

**Montana Agriculture Development Council Minutes
Business Conference Call
Originated from Department of Agriculture
Helena, Montana
May 28, 2014**

Members attending in person:

No members attended in person.

Members attending by phone:

David Tyler, Chair, Belgrade

Patricia Quisno, Harlem

Amy Kellogg, Kalispell

Members absent:

Ron de Yong, Director of Agriculture, Helena

Meg O'Leary, Director of Commerce, Helena

Bill Koenig, Kalispell

Verges Aageson, Gildford

Staff attending in person:

Kim Falcon, Bureau Chief, Agricultural Development and Marketing Bureau

Angie Nelson, Program Manager, Growth Through Agriculture

Lindra Davies, Program Specialist, Growth Through Agriculture

Staff attending by phone:

Libbi Lovshin, Administrator, Central Services Division, Montana Department of Agriculture
(proxy for Director of Agriculture Ron de Yong)

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 7:06 a.m., May 28, 2014.

Roll Call/Call for Proxies

- ***Libbi Lovshin, Administrator, Central Services Division, was present by phone as Director de Yong's representative.***

Business Items

Growth Through Agriculture 59GTA – “Shared” account cut for SFY2015

Libbi Lovshin, Administrator, Central Services Division, for the Department of Agriculture notified the Council of the following:

- The Department was recently notified by the Governor’ budget office that a revenue shortfall was recognized in the state special revenue account shared between the 3 agencies: Department of Natural Resources, the State Library and the Department of Agriculture’s Growth Through Agriculture Program.
- The revenue shortfall occurred due to a decrease in coal severance taxes collected.
- The Governor’s budget office met with the 3 affected agencies and discussed a solution for the shortfall involving each agency sustaining proportional cuts to State Fiscal Year 2015 budgets in order to address the funding shortfall.
- The resulting cut to the 59GTA “Shared” account is approximately 15% of the shared account budget, which is approximately \$64,000.
- The Department prefers to maintain the funding for grants and loan funding.

Motion: To amend the budget by reducing the Department of Agriculture’s Domestic Marketing Officer’s budget by \$64,000 and maintain GTA grant and loan funding.

By: Amy Kellogg

2nd: Patricia Quisno

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Next Council Business Meeting

The Council will hold the next business meeting and site visits on August 5 and 6, 2014 in the Bozeman, Montana area.

Public Comment Period

David Tyler, Chair, called for public comments. No public comments were presented.

Adjourn

Hearing no public comment, David Tyler, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:35 a.m., May 28, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lindy Davies, Growth Through Agriculture Program Specialist