

Montana Potato Advisory Committee
Tuesday November 7, 2023
Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula MT

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Paul Streich at 11:10 am.

The chair called for public comment, no public comment at this time.

Roll Call- Those in attendance were:

Chair Paul Streich, Vice Chair Tim Venhuizen, Tim Lake, Jonathan Schutter, Laci Holbrook, and Mike Clarke. Committee members Bill Buyan was absent.

Members of the public included Jolene Brush, Steve Cottom, Dan Lake, Jan Lake, and Nina Zidack with MSU, Brett Resibach with MSU, Paul Nugent with MSU, Will Brunz and Kim Gilmore.

Department of Agriculture attendance included Larry Krum, Ed Evanson, Andy Fjeseth, and Dani Jones

Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2023

- Jonathan Schutter made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 18, 2023, meeting. Tim Lake 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

- Andy Fjeseth presented the FY 2023-2024 Budget. Laci Holbrook asked about the awards that have not been spent. The funds have not been requested through the grant program. All funds are on a reimbursement basis, Dani will check in with the recipients. For the 2024 awards the committee has \$80,000 to award out. Tim Lake made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Tim Venhuizen 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- The committee reviewed the current assessment – 2.5 cents per hundred weights. Nina Zidack included that as interest increases in research, the committee might want to think about increasing the assessment. Tim Venhuizen made a motion to leave the assessment at 2.5 cents per hundred weights. Jonathan Schutter 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
- 2024-2025 Advertising budget was presented by Tim Lake. Which included magazine and trade shows, the amount is a little higher than the previous year. Carli Hughbanks submitted a budget for advertisement updates and time. Dani Jones will reach out to Carli for a W9 for the accounting department to send payment to Carli. Tim Venhuizen made the motion to approve the advertising budget as presented, as well as hiring Carli for advertising updates. Tim Lake 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2023 Research Presentation Updates

- MT K9's, Will Brunz updated the committee on the work that has been done since the award. Will introduced Kim Gilmore who has been working with Will on the project. Will shared with the committee that the dog outcome increased the longer the plant had been inoculated. Will would like to have producers send in boxes of leaves to test the dogs on. The dogs run the leaves and then Will sends to MSU for the final test. There are currently 7 handlers and 13 dogs. The only costs that the producers would have would be sending the leaf samples to Will Brunz. The dogs have not been worked in the field because there is too much stimulation. Kim Gilmore

added that running the dogs on leaves doesn't rearrange a producer's schedule and stays out of their way. Laci Holbrook asked what the false positive rate was. Will shared that it is currently 2.8% to 3.2%

- Paul Nugent shared a power point with the committee on the work that has been done. Paul faced some challenges with equipment and hardware. One GPS was for the flight on the drones and one GPS for the camera. The drones would fly in map lines, does not fly in loops. From the hand aligned data, one of the three flights is 92% recoverable. Paul identified the next steps for the project which includes identifying the plants in the images, use the Eliza data to identify multi plant blocks of (diseased plants and/or healthy plants), train network to detect, and analysis in limited scope. Paul shared with the committee that he is planning to request funding for his own equipment- drone and camera. Possibly looking at specialty crop block grant for equipment funding.
- Nina Zidack shared with the committee that the RO System has been completed and is working great. The lab has been improving detection of PVY in dormant tubers. The lab is performing more nucleic acid extractions.

New Business

- Review Grant Applications-
 - Nina Zidack requested \$25,256.99 for "Increasing capacity for nucleic acid extraction for PCR detection of potato pathogens".
 - Johnathan Schutter made the motion to fully fund the RFP as presented. Tim Lake 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Paul Nugent requested \$20,807.00 for "Optical sensor for geospatial potato yield".
 - Tim Venhuizen made the motion to fully fund the RFP as presented. Jonathan Schutter 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Tyson Dupuis requested \$29,944.00 for "Drone precision agriculture for sustainable crop management".
 - Jonathan Schutter made the motion to fund the RFP at \$15,000.00. Tim Venhuizen 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Will Brunz, MT K9's requested \$39,500.00 for "Montana Ag K9's, Canine detection of Potato Virus Y".
 - Jonathan Schutter made the motion to fund the RFP at \$20,000.00. Tim Lake 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
- Larry Krum shared with the committee that the program is in good shape and that the fees are going to stay the same, no increase needed at this time. Larry shared that the season staff issued 85% of the certificates and that full time staff issued 15% of the certificates. Larry Krum shared that in the 24 years that he has been with the program, this was the first time that he was there for shipping fresh product to Canada. There was an average of 4 to 9 trucks each day for 11 days. The program is looking in a tablet/new system for all season inspectors to sue. The certificates would all be mailed. There would be a cost savings down the road, working to get everything in the database for possible use on the 2025 season.

- The committee discussed leadership institute. The committee agreed upon funding the new candidate at \$5000 and the returning candidates at \$3000 to help cover costs. The committee nominated Kurt Dykema as the new candidate and Ben DeJong as the returning candidate. Jonathan Schutter made the motion to fund/reimburse the candidates as mentioned above. Tim Lake 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Dani Jones will reach out to the candidates and start the process for out of state travel approval and reimbursement.
- Dani Jones reminded committee members that if they are going to travel out of state to represent the committee, they need to complete the “Out of State Travel Request” form before they leave. Dani will work with the committee members to complete the reimbursements.

Committee Appointments

- Mike Clarke is the newest member of the Potato Advisory Committee. He replaces Dave Cottom.
- Tim Venhuizen’s term will end 3/31/2024. Dani will check on the terms served to see if Tim is able to reapply.
- Bill Buyan’s term will end 3/31/2024. Dani will contact Bill about a possible replacement.

The next Potato Advisory Committee meeting will be held November 2024 in conjunction with the Seed Growers Meeting.

Tim Venhuizen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Paul Streich, Committee Chair

Date

Andy Fjeseth, Bureau Chief

Date

Dani Jones, AGR ADD Division

Date