

**Montana Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2016  
Teleconference in Conference Room 319  
Montana Department of Livestock  
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)

Members in attendance by phone:

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

Lars Hanson, Vice Chair, Billings

Patricia Quisno, Fort Belknap

Tara Mastel, Whitehall

Members absent:

Greg Jergeson, Chinook

Staff in attendance:

Kim Falcon, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Agriculture (General/Irrevocable Proxy for Director of Agriculture, Ron de Yong)

Tom Kaiserski, Program Manager, Industry Development Program, Montana Department of Commerce (General/Irrevocable Proxy for Director of Commerce, Meg O'Leary)

Libbi Lovshin, Central Services Division Administrator, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)

Ben Tiller, Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Agriculture

Angie Nelson, Section Manager/Program Manager, Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) Program

Lindra Davies, Program Specialist, GTA Program, Montana Department of Agriculture

Christy Clark, Bureau Chief, Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau (partial attendance)

Steph Hystad, Marketing Officer, 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 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 2, 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.*

- *Thursday, June 2, 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. No public comments were presented.

### **Review of March 22, 2016 Council Business Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the March 22, 2016 minutes as presented.

**By:** Patricia Quisno

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

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

### **Program Budget Update**

Angie Nelson, Section Manager/Growth Through Agriculture Program Manager, and Libbi Lovshin, Central Services Division Administrator gave an update of the budget to inform the Council of reductions in accounts that serve to provide funding for the Growth Through Agriculture program.

Action items taken by the Department of Agriculture in light of the budget update were reduction in costs from staff changes, operating cuts, and recapturing of unused grants and loans.

Libbi and Angie offered three recommendations of ways the Council could consider to further reduce the budget for SFY2016 in order to reserve funding for SFY2017 applicants.

**Motion:** To schedule one application deadline SFY2017 of September 15, 2016.

**By:** Tom Kaiserski

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Lars Hanson

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

**Motion:** To suspend the Mini Grant, Mini Loan, and Trade Show Assistance Programs as of August 2016.

**By:** Lars Hanson

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

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

**Motion:** To reduce the funding for SFY2017 to \$20,000.00 for the Department of Commerce for overseas trade office.

**By:** Patricia Quisno

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Lars Hanson

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

**NOTE:** Tom Kaiserski abstained from voting on the last motion.

**Summer Council Tour and Business Meeting**

The Council was in agreement that the August 2-4, 2016 summer tour and business meeting should be cancelled.

**Other Business**

~ Next Meeting Date

The council was in agreement to schedule the next business teleconference meeting sometime during August 2-4, 2016.

**Public Comments**

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

**Adjournment – 2:20 PM**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**By:** Lars Hanson

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

Respectfully submitted by:

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