

**Montana Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 22, 2016**  
**Conference Room 225**  
**Montana Department of Agriculture**  
**Helena, Montana**

Members in attendance:

Ron de Yong, Director of Agriculture, Helena (through proxy, granting voting authority to Kim Falcon, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture) (partial attendance)  
Meg O'Leary, Director of Commerce, Helena (through proxy, granting voting authority to Tom Kaiserski, Program Manager, Industry Development Program, Department of Commerce)  
Amy Kellogg, Chair, Kalispell  
Patricia Quisno, Fort Belknap  
Greg Jergeson, Chinook  
Tara Mastel, Whitehall  
Lars Hanson, Vice-Chair, (through proxy, granting voting authority to council member, Patricia Quisno)

Staff in attendance:

Kim Falcon, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture (General/Irrevocable Proxy for Director of Agriculture, partial attendance)  
Christy Clark, Bureau Chief, Development and Marketing Bureau  
Tom Kaiserski, Program Manager, Industry Development Program,  
Montana Department of Commerce (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) (General/Irrevocable Proxy for Director of Commerce Meg O'Leary)  
Ben Tiller, Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)  
Angie Nelson, Section Manager/Program Manager,  
Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) Program/Business Development  
Cid Sivils, Accountant, Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau,  
Montana Department of Agriculture  
Jim Auer, Specialty Crop Block Grant Coordinator,  
Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)  
Treston Vermandel, Business Development Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture  
Steph Hystad, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture  
Lindra Davies, Program Specialist, GTA Program, Montana Department of Agriculture  
Cam Lay, Natural Resource Program Manager, Montana Department of  
Agriculture (partial attendance)

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 8:35 a.m. Tuesday, March 22, 2016 and, adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, 2016.**

**Roll Call/Call for Proxies**

- *Tuesday, August 4, 2015, an ongoing (until further notice), general, irrevocable proxy was received from Megan O’Leary, Director of Montana Department of Commerce granting voting authority to Tom Kaiserski, Program Manager, Industry Development Program, Department of Commerce, who was present as Director O’Leary’s representative.*
- *Monday, March 21, 2016, a general, irrevocable proxy was received by email from Council Vice-Chair Lars Hanson granting voting authority to Council Member Patricia Quisno, who was present as Mr. Larson’s representative.*
- *Tuesday, March 22, 2016, a general, irrevocable proxy was received from Ron de Yong, Director of Montana Department of Agriculture granting voting authority to Kim Falcon, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, who was present as Director de Yong’s representative.*

**Public Comments**

Chair, Amy Kellogg, called for public comments on the morning of Tuesday, March 22, 2016. No public comments were presented.

Chair, Amy Kellogg, called for public comments on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 22, 2016. No public comments were presented.

**Review of January 12, 2016 Council Teleconference Business Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the January 12, 2016 minutes as presented.

**By:** Greg Jergeson

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Tom Kaiserski

**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

**Review of Meeting Procedures and Responsibilities**

Ben Tiller, Legal Counsel for the Montana Department of Agriculture provided an overview of meeting procedures and Council responsibilities including: conflict of interest, open meeting laws, ethics and lobbying issues, and guidelines for managing Council meetings. Mr. Tiller also offered to answer any Council questions regarding these issues.

**Review of Agenda, Council Packet, Overview of Applications and Funding Available**

Angie Nelson, Section Manager/Growth Through Agriculture Program Manager, gave a summary of the budget for funding and an overview of the agenda and applicant presentation schedule in preparation for the day.

**Applications Presented and Council Determinations**

**1. CROOKED YARD HOPS, LLC, Bozeman, MT, Jake TeSelle and Colton Sales  
“Local Linear Hops Production”**

**Motion:** To fund the proposal as a grant as proposed in the amount of \$38,277.00 for the purchase of a specialized harvester, supplies and materials for hops trellising system, and pelletizing equipment.

**Match:** For costs incurred as of November 27, 2015.

**By:** Tara Mastel

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Greg Jergeson

**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

- 2. SHAGGY BEAR FARM, Bozeman, MT, Kim Curran**  
*“Sustainable Hydroponic Farm for Year Round Vegetable Production in Gallatin Valley”*  
**Motion:** To fund as a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purchase of a hydroponic farm unit.  
**By:** Patricia Quisno  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Tom Kaiserski  
**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 3. JHS, Helena, MT, John Semple and Patrick Dougherty**  
*“Sensitive Areas Internet Map Application”*  
**Motion:** Not to fund.  
**By:** Patricia Quisno  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Tara Mastel  
**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 4. GALACTIC FARMS, Missoula, MT, Jeff Pernell**  
*“Galactic Farms Pilot Project for Indoor Year-Round Hydroponics Production System”*  
**Motion:** Not to fund.  
**Future Consideration:** The 12-month limitation does not apply.  
**By:** Tara Mastel  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Patricia Quisno  
**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 5. UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-DINING, Missoula, MT, Trevor Lowell**  
*“Climate Battery Greenhouse”*  
**Motion:** To fund as a grant as proposed in the amount of \$14,010.00 to construct a climate battery greenhouse.  
**By:** Greg Jergeson  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Kim Falcon  
**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 6. OPPORTUNITY LINK, INC, Havre, MT, Rosie Goldich**  
*“Feasibility Study for the Healthy Eating and Abundant Living Throughout the Hi-Line (HEALTH) Project”*  
**Motion:** To not fund.  
**Future Consideration:** The 12-month limitation does not apply.  
**By:** Tara Mastel  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Tom Kaiserski  
**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.
- 7. NORTH 40 AG, INC, Ballantine, MT, Kate Vogel**  
*“North 40 Ag-Cover Crop Mixing Facility Expansion 2016”*  
**Motion:** To fund as a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for equipment and supplies including storage and seed mixing equipment. Deadline to accept the contract will be July 31, 2016.

**Contingency:** Contingent upon the applicant excluding buckwheat in any of their cover crop mixes.

**Match:** For eligible costs incurred as of December 1, 2015.

**By:** Tara Mastel

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Patricia Quisno

**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

**8. HATCHET CREEK FARM, Billings, MT, David Graham**  
***“Eastern Montana Vegetable Farm Operation”***

**Motion:** To fund as a grant in the amount of \$15,357.00 for equipment, supplies and materials as proposed.

**Match:** For eligible costs incurred as of December 1, 2015.

**By:** Tom Kaiserski

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Greg Jergeson

**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

**9. LITTLE BIG HORN FFA, Lodge Grass, MT, Ty Neal and members of Lodge Grass FFA**

***“Little Big Horn Cattle Scholarship”***

**Motion:** To fund as a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for equipment including chute, portable corral system, fencing, and ear tag system.

**Match:** As proposed in the application.

**By:** Kim Falcon

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Patricia Quisno

**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

**Other Presentations:**

~ **Department of Commerce – Native American Collateral Support Program** – Casey Lozar, Bureau Chief, Tourism and Business Development Division, Montana Department of Commerce

**Other Business – Issues and Requests:**

~ **Woolly Buzzer Studios/Poor Orphan Creamery, Sheridan, MT** – Loan 0950205

Angie Nelson provided an update of the business’ activities during the past year.

The Council reviewed annual financial documents submitted by the business.

**Motion:** To approve the submitted annual financial documents.

**By:** Patricia Quisno

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Kim Falcon

**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Angie Nelson provided updates for the following businesses and as a follow up from the Council’s previous meeting in November 2015.

~ **Flathead Lake Cherry Growers** – Grant 16GTAG010 – Lease agreement received between Tabletree and the cherry growers coop.

~ **The Orchard at Flathead Lake** – Grant 1250517 – Extension request pending.

~ **Kootenai Cannery** – Grant 1250516 - File closed and remaining grant funding reverted.

**Mini-Grant, Trade Show Assistance Program (TSAP) and Mini-Loan Funding Request SFY2017**

**Motion:** To approve funding for SFY2017 in the amount of \$35,000.00 for the Mini-Grant/ TSAP grant program funding including Department tradeshow activities and special projects and \$25,000.00 for the Mini-Loan program.

**By:** Tom Kaiserski

**2nd:** Patricia Quisno

**Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

**Application Deadlines:**

~ Next GTA application – September 15, 2016 at 2:00pm

~ Mini-Grant and Trade Show Assistance Program – December 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> (or closest date falling during a weekday)

~ Mini-Loan – open cycle

**Next Council Meetings:**

~ The Council scheduled August 2-4, 2016 for their Summer business meeting/tour of the Hi-Line region.

~ The Council was in agreement to tentatively schedule November 15-17, 2016 as their next business meeting in Helena.

Respectfully submitted by:

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