

## Montana Pulse Advisory Committee

January 19, 2016

Phone Conference & Conference room

Chairman Kim Murray called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Public Comment** – Public comment was called for none given.

**Introductions** – Introductions were made:

Those on the phone:

Grant Zerbe	Committee member
Jon Stoner	Committee member
Ryan Bogar	Committee member
Dustin Kreger	Committee member
Treston Vermandel	MT Department of Agriculture
Jessica Rupp	MT State University
Audrey Kalil	ND State University
Beau Anderson	Northern Pulse Growers
Kathleen Hadley	NCAT
Shannon Berndt	Northern Pulse Growers
Chris Westergard	Northern Pulse Growers
Tim McGreevy	USA Dry Pea & Lentil
Jerry Schillinger	Northern Pulse Growers

those in person:

Kim Murray	Committee member
Chad Doheny	Committee member
Kim Falcon	MT Department of Agriculture
Cid Sivils	MT Department of Agriculture
Ben Tiller	MT Department of Agriculture
Ron de Yong	MT Department of Agriculture
Jim Auer	MT Department of Agriculture
Christy Clark	MT Department of Agriculture
Jana Mertens	MT Department of Agriculture

**Minutes** – Minutes from the December 10, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Chad Doheny moved to accept the minutes as presented. Dustin Kreger seconded the motion. Motion passed. The corrected minutes from the September 25, 2015 meeting were reviewed and found to need correction. The minutes will be corrected and presented at the next meeting for approval.

**Financial Report** – The financial report was presented by Cid Sivils. Jon Stoner questioned if the grants that were awarded at the December 2015 meeting were reflected in the budget. Cid Sivils explained the budget. The Northern Pulse Growers Association grant award contract had not been received from them and Shannon Berndt was asked about its status in regards to our budget. Shannon responded that the board from NPGA would review the contract at its January 26, 2016 meeting and she would let us know. Shannon was informed that Cort Jensen and Treston Vermandel would be attending that meeting. Jon Stoner moved to accept the financial report as presented, Grant Zerbe seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Old Business** – The committee agreed that they would like all research proposals to be processed through the Research Review committee organized through the USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council. Two of the proposals received by the committee have been submitted; Chengci Chen and Prashant Jha and two had not been submitted. Tim McGreevy of the USADPLC asked them to submit their proposals, those were; Jessica Rupp and Audrey Kalil.

The committee then decided to discuss the dollar amount they would like to commit to research. Chad Doheny moved to establish a budget of \$300,000 for research, Grant Zerbe seconded the motion. Discussion followed with Grant Zerbe suggesting that research funds be cut back for more marketing efforts during the 2016 International Year of the Pulses. Chad Doheny withdrew his motion.

Jon Stoner moved to fund Northern Pulse Growers Association at \$160,482. Chad Doheny seconded the motion. Motion passed. Budget was approved with the following categories; Consultant Services - \$28,344, Christy Clark expressed concern in regard to the \$28,344 in the consultant services category which are to be applied to research for administrative costs, because of possible legislative audits, Advertising & Promotion- \$50,844 and Communications-

\$81,294. Kim Falcon asked Shannon Berndt to furnish the committee with a list of the research projects that are being funded by NPGA.

Jon Stoner moved to fund National Center for Appropriate Technology – Kathleen Hadley’s proposal at \$5,000. Dustin Kreger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jon Stoner moved to fund USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council at \$800,000. Grant Zerbe seconded the motion. Motion passed. The budget will be adjusted with \$350,000 in the Domestic Market Development category, research at 0 until the research review committee meets and the additional categories at a percentage to total the \$800,000.

Dustin Kreger moved to fund University of Montana dining – Trevor Lowell for the full proposal of \$45,783. Chad Doheny seconded the motion. Voting was Chad Doheny – yes, Jon Stoner – no, Ryan Bogar – no, Grant Zerbe – yes, and Dustin Kreger – yes. Motion passed.

Jon Stoner moved to fund the MSU Follow the Grain request at \$3,000. There was no second and the motion died.

In a letter from Charles Boyer, VP, Dean and Director at Montana State University it was requested that the Montana Pulse Advisory Committee fund \$100,000 - \$120,000 for a pulse crop breeding program at the University. Kim Falcon read the letter to the committee. Jon Stoner moved to fund the pulse crop breeding program for FY18 at \$100,000. Chad Doheny seconded the motion. Motion passed. Tim McGreevy requested that the person in the pulse crop breeder position participate in the research review process with USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council.

**New Business** – Ben Tiller reported that the department now has available the rail rate checker plus program. Burlington Northern is working with the logistics of getting Pulses to market. The department meets with Burlington Northern quarterly and would appreciate having representatives of the Pulse Advisory Committee attend. Jon Stoner asked to be notified of those meetings. Ben will be attending the Montana Grain Elevators Association meeting the 27-29<sup>th</sup> of January and the Port of Portland will be there.

Kim Falcon reported on India trade barriers. Dustin Kreger reported India was taking enforcement actions against the worst offenders. Kim Falcon and Ron de Yong will be heading to Washington, D.C. soon and trade barriers will be discussed.

Ron de Yong thanked everyone for hanging together on the tough issues and the growing pains faced by the committee these last months. The growth will continue and the system will evolve with it. He stated that he was pleased with the new pulse breeder program and that research was important. Kim Murray asked about Ron’s thoughts on new processors in the state. Ron responded that the department is working with three that look promising.

Discussion took place on the possibility of raising the assessment rate to 2% for the International Year of Pulses in 2016. It was expressed that the idea needs to come from the grass roots and needs to be united with North Dakota to minimize the concern of refunders. Chris Westergard stated that it would be an uphill battle to raise the assessment. Jon Stoner moved to rescind the motion from the September 25, 2015 meeting to sponsor listening sessions in Montana. Grant Zerbe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Christy Clark stated that Governor Bullock took the Pulse pledge along with ½ of the room at the recent Young Ag Couple Conference.

**Old Business** - The research proposal process as discussed earlier would include giving the research review committee of the USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council, all research proposals. The committee would like to see priorities of this review committee before determining the dollar amount awarded for research. The research review committee will be meeting on February 23 and 24, 2016 in Moscow, Idaho. Ron de Yong and Kim Falcon will be attending.

Montana Agriculture Experiment Stations will be having a planning conference February 22-24, 2016 in Bozeman. Chad Doheny stated that he could attend that conference.

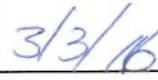
**Public Comment** – Jerry Schillinger asked if there were actual guidelines on how the Montana Pulse Advisory committee could use assessment funds. Also how the 3% and 5% fee levels are decided. Ben Tiller cited MCA 80-11-502 in regards to the guidelines for assessment funds. The fees are determined for all programs for Central Services at 3% for in directs, and the 5% administrative fee was voted on by the advisory committee. The committee has a planning process to look at cost for the equipment and staff from the department. Chris Westergard asked who the committee answers to. The committee is attached to the Department of Agriculture and answers to the department director.

Chad Doheny moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:13 pm. Grant Zerbe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:



Christy Clark, Bureau Chief  
Montana Department of Agriculture



Date

Approved:



Ron de Yong, Director  
Montana Department of Agriculture



Date