

**Montana Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes
November 13 and 14, 2013
Helena, Montana**

Members in attendance:

Ron de Yong, Director of Agriculture, Helena
David Tyler, Chair, Belgrade
Verges Aageson, Gildford
Bill Koenig, Kalispell
Amy Kellogg, Kalispell

Members absent:

Meg O'Leary, Director of Commerce, Helena
Patricia Quisno, Harlem

Staff in attendance:

Joel Clairmont, Deputy Director,
Montana Department of Agriculture (November 13th and 14th) (Proxy for Council
Person Patricia Quisno)
Mark Bisom, Bureau Chief, Trade and International Relations Bureau,
Montana Department of Commerce (November 13th and 14th) (Proxy for Director of
Commerce Meg O'Leary)
Cort Jensen, Chief Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Agriculture
Collin Watters, Bureau Chief, Agriculture Marketing and Business Development (AMBD)
Angie Nelson, Program Manager, Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) Program
Lindra Davies, Growth Through Agriculture Program Specialist
Marty Earnheart, Livestock Marketing Specialist (partial attendance)
Nancy Matheson, Special Projects Coordinator (partial attendance)
Chad Lee, Business Development Officer (partial attendance)
Mike Siegersma, Marketing Intern (partial attendance)
Doug Mitchell, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Commerce (partial attendance)
Jason Smith, Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (partial attendance)
Andy Shirliff, Small Business Ombudsman,
Governor's Office of Economic Development (partial attendance)

Montana Department of Agriculture staff were available to the Agriculture Development Council (Council) for information purposes.

David Tyler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Wednesday, November 13, 2013 and adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 13, 2013.

Council reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2013 and adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2013.

Roll Call/Call for Proxies

- *Friday, November 8th, a proxy was received from Megan O’Leary, Director of Montana Department of Commerce granting voting authority to Mark Bisom, Bureau Chief, International Trade and Relations Bureau, Montana Department of Commerce, who was present as Director O’Leary’s representative.*
- *Tuesday, November 12th, a proxy was received by phone from Patricia Quisno granting voting authority to Joel Clairmont who was present as Ms. Quisno’s representative.*

Meeting Prep and Discussion

Angie Nelson, Growth Through Agriculture Program Manager, gave a summary of the budget for funding the current applicant schedule and an overview of the agenda in preparation for the next two days.

Review of July 25, 2013 Council Business Meeting Minutes

Motion: To accept the July 25, 2013 minutes as presented.

By: Ron de Yong

2nd: Joel Clairmont

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Applications Presented and Council Determinations

1. BAUSCH POTATOES, INC, Whitehall, MT, Mark and Denise Bausch
“Potato Sizing Equipment”

Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$40,000 and as a loan in the amount of \$48,388 as proposed in the application, reimbursement effective September 16, 2013.

Loan Terms: One year deferral of interest and repayment; four percent interest with repayment in monthly installments over a period of four years.

Match: Investments made after September 16, 2013, as proposed in the application.

By: Joel Clairmont

2nd: Verges Aageson

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Bill Koenig abstained from voting on this proposal.

2. MONTANA GLUTEN FREE PRAIRIE, LLC, Manhattan, MT, Deb Wheaton
“Gluten Free Prairie Baking and Packing Facility”

Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for processing equipment including the oven, mixer, cookie depositor, horizontal flow wrapper, weight filler depositor, table top belt combination, effective September 16, 2013.

Match: Construction costs completed twelve months prior to the award – investments made after November 15, 2012.

By: Ron de Yong

2nd: Amy Kellogg

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

3. **ARTISAN MEAT AND CHEESE LLC, Bozeman, MT, Gregg and Renee Harris**
“Artisan Charcuterie”
Motion: Not to fund.
Future Consideration: Not eligible to reapply for Growth Through Agriculture funding within twelve months.
By: Mark Bisom
2nd: Verges Aageson
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
4. **CHALET MARKET INC, Belgrade, MT, Gwen Croghan**
“Insourcing Food Manufacturing to Montana”
Motion: Not to fund.
Future Consideration: Eligible to reapply for Growth Through Agriculture funding within twelve months.
By: Bill Koenig
2nd: Mark Bisom
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
5. **MONTANA FISH COMPANY, Bozeman, MT, Steve Kuntz and Travis Byerly**
“Local Food Distribution”
Motion: To fund the project as a grant in the amount of \$26,000 for warehouse equipment including fork lift, power lift jack, pallet jack, dunnage racks and bins, September 16, 2013.
Match: Refrigerated truck purchase after September 16, 2013.
By: Verges Aageson
2nd: Ron de Yong
Action: The motion carried with one dissenting vote.
6. **UNCLE BILL’S SAUSAGES, Missoula, MT, William “Bill” Stoinoff**
“Uncle Bill Sausage Company Launches Wholesale Sausage Products to Montana Markets”
Motion: Not to fund.
Future Consideration: Not eligible to reapply for Growth Through Agriculture funding within twelve months.
By: Joel Clairmont
2nd: Mark Bisom
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
7. **SCOTTISHPRIDECAPRIANS LLC, Charlo, MT, Yvette Rodriquez**
“To Expand Processes for Goat Milking that will Increase Product to meet Demand of Other Producers Who Demand Goat Milk for Cheese Production in the State of Montana”
Motion: Not to fund.
Future Consideration: Not eligible to reapply for Growth Through Agriculture funding within twelve months.
By: Mark Bisom
2nd: Verges Aageson
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

8. **WESTERN MONTANA SPECIALTY FOODS INC, Superior, MT, Mary Ippisch**
“Commercial Food Processing Facility”
Motion: Not to fund.
Future Consideration: Not eligible to reapply for Growth Through Agriculture funding within twelve months.
By: Bill Koenig
2nd: Verges Aageson
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- Mark Bisom was not available for voting on this project**
9. **MOUNTAIN VIEW GARDENS INCORPORATED, Kalispell, MT, Darren Banek**
“Structure Retrofit to Increase Production Capacity”
Motion: To fund the project as a loan in the amount of \$50,000 for structural improvements including steel, bracing and exhaust fans, effective September 16, 2013.
Loan Terms: One year deferral of interest and repayment; four percent interest with repayment in monthly installments over a period of four years.
Match: Equipment purchases as proposed in the application after September 16, 2013.
By: Bill Koenig
2nd: Joel Clairmont
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
10. **GREAT NORTHERN BREWING COMPANY, Whitefish, MT, Marcus Duffy**
“Capital Equipment for 50% Brewing Capacity Expansion”
Motion: Not to fund.
Future Consideration: Eligible to reapply for a Growth Through Agriculture Mini Grant/Loan for marketing, hops-related activities and/or micro-malting.
By: Joel Clairmont
2nd: Verges Aageson
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
11. **WHISTLING ANDY INC, Bigfork, MT, Jennifer Cloutier – presentation by Brian Anderson**
“Montana Micro Distillery Equipment Purchase”
Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$5,440 for equipment including a forklift and grain mill, September 16, 2013.
Match: Equipment purchases after September 16, 2013.
By: Amy Kellogg
2nd: Mark Bisom
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

12. GLOBAL AGRO COMMODITIES LLC, Irving, MT, Divyesh Patel
“Wheat to Pulse Crop Elevator Conversion Phase II”

Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$23,400 for bagging equipment and as a loan in the amount of \$39,900 for bin ladders effective September 16, 2013.

Match: Investments made after September 16, 2013 for equipment purchases, rail spur other improvement costs for the Chester elevator as specified in the application.

Loan Terms: One year deferral of interest and repayment; four percent interest rate with repayment in monthly installments over a period of four years.

By: Bill Koenig

2nd: Ron de Yong

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Verges recused himself from voting on this project.

13. MIGHTY MO BREWING COMPANY INC, Great Falls, MT, Seth Swingley
“Mighty Mo Brewing Co Distribution Plan”

Motion: Not to fund.

Future Consideration: Not eligible to reapply for Growth Through Agriculture funding within twelve months.

By: Bill Koenig

2nd: Verges Aageson

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Other Presentations:

~ **Department of Commerce Update** – Mark Bisom, Bureau Chief, International Trade and Relations Bureau, Department of Commerce

~ **Department of Agriculture Update** – Collin Watters, Bureau Chief, Agriculture Marketing and Business Development, Department of Agriculture

~ **Governor’s Office of Economic Development** – Andy Shirtliff, Small Business Ombudsman

~ **Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs** – Jason Smith, State Director of Indian Affairs

~ **Growth Through Agriculture Program Update** – Angie Nelson, GTA Program Manager

~ **Final Report Presentations**

- Lori Parr, Rocky Mountain Lavender, Missoula, MT
- David Wipf, Miller Colony/Teton Fisheries, LLC, Choteau, MT
- Jacob Wustner, Wustner Brothers Honey, Missoula, MT

Other Business:

~ Election of Agriculture Development Council Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2014.

Motion: To nominate David Tyler as Chair.

By: Verges Aageson

2nd: Amy Kellogg

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Motion: To nominate Bill Koenig as Vice Chair.

By: Verges Aageson

2nd: Amy Kellogg

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

~ Next Council Application Review and Business Teleconference Meeting Dates

The Council set March 19 and 20, 2014 for the next application review meeting date and January 16, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. for the next business teleconference date.

~ Targeted Areas

Motion: To target malting production, efficient and effective irrigation projects that serve multiple agriculture users, businesses interested in transitioning beyond direct sales/farmers markets.

By: Bill Koenig

2nd: Verges Aageson

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

~ Loan Interest Rates

The Council reviewed interest rates and continued with zero and four percent for Fiscal Year 2014.

~ Issues

- Miller Colony/Teton Fisheries, LLC – 1150390 – Request to Forgive Accrued Interest

Motion: To forgive accrued interest on their loan through repayment due date November 26, 2013.

By: Bill Koenig

2nd: Verges Aageson

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

- Montana World Trade Center – 1050356 – Approval of Final Report

Motion: To accept the final report as meeting and completing contractual obligations.

By: Ron de Yong

2nd: Verges Aageson

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

- Field Day Farms Grant and Loan – 1050313 (Grant) and 1050314 (Loan) – Approval of Final Report

Motion: To accept the final report as meeting and completing contractual obligations.

By: Verges Aageson

2nd: Joel Clairmont

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Chair David Tyler recused himself from discussion and determination on this issue and asked Bill Koenig as Vice Chair to take charge of the meeting during the handling of this issue.

Public Comments

Chair, David Tyler, called for public comments Wednesday, November 13, 2013. No public comments were presented.

Chair, David Tyler, called for public comments Thursday, November 14, 2013. No public comments were presented.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lindra Davies, Growth Through Agriculture Program Specialist
Montana Department of Agriculture