

Montana Pulse Advisory Committee

March 21, 2016
Yogo Inn, Lewistown, Montana

Welcome – Kim Murray called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

Public Comment – was called for none given.

Introductions –

Those in attendance:

Kim Murray – Committee Chair	Ron de Yong – Director Montana Dept of Agriculture
Jon Stoner - Committee Member	Ben Tiller – Montana Dept of Agriculture
Dustin Kreger – Committee Member	Christy Clark – Montana Dept of Agriculture
Grant Zerbe – Committee Member	Treston Vermandel – Montana Dept of Agriculture
Ryan Bogar – Committee Member	Cid Sivils – Montana Dept of Agriculture
Roger Sammons – Research Committee	Jana Mertens – Montana Dept of Agriculture
Tim McGreevy – USA Dry Pea & Lentil	
Marvin Tarum – Research Committee via phone	Absent: Chad Doheny – Committee Member

Minutes – Jon Stoner moved to approve the January 19, 2016 minutes as presented. Ryan Bogar seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report – Cid Sivils staff accountant reviewed the financial report. Cid reported that funds have been paid and received as per the reciprocal agreement with North Dakota. The reporting and communication is going well. Kim Murray stated that Cort Jensen did a good job with the agreement. Grant Zerbe moved to approve the financial report. Ryan Bogar seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business - Ben Tiller reported on the research review process that he attended along with Ron de Yong hosted by USA Dry Pea & Lentil in February 2016. The ranking process consists of four categories. Ron de Yong mentioned that the Research Review Committee had a good process for making research projects. However, MPAC should still review the Montana projects that were funded and not funded. Then MPAC could consider using additional check off dollars to fund desired Montana research projects that were not funded by USADPLC.

Marvin Tarum stated that there are not enough funds for everything and that all the projects have merit. Montana is new to the process and we can team up with other states to do research, not double up. Jon Stoner asked Marvin how Montana is fairing in distribution for research. Marvin said that Montana is fairing very well some of the research is site specific and very important to Montana.

The participants in the research committee will all meet in Bozeman, MT next year for the research review. The total budget is projected to be 1.2 million in June.

Additional projects that were not funded by the research committee were discussed. Jon Stoner moved to fund “Enhancing Yield and Nutritional Quality of Dry Pea through Micro-nutrient fertilization” by Yesef Assen Mohammed for \$17,564 and also “Use of chitin derived compounds to suppress root rot

diseases of field pea” ½ of requested funding for Audrey Kalil at \$20,245.00 pending a match from North Dakota. Grant Zerbe seconded the motion. Motion passed. Both grants will be managed by USADPL.

Discussion continued about the Audrey Kalil grant and what to do if North Dakota did not agree to fund the remaining ½ of the grant. It was agreed that the committee would consult with Audrey Kalil to determine if she could proceed with her research with ½ the funds.

Grant Zerbe moved to fund the ranked research projects through USADPL at \$300,000.00. Ryan Bogar seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Marvin Tarum left the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

New Business – The Montana state grain lab requested that their grant request be amended. Jon Stoner moved to amend the motion from the December 10, 2015 meeting to fund the state grain lab for \$64,000 to purchase 2 vans that fit the needs of the state grain lab. Grant Zerbe seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Ben Tiller reported for Cort Jensen on Cort’s trip to India. Cort relayed that Montana needs a larger presence at international pulse events. Institutional credibility and food safety are concerns. Buyers respect governmental overview of the products. Dustin Kreger was also in India and he expressed that Montana does a good job. Tim McGreevy and USA Dry Pea & Lentil are intimately involved in international trade issues. Kim Murray believes that Montana product is known around the world.

Ron de Yong began discussion on hiring a Pulse Program Manager to give Montana a greater presence and contact point for both domestic and international buyers. Montana is a new player in the pulse industry and buyers want to know if Montana’s government is supporting and providing stability to the industry. This position would work with all areas of the pulse industry from producers to the regional diagnostic lab in Bozeman to the USADPLC. The availability of increased funds from the Specialty Crop Block Grant program is directly related to increased pulse production the past three years. Grants from the SCBG program could fund the position for three years.

Ryan Bogar asked if any other state had this type of position. Tim McGreevy said no.

Jon Stoner expressed that there is a disconnect (lack of information to the growers). This person could help newer growers and it would take less time for the department.

Christy Clark affirmed that Montana is the lead; this position would create accountability across state lines. Her position as Bureau Chief can’t fill this role. Montana needs to move to the next level. Northern Pulse Growers is not providing sufficient information for the producers. There is a hole there, no question, said Kim Murray.

Some on the committee were concerned that politics would be involved with this position and do not want that type of position. Roger Sammons asked what percentage of the time the program manager would be involved with international trade. Treston Vermandel, Business Development Specialist for the department, spoke to how he handles trade inquiries, including international.

Tim McGreevy spoke of a program with USADPLC for state and grower education that would work collaboratively with MPAC. The gaps need to be identified but Tim feels that there is no gap in the

and assistance to the producers. This position would be funded for three years at \$160,000 through the Specialty Crop Block Grant program. The biggest needs agreed on by the committee were communication with the producers and agronomics. Pulse production and marketing could work better with a team to make it work long term and bring everyone in. Jon Stoner expressed the need for an outreach person within the State of Montana, and to facilitate trade teams. Kim Murray is okay with the state pulse marketing being represented through private companies with USADPL emphasizing international marketing.

This position would be a state employee directed through the department with Christy Clark being the direct supervisor. MPAC was invited to help write a job description for the position.

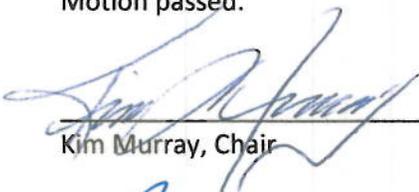
Jon Stoner moved to pursue looking into the program funded through the Specialty Crop Block Grant. There was no seconded. Motion failed due to no second.

Treston Vermandel Business Development Specialist for the department gave an update. Treston has been reaching out to producers and potential processing facilities. American Pharmaceutical in Billings began working with pea protein instead of whey in their products. Treston has been making site visits, working with Western United States Agriculture Trade Association (WUSATA) and producing a pulse buyer's guide.

Kim Murray reported on the assessment meetings being held across the state with Tim McGreevy from USADPL. Attendance varied where Billings was light but there were 60-65 people in Plentywood. People seemed to be receptive. There needs to be more work done before presenting a raise in the assessment for three years to a vote. It was recommended that if anyone has questions that they be directed to Kim Murray or Dustin Kreger.

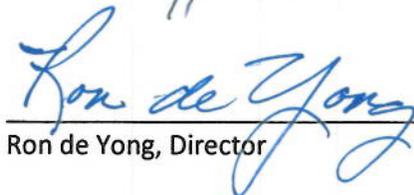
Public Comment – Called for and none given.

Adjourn – Jon Stoner moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 pm. Grant Zerbe seconded the motion. Motion passed.



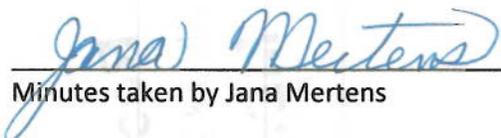
Kim Murray, Chair

5-24-16
Date



Ron de Yong, Director

7-25-16
Date



Minutes taken by Jana Mertens

5/10/2016
Date