USDA Data Users' Meeting, Omaha, NE - Royce
- **April 19** – Meeting with PGI, Manhattan, KS - Royce
- **April 20** – Nebraska Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Annual Meeting, Lincoln, NE – Jadyne
- **April 28th** – **Arbor Day, Offices Closed**

May 2023

- **May 9-11**- USW South and Southeast Asia Wheat Marketing Conference, Phuket, Thailand
- **May 11** - NAPDC Conference, Lincoln, NE – Royce
- **May 15-17** – WQC - HRW Wheat Tour, KS - Royce
- **May 29th** – **Memorial Day, Offices Closed**

June 2023

- **June 5** – Nebraska Wheat Growers Association Meeting, North Platte – Board & Staff
Nebraska Dry Pea and Lentil Commission Meeting, North Platte - Staff
- **June 6**- NWB Meeting, North Platte, NE – Staff & Board Members
China Contracting for Wheat Value Workshop Webinar – Royce
- **June 8** – Gage, Jefferson, & Saline Counties Wheat Management Field Day, Diller, NE – Royce
- **June 12** - Wheat Tour- **4 PM**: V&F Farms, Deuel County, NE
Variety Development and Release Committee Meeting, North Platte - Tyson
- **June 13** - Wheat Tour– **10 AM**: UNL Stumpf Farm, Perkins County, NE (Morning)
5 PM - Peters Seed Farms, Red Willow County, NE (Afternoon)
- **June 14** – Wheat Tour – **9 AM**: UNL HPAL, Cheyenne County, NE (Morning)
3 PM - Cullan Farm Seed, Box Butte County, NE (Afternoon)
- **June 13-15** – WFC Summer Meeting, Denver, CO – Kent
- **June 13-14** – International Grain Conference, London, UK
- **June 15** – Wheat Tour – **10 AM**: Jim Wyatt Farm, Banner County, NE (Morning)
- **June 15-18** – US Wheat Taiwan Trade Team, Eastern, NE – Board & Staff
- **June 19** – Farm Bill Listening Session w/ NE Congressional Delegation – Mark & Royce
- **June 19th** – **Juneteenth, Offices Closed**
- **June 22-25** – US Wheat Philippine Trade Team, Eastern, NE – Board & Staff

July 2023

- **July 4th** – **Independence Day, Offices Closed**
- **July 10-13** – US Wheat Summer Meeting, Minneapolis, MN – Royce
- **July 10-14** – NAYI, East Campus, Lincoln, NE - Taylore & Jadyne
- **July 25-26** – Nebraska Ag Forum, Washington DC - Mark

August 2023

- **August 2-4** – Latin American Buyers Conference, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – Royce
- **August 8-9** - NE Ag and Economic Development Reception w/ Pillen, Kearney, NE – Kent & Jadyne
- **August 8** – Kriesel Seed Days
- **August 9** – Cullan Seed Days
- **August 24** – Wheat and Alfalfa Expo, Crete – Taylore, Jadyne & Royce
– Water and Crops Field Day- WCREC, North Platte, NE
- **August 25** – Joint Ambassador Tour w/ Corn and Soybean – Jadyne & Grace
- **August 27-29** – North Asia Marketing Conference, Bali, Indonesia
- **August 28** – NDPLC Meeting, Video Conference – Taylore, Jadyne & Royce
- **August 31** – NWB Meeting, Ogallala, NE – Board & Staff
– NWGA Meeting, Ogallala, NE – Board & Staff

September 2023

- **September 4th – Labor Day, Offices Closed**
- **September 11-14 – Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island, NE - Staff**
- **September 5-13 – NDA Led Trade Mission to South Korea and Japan**

October 2023

- **October 9th – Columbus Day, Offices Closed**
- **October 22-24 – HBA Annual Membership Meeting**
- **October 25-26 – WMC Fall Board Meeting, Portland, OR - Mary**

November 2023

- **November 3 – Nebraska LEAD Program “Commodities Panel” -**
- **November 1-10 – USW Sub Saharan Africa CQ Seminar, Lagos, Nairobi, Cape Town - Royce**
- **November 6-10 - USW Fall Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio – Board & Staff**
- **November 6 - 7 – Pest Challenges Symposium, MD**
- **November 10th – Veterans Day Observed, Offices Closed**
- **TBD – Korea 50th Anniversary Event, Seoul, Korea**
- **TBD- ALIM, Buenos Aires, Argentina**
- **November 23- 24th – Thanksgiving, Offices Closed**

December 2023

- **December 25th – Christmas Day, Offices Closed**

Spurgin moved to approve, Eisenzimmer seconded; voice vote motion carried

Adjournment

Knobel moved to adjourn at 3:25 MST, Eisenzimmer seconded. Voice vote motion carried.