

Montana Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2015
Teleconference in Conference Room 225
Montana Department of Agriculture
Helena, Montana

Members in attendance:

Ron de Yong, Director of Agriculture, Helena
Meg O’Leary, Director of Commerce, Helena (through proxy, granting voting authority to
Nancy Faroni, Section Manager, Department of Commerce)
Amy Kellogg, Chair, Kalispell
Patricia Quisno, Fort Belknap

Members absent:

Jim Stone, Ovando
Lars Hanson, Vice-Chair, Billings
Verges Ageson, Gildford

Staff in attendance:

Kim Falcon, Bureau Chief, Development and Marketing Bureau
Montana Department of Agriculture
Nancy Faroni, Section Manager, Business Resources Division,
Montana Department of Commerce (General/Irrevocable Proxy for Director of
Commerce Meg O’Leary)
Libbi Lovshin, Central Services Division Administrator, Montana Department of Agriculture
Ben Tiller, Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)
Cort Jensen, Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)
Angie Nelson, Section Manager/Program Manager, Growth Through Agriculture (GTA)
Program
Lindra Davies, Program Specialist, GTA Program

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

Amy Kellogg, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Roll Call/Call for Proxies

- *Thursday, April 23, 2015, a general, irrevocable proxy was received from Megan O’Leary, Director of Montana Department of Commerce granting voting authority to Nancy Faroni, Section Manager, Business Resources Division, Montana Department of Commerce, who was present as Director O’Leary’s representative.*

Public Comments

Chair, Amy Kellogg, called for public comments. No public comments were presented.

Review of April 8 and 9, 2015 Council Business Meeting Minutes

Amendment: Amend motion for Manic Organics on page 5 of the April 8 and 9, 2015 minutes to include “contingent on a satisfactory site review by staff.”

Motion: To accept the April 8 and 9, 2015 minutes as amended.

By: Nancy Faroni

2nd: Ron de Yong

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Review Budget

Angie Nelson, Section Manager/Growth Through Agriculture Program Manager, gave a summary of the budget for funding and the list of proposals to be reviewed.

Applications Presented and Council Determinations

1. **HOMESTEAD ORGANICS FARM, INC, Hamilton, MT, Laura Garber**
“Commercial Kitchen Expansion to Grow the Value Added and Processing Potential of Small Food Businesses in Ravalli County”
Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$10,500.00 for the purchase and installation of an oven stove hood and grease trap.
Match: As proposed in the application.
By: Ron de Yong
2nd: Patricia Quisno
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

2. **LIVING RIVER FARMS, LLC, Stevensville, MT, Beau McLean**
“We Grow Pasture Raised Poultry and Grass Fed Beef and Believe in Giving Opportunity to People”
Motion: Not to fund.
Future Consideration: The 12-month limitation does not apply.
By: Ron de Yong
2nd: Nancy Faroni
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

3. **LOWER VALLEY PROCESSING COMPANY, INC, Kalispell, MT, Wes Plummer**
“Building Expansion and Equipment Upgrade”
Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a smokehouse contingent on verification of building ownership and secured bank loan.
Match: As proposed in the application.
By: Nancy Faroni
2nd: Patricia Quisno
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

- 4. MONTANA LEFSE, LLC, Opheim, MT, Twyla Anderson**
“Electric Griddles”
Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$2,218.00 for the purchase of food production equipment including griddles.
Match: As proposed in the application.
By: Patricia Quisno
2nd: Ron de Yong
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 5. RED GATE GARLIC, LLC, Stevensville, MT, Ted Ostheimer**
“Construction of a New Garlic Processing, Storage, and Shipping Building”
Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$14,600.00 for the construction of a garlic processing facility.
Match: As proposed in the application.
By: Ron de Yong
2nd: Patricia Quisno
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 6. THE GOLDEN YOKE, LLC, Saint Ignatius, MT, Laura Ginsburg**
“Simple, Frozen, Joy: Montana Ice Cream from Scratch”
Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$7,900.00 for the purchase of equipment including a pasteurizer.
Match: As proposed in the application.
By: Nancy Faroni
2nd: Ron de Yong
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 7. THE STORY MILL, Laurel, MT, Dan Story**
“The Story Mill May 4, 2015”
Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the purchase of equipment.
Match: As proposed in the application incurred after July 1, 2014.
By: Ron de Yong
2nd: Patricia Quisno
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 8. TWO BEAR FARM, LLC, Whitefish, MT, Todd Ulizio**
“Bringing Montana Farms to the Table: a Farm-Based Mobile Kitchen for Agri-Tourism, Events, and On-Farm Processing That Serves Only Seasonal and Regional Cuisine”
Motion: To fund as a grant in the amount of \$17,500.00 for the purchase of a mobile kitchen facility.
Match: As proposed in the application incurred after April 1, 2015.
By: Nancy Faroni
2nd: Patricia Quisno
Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Other Presentations:

~ **Growth Through Agriculture Program Update** – Angie Nelson, Section Manager/GTA Program Manager, Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau, Montana Department of Agriculture

Other Business – Issues and Requests:

~ **Homestead Organics Farm, Inc., Hamilton, MT – Request to submit an application with a 12-month application limitation for the Growth Through Agriculture September 15, 2015 application deadline.**

Motion: To consider this request during the Council’s meeting scheduled to be held August 4-6, 2015.

By: Nancy Faroni

2nd: Patricia Quisno

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

~ **Community Food and Agriculture Coalition, Missoula, MT – Budget Change Request**

Motion: To not approve the request.

By: Patricia Quisno

2nd: Nancy Faroni

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

~ **Remaining SFY2015 Growth Through Agriculture Funds**

Motion: To reallocate any remaining SFY2015 in the Growth Through Agriculture program account to the Mini Grant, Mini Loan and Trade Show Assistance programs.

By: Patricia Quisno

2nd: Nancy Faroni

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Public Comments

Chair, Amy Kellogg, called for public comments. No public comments were presented.

Chair, Amy Kellogg, adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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