

**Nebraska Wheat Board February Meeting
Stumpf International Wheat Center – Grant, NE
Tuesday, February 25, 2025
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM MT**

Board Members Present

Kent Lorens; Chairman
Tyson Narjes; Vice Chairman
Mary Eisenzimmer
Doug Hashman
Monte Murkle
Mark Spurgin
Jared Sayer

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman - Executive Director
Samantha Oborny - Ag Promotions Coordinator
Jadyn Heckenlively - Marketing Specialist

Others Present

Hector Santiago – UNL
Kelly Bruns – UNL
Amanda Easterly – UNL
Cody Creech – UNL
Pin-Chu Lai – UNL
Bijesh Maharjan – UNL
Brad Ramsdale – NCTA
Marvin Stumpf – Producer

Proceedings

Chairman Kent Lorens called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM MT.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and crop reports were given. Guests were introduced and welcomed. Wheat conditions were reported to be variable across the state. Board members in the southern panhandle reported poor stand with many bare spots, however, are hoping with timely spring rains and snow melt can improve acres. The southeast region was able to receive moisture as the wheat was going into dormancy which has benefited the wheat acres in the area. South central also received timely rains in the late planted wheat and it is reported to be in great condition.

Approval of Agenda

Hashman moved to approve the agenda as presented, Eisenzimmer seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Spurgin moved to approve the minutes as presented, Narjes seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Approval of Financial Reports

Murkle moved to approve the financial reports as presented, Hashman seconded. Roll call vote:

Eisenzimmer – yes, Hashman – yes, Murkle – yes, Sayer – yes, Spurgin – yes, Narjes – yes, Lorens – yes. **Motion carried.**

Domestic & International Marketing

US Wheat Associations Winter Meeting – Chairman Lorens gave the board a recap of the USW Winter Meeting held in Washington D.C. in January. There were four board members who attended along with three staff. Spurgin, Hashman, and Murkle also gave their thoughts and takeaways from the meeting and conversations on Capitol Hill.

Food Aid – Chairman Lorens updated the most recent conversations regarding Food Aid. Royce Schaneman reported that Congressman Bacon’s office reached out asking our opinion regarding upcoming discussions that relate to Food Aid.

Wheat Marketing Center – Mary Eisenzimmer reported on the WMC Wheat Marketing and Export Seminar she attended. Samantha Oborny and Monte Murkle also attended the meeting. Eisenzimmer is planning to attend the WMC board meeting at the end of March.

Wheat Foods Council – Chairman Lorens recently attended the WFC Annual Meeting in Yuma, AZ. He reported discussions from the meeting and was able to tour their plots while at the meeting.

Plains Grains, Inc. – Royce Schaneman updated the board on the most recent meeting that PGI held back in early December in Denver, CO. He reported on the new software that PGI will be utilizing with their labs that conduct testing. This software will allow results to be more consistent and efficient for staff to utilize moving forward. Schaneman also informed the board of the updates to the PGI dashboard and how it can be utilized by customers and wheat industry professionals.

Wheat Quality Council – Royce Schaneman recently attended the WQC annual meeting held in Kansas City, MO. Due to weather, the meeting had a smaller crowd and many only attended one of the two days. However, the meeting was successful with valuable updates from states and other industry leaders.

Home Baking Association – Chairman Lorens updated the board on recent events regarding HBA. They are planning an event at UNK for FCS teachers. NWB will work with Brenda Aufdenkamp, NE Extension, to present a wheat foods presentation to attendants.

Coalition for Grain Fiber – Tyson Narjes reported that the Coalition for Grain Fiber recently had a meeting in Kansas, however, was not able to attend and has not heard an update yet.

Ex-officio Reports

UNL – Hector Santiago reported that Vice Chancellor Boehm is stepping down from his position this May. Tiffany Hang-Moss will take over as the interim Vice Chancellor position. Santiago reported that there have been issues regarding funding deficits within the university which is inhibiting the progression of research within IANR. Santiago also reported on a number of other research projects conducted at UNL as well as other land grant institutions, that may lose funding due to executive orders with the new administration as well as other factors. Santiago reported that sales through Husker Genetics looked good this year and he is happy with where they are at as of now. He reported that they plan to have a website update that will include detailed producer information on each variety and promotional material.

NDA – No reports given.

Research Updates

Current Wheat Variety Trials – Dr. Cody Creech & Amanda Easterly reported.

Saw Fly Update – Dr. Pin-Chu Lai reported.

Wheat Fertility Trials – Dr. Bijesh Maharjan reported.

NCTA Student Project – Dr. Brad Ramsdale reported.

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association Report

Jadyn Heckenlively reported on the NWGA Annual Meeting held in December. Highlights from the meeting included NWGA discussing the possibility of providing administrative services for the Nebraska Dry Pea and Lentil Commission, as well as the possibility of Royce Schaneman acting as Executive Director for NWGA and pursuing the necessary steps for that. The NWGA also elected a new board of directors and worked through the resolutions for the 2024 year. Heckenlively also reported that NWGA membership dues have been sent out and are being received in the office. There have been a few new NWGA members and hope to continue to grow membership.

Murkle moved to approve the decision for Royce Schaneman to move forward with becoming the executive director for NWGA, Eisenzimmer seconded. Voice vote, motion carried. Spurgin abstained, Hashman opposed.

Nebraska Wheat Board Administrative Office Report

Executive Director Royce Schaneman reported to the NWB on current events happening in the office and upcoming items for the board to note.

First Reading Funding Proposals

Narjes moved to progress all funding proposals to second readings except:

- *Wheat Marketing Center Website Redevelopment Proposal* in the amount of \$4,000

- *Building Awareness for the History and Public Health Benefits of Enriched and Fortified Refined Grains* submitted by Grain Foods Research Institute in the amount of \$5,000
- *CASNR Educational Pathways with Omaha Public Schools Students* submitted by IANR/CASNR in the amount of \$2,000
- WMC website redevelopment, public health benefits of grains, and CASNR learning pathways, Spurgin seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Calendar & Travel Approval

McFaddon Symposium in Lincoln. Add to calendar. March 3rd.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 3rd at WCREC in North Platte.

August Meeting: Sometime the week of August 18th (Shoot for August 21st)

Sayer moved to accept the calendar as amended, Spurgin seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Adjournment

Hashman moved to adjourn at 3:42 PM MT, Narjes seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.