

Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting
Knight Museum- Alliance, NE
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM MT

Board Members Present

Tyson Narjes
Mary Eisenzimmer
Doug Hashman
Kent Lorens
Amy Warner
Monte Murkle
Mark Spurgin

Staff Present

Jadyn Jenkins
Samantha Oborny
Royce Schaneman (via Zoom)

Others Present

Dr. Jeffrey Bradshaw – UNL (via Zoom)
Anthony Edwards – NDA (via Zoom)
Steve Tippery – Realm 5 (via Zoom)
Sam Kieffer – NAWG (via Zoom)

Proceedings

Chairman Tyson Narjes called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Roll Call & Introductions

Roll call was taken and crop reports were given. Planting has concluded across most of the state. Guests were introduced and welcomed via zoom and in person.

Review & Adopt Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Lorens moved to accept the minutes as presented, Spurgin seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Approval of Financials

Lorens moved to take \$7,500 from unobligated to complete the payment for Dr. Katherine Frel's "State Variety Testing of University of Nebraska and USDA-Bred Winter Wheat, Triticale, and Barley in-pipeline for release experimental lines and released varieties" FY 24-25 project, Warner seconded.

Roll call vote: Lorens – yes, Warner – yes, Hashman – yes, Murkle – yes, Spurgin – no, Eisenzimmer – yes, Narjes – yes. **Motion carried.**

Lorens moved to accept as presented, Spurgin seconded. Roll call vote:

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

The State of Nebraska Human Resources Department has requested that the NWB begins to pay them \$2,500 annually for administrative services.

Murkle moved to leave the budgeted amount as it stands until the next budget process, Hashman seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Domestic & International Marketing

US Wheat Associates – Lorens, Spurgin, Murkle, Eisenzimmer, along with staff attended the recent USW Fall Meeting held in Austin, TX. Attendees highlighted the main takeaways from the meeting.

Food Aid – Kent Lorens reported that there are not many recent updates related to Food Aid.

Wheat Marketing Center – Mary Eisenzimmer recently attended the WMC October meeting. They have received some new equipment for quality testing. An attorney attended the meeting to discuss the office building for WMC and to increase tenants in their building to increase revenue. There will be future board meetings to discuss and reevaluate how WMC is funded and creating a set dues structure to reflect each state's relevancy through WMC.

Wheat Foods Council – Kent Lorens reported that WFC have been searching for an executive director for the group. They have received two proposals and will be reviewing those soon to see if they will be a fit for the group.

Plains Grains Inc. – Royce Schaneman reported that PGI will have a meeting in Denver on December 11th. The PGI 2025 HRW Regional Report is out and can be found on the PGI website.

Wheat Quality Council – Schaneman reported that Dave Green with WQC will be stepping down due to health issues in the family. With this change, Schaneman proposed an idea to discuss the possibility of combining PGI and WQC and the opportunities that could come with that.

Home Baking Association – Kent Lorens reported that HBA recently held their annual meeting which he was not able to attend in person, but attended portions via zoom.

Coalition for Grain Fiber – Tyson Narjes reported that the group has been actively going around to groups to get their name and vision out there. He reported on recent events and programs they have been involved in to spread the word about wheat fiber. The breeding program has received a \$300,000 donation to the breeding program to continue this effort in increasing wheat fiber. The coalition will be doing a wheat grower survey on how they view the increased fibers in varieties and the questions with that.

Bayer Leadership Program – Monte Murkle and Mary Eisenzimmer attended the first half of the Bayer Leadership Program during the USW Fall Meeting. They reported that the program so far has been very beneficial and informative and encourage other members to go through the program if they haven't already. Murkle presented to the board a template they provided to help the board organize their discussion while visiting congressional

representatives to get our views across quickly and clearly. Eisenzimmer reported on some of the key takeaways on what congressional representatives want to hear from producers and information we can give them to influence positive decisions.

Ex-officio Reports

UNL – Dr. Jeffrey Bradshaw reported recent events at UNL and his recent involvement within the entomology program. Dr. Katherine Frels and Dr. Amanda Easterly also provided reports through email that were shared with NWB members.

NDA – Anthony Edwards reported that he is completing audits on behalf of the NWB and they are going well so far. He has submitted these reports to Royce.

Headshots and Group Photos

NWB members and staff got new headshots and group photos taken.

Realm 5 Presentation

Realm 5 CEO, Steve Tippery, and staff presented to the NWB on their goals as a company and new items they are working on towards wheat grading. They also discussed current technology they have and how they hope they can expand in the future.

NAWG Update

New NAWG CEO, Sam Kieffer, introduced himself to the NWB via Zoom. He gave the board an insight on his background as well as his goals for his new position with NAWG.

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association Report

Jadyn Jenkins reported that the NWGA will be holding their annual meeting December 17th in North Platte, NE. She encouraged board members to attend or to reach out to members in their district to attend the meeting. She also told them that applicants are still be received for the NWGA scholarship. The National Yield Contest selected their winners and there was one individual from Nebraska selected.

NWB Office Report

Jadyn Jenkins and Samantha Oborny reported to the board recent events that have been happening in the office. It was requested that the board give recommendations for producers in their area to fill the last few open spots for the WMC Portland Tour. Jenkins and Oborny also updated the board on the current NWB school year intern and the application process for the 2026 summer internship.

Spurgin moved to allocate funds from unobligated to fund our school year intern, Abby Hirschman, to attend the USW/NAWG Winter Meeting in Washington D.C. January 26-29, 2026. Eisenzimmer seconded. Roll call vote: Hashman – yes, Murkle – yes, Spurgin – yes, Eisenzimmer – yes, Lorens – yes, Warner – yes, Narjes – yes. **Motion carried.**

Statute and Policy Handbook Discussion

Board members went through and discussed each highlighted portion of the NWB statute. They reviewed these items to ensure they were still relevant and accurate, and made changes as needed.

Calendar & Travel Approval

The board requested an online poll to be sent to select the next meeting date for late February or early March.

Lorens moved to approve the calendar and & travel as presented, Murkle seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Executive session

Spurgin moved to enter into executive session at 3:27 PM for employee discussion, Hashman seconded.

Executive session ended at 3:33 PM with no action taken.

Adjournment

Lorens moved to adjourn at 3:34 PM, Spurgin seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.