

Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting
West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte, NE
Tuesday, June 6, 2023
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Board Members Present

Mark Knobel – Chairman; District 6

Bob Delsing – District 1

Tyson Narjes – District 2

Kent Lorens – Vice Chairman; District 4

Jared Sayer – District 5

Mary Eisenzimmer – District 3

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman – Executive Director

Jadyn Heckenlively – Marketing Specialist

Others Present

Katherine Frels – UNL

Hector Santiago – UNL

Martha Mamo – UNL

Rodney Wallace – Coalition for Grain Fiber

Alyssa Troyer - NDA

Others Present via Zoom

Kevin Shearman – NDA

Nicholas von Rentzell – NDA

Dalton Henry – US Wheat Associates

Proceedings

Chairman Mark Knobel called the meeting to order at 8:32 am

Roll Call

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

Eastern region of the state is still struggling from drought. The wheat that is left after abandonment in the eastern region of the state is reported to be poor to very poor. The southern panhandle is in quite opposite conditions having quite a bit of moisture which is improving drought conditions. The wheat is behind according to a normal year but is continuing to grow. Producers are expecting a late harvest. The southwest region of the state has received moisture as well and has had improved wheat crop condition. Expecting potentially 50-60 bu/ac crop. The southcentral portion of the state reported that roughly 40% of the wheat in the region was destroyed due to winter kill and drought conditions. The crop overall is very thin and expecting 40 bu/ac at best. The northern panhandle has not received as much moisture as other regions in the state. The wheat conditions are variable in the area. Many acres have been abandoned for other crops while others have potential for a quality yield.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Delsing moved to approve the agenda as presented; Sayer seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes

Lorens moved to approve the minutes as presented; Eisenzimmer seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Review of Financial Reports

According to the financials, the board was over budget for International Travel and Home Baking Association. Discussion commenced.

Delsing moved to take from unobligated funds to increase the international travel budget to \$30,000, and increase the Home Baking Association to \$4,000; Sayer seconded. Roll call vote Narjes – yes, Delsing – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Knobel – yes, Sayer – yes, Lorens – yes. Motion carried.

There was confusion with the National Association of Wheat Growers on changes of dues for FY 2022-2023. An amendment was not received from NAWG when the dues changes were approved which resulted in confusion with billing this past fiscal year. Discussion commenced.

Narjes moved to fulfil the obligation of the previous dues contract for FY 22-23 in the amount of \$36,000 as well as fulfill the contract for FY 23-24 in the amount of \$40,000; Sayer seconded. Roll call vote: Delsing – yes, Sayer – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Lorens – yes, Narjes – yes, Knobel – yes. Motion carried.

NU Horizon Genetics has submitted an updated proposal for additional funding to cover recent legal costs. Discussion commenced.

Lorens moved to take \$5,000 from unobligated funds to add to the NU Horizon Genetics budget; Narjes seconded. Roll call vote: Eisenzimmer – yes, Narjes – yes, Knobel – yes, Sayer – yes, Lorens – yes, Delsing – yes. **Motion carried.**

Delsing moved to approve the financial report; Eisenzimmer seconded. Roll call vote: Sayer – yes, Lorens – yes, Knobel – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Delsing – yes, Narjes – yes. **Motion carried.**

Excise Tax Compliance Reports

Kevin Shearman with NDA gave an update to the board of his attempts to contact personnel at Ardent Mills at the Minneapolis, MN location. He asked Royce Schaneman and the board how they would like for him to proceed. It was decided that Schaneman would reach out to his contacts at Ardent Mills in Denver, CO to see if he can get a response. The boards consensus recommendation, to direct executive director Royce Schaneman to visit with Ashley Dempsey at the Department of Agriculture regarding audits, if one branch location of a first purchaser has a discrepancy then an automatic trigger should be in place to audit all other locations of that company.

Domestic & International Marketing

- US Wheat Associates – Knobel and Lorens reported that there has not been much information from US Wheat Associates recently. Normally email correspondence has been active, but no recent meetings have been held.
- Food Aid – Lorens reported updates on Food Aid. They are currently planning an upcoming meeting to discuss the upcoming Farm Bill.
- Wheat Marketing Center – Eisenzimmer plans to attend the WMC upcoming meeting in October once dates are verified. WMC will be hosting many international groups and are continuing their research with wheat products and recipes.
- Wheat Foods Council – Lorens reported that he will be attending their upcoming meeting next week in Denver, CO.
- Plains Grains Inc. – Schaneman reported that he is officially be appointed the Executive Director for Plains Grains as a one-year trial. Schaneman has been coordinating a new address, phone, and bank account for Plains Grains. As of now, Plains Grains is going through the transition of moving to Lincoln. Samples have not been to the lab yet, however, samples are expected to come in the next week or two.
- Wheat Quality Council – Schaneman recently attended the Wheat Quality Council Hard Red Winter Wheat Tour in Kansas. He reported the crop was not as bad as he had expected. He encouraged board members to consider attending the tour in the future.
- Home Baking Association – Lorens reported that HBA is having an event this week in Kearney, NE for high school Family Consumer Science teachings which the NWB has sponsored and provided resources for.

- Coalition for Grain Fiber – Narjes left report to Rodney Wallace who is present at the meeting. Wallace presented to the board on the goals/operations of the Coalition for Grain Fiber.

USW Special Reports

Dalton Henry with US Wheat Associates gave the board an update on Bio Series genetically modified wheat that has been developed in South America. He described the potential consumer attitudes as well as the sustainability related topics surrounding this wheat. Henry stated that the wheat has been approved in the U.S. for food and feed use. Discussion commenced surrounding GM wheat attitudes and US Wheat's policies and resources about the topic. Henry also provided updates regarding European wheat imports. Most of the reported wheat has been imported from Poland with others coming from Germany and France. It is primarily spring wheats. Price is one of the main factors that is driving European wheat imports.

Ex-officio Reports

Hector Santiago gave an update on administration changes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the actions of the search committee. Santiago also gave updates on the University budget restraints relating to IANR and how that will affect their work. Santiago also informed the board of the chance that the UNL Wheat Quality Lab may have the potential to move to a different location on Innovation Campus. The Variety Development release committee are having a meeting soon in North Platte. The board discussed with Santiago the status of research contracts and language discussion. Martha Mamo gave an update on positions being filled within IANR.

NDA Report

Alyssa Troyer with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture gave a report to the board. Troyer is a new employee with NDA and informed the board on her background and duties in her new position.

Nebraska Wheat Board Administrative/Office Report

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director, gave an office report to the board. He updated board members on day-to-day activities since the last board meeting. He also gave updates on ongoing contracts with partners of the NWB. Schaneman informed the board on Mesonet requesting a NWB member on their advisory council. Schaneman updated the group on the status of the NWB at large board seat opening.

First Reading Funding Proposals

Delsing moved to suspend the second reading for two of the first reading proposals

Lorens seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried.

FY 23-24 Budget Discussion

Board members consulted with Kevin Shearman with NDA on double checking values to ensure they will be in the clear with the created budget. With variable wheat conditions and unpredictable prices, board members remained mindful of the potential of a low yielding crop. Discussion commenced regarding second reading proposals and the budget.

NU Horizon Genetics

Jeff Noel gave a report on the relationship of Nu Horizon Genetics and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Nu Horizon Genetics will be attending the upcoming wheat tours and will be marketing the varieties at the tours. Noel urged the board to think about gathering feedback regarding triticale as livestock feed from producers in Nebraska.

Eisenzimmer moved to executive session Lorens seconded. Roll call vote: Narjes – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Sayer – yes, Knobel – yes, Lorens – yes, Delsing – yes. **Motion carried.**

Eisenzimmer moved to end executive session at 4:44 pm; Sayer seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Lorens moved to approve a 5% plus 2% performance increase for executive director salary, a 5% salary increase for both Jadyne Heckenlively and Taylore Cruise, and a 4% benefits increase for all staff. Eisenzimmer seconded. Roll call vote: Knobel – yes, Narjes – yes, Sayer – yes, Lorens – yes, Delsing – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes. **Motion carried.**

Eisenzimmer moved to approve the budget Sayer seconded. Roll call vote: Eisenzimmer – yes, Narjes – yes, Lorens – yes, Knobel – yes, Sayer – yes, Delsing – yes. **Motion carried.**

Lorens moved to transfer \$3,500 from unobligated funds to office equipment; Sayer seconded. Roll call vote: Knobel – yes, Delsing – yes, Narjes – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Lorens – yes, Sayer – yes. **Motion carried.**

Calendar & Travel Approval

Knobel plans to attend the Nebraska Ag Forum in Washington D.C.

August 31st in Ogallala tentative next meeting date

Eisenzimmer moved to accept the calendar and travel, Delsing seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Sayer moved to adjourn at 5:18 pm CT; Lorens seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.