

Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2019 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference/SKYPE
Montana Department of Agriculture, Conference Rm 225, Helena, Montana

Amy Kellogg called the meeting to order at 10:00am

Roll Call

Members in attendance:

Ben Thomas, MT AGR Director
Amy Kellogg, Chair, Kalispell MT

Public:

Kayla Deroches, Yellowstone Public Radio

Staff:

Angie Nelson, AGR MT GTA/FADC Program
Manager

Christy Clark, Bureau Chief, AGR MT

Zach Coccoli, AGR Attorney, MT

Dani Jones, AGR MT

Weston Merrill, AGR Marketing Officer

Members via Teleconference/SKYPE:

Patricia Quisno, Harlem MT

Greg Jergeson, Chinook MT

Tom Kaiserski, proxy for Tara Rice

Lars Hanson, Edgar MT (@10:50am)

EXCUSED: Tara Mastel, Red Lodge MT

Call for Proxies

- Wednesday, April 24, 2019 a general, irrevocable proxy was received from Agriculture Development Council member Tara Rice, Department of Commerce, granting voting authority to Tom Kaiserski, Department of Commerce, who was present (by phone) as Director Rice's representative.

Public Comment

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

Minutes

Review of February 4-5, 2019 Council Minutes

Motion: To accept the February 4-5, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

By: Greg Jergeson

2nd: Tom Kaiserski

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Review Legislative Outcomes/Changes

Mr. Coccoli provided an overview of legislative changes and outcomes of 2019 Montana Legislative Session that concluded at the end of April 2019. Changes discussed include:

- **HB52 - GTA, and FADC Funding Continuation/Changes**
 - 8-year sunset, additional reporting to Montana Legislature
 - Discussion – Council discussed possible budget changes needed to cover more than one meeting per year

- Angie Nelson - will work with Department Budget Director Cindy Trimp on the budget and report back to the Council with proposed budget at the beginning of FY2020.
- **HB431 - New Farmer Loan Repayment Assistance Program**
 - Grant award for farmers and ranchers – to assist with student loan repayment
 - Implementation would require rulemaking over FY2020
 - Anticipated first application deadline would be Fall 2021
 - Up to \$100,000 in GTA funds could be awarded biannually by the Council for this program
 - Department staff plan to work with bill sponsor for direction in developing the program

Food & Agriculture Development Center (FADC) Funding

- Council reviewed changes to FADC program in HB52 and decisions needed by Council to implement changes. Changes discussed include:
 - Program oversight shifted to Agriculture Development Council from the Department of Agriculture.
 - Funding increased from \$300,000 annually to \$600,000 annually
- MCA 80-11-901 was amended from “must fund four Montana food and agricultural development centers” to “Must provide grant funding for Montana food and agricultural development centers”
 - More than 4 centers can now be awarded
- Draft funding opportunity reviewed and approved by Council
- **Application Deadline Set:** June 12, 2019
- **Council Meeting date:** July 2, 2019 – in Helena to review FADC applications

Growth Through Agriculture Program Business:

Review Targeted Areas

- Angie Nelson, GTA program manager reviewed the current designated Targeted Areas.
- **Action:** Council requested that staff email some ideas for consideration to the Council for review and feedback. Staff will email ideas to the Council for review.

Review Loan Rates

- Council reviewed current loan rates: Low- 0%, High- 5%
- **Action:** Council decided to retain current loan rates.

Contract Change Decisions Made without Full Council Action

- Angie Nelson reported on the following contract change decisions made that were made per the Council approved Standard Operating Guidelines policy without full Council action as a result of determinations made by the Program Manager and/or Amy Kellogg, Council Chairman.

- Mountain View Growers, Kalispell – Loan 1450697 – Loan payment deferral
- Willow Mountain Winery, Corvallis – Grant 19GTAG020 – Budget Change
- Rocky Mountain Agriscience, Hamilton – Grant 18GTAG009 – Budget Change
- Stetson Ranches, Fromberg - Grant 17GTAG016 – Budget Change
 - **Motion:** To ratify the decisions made by the Program Manager and Council Chair.
 - **By:** Patty Quisno
 - **2nd:** Ben Thomas
 - **Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Other Business

Next Application Deadlines – Council set the following application deadlines:

FADC – June 12, 2019

GTA - November 1, 2018

Next Meeting - July 2, 2019 in Helena to review FADC applications

Other Upcoming Council Dates - Angie Nelson will send the Council an overall schedule GTA 2020 Proposed/Tentative Dates for planning purposes

- Proposed Dates for GTA Application presentations - February 4-6, 2020.

Public Comment

- No public comment presented.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

By: Ben Thomas

2nd: Patty Quisno

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.