

**Montana Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes
February 4-5, 2019
Conference Room 225
Montana Department of Agriculture
Helena, Montana**

Members in attendance:

Ben Thomas, Director of Agriculture, Helena
Marty Tuttle, Acting Director of Commerce, Helena (present through proxy to Tom Kaiserski)
Amy Kellogg, Chair, Kalispell
Greg Jergeson, Chinook
Tara Mastel, Whitehall

Members absent:

Lars Hanson, Vice-Chair, Edgar
Patricia Quisno, Fort Belknap

Staff in attendance:

Tom Kaiserski, Bureau Chief, Research and Information Services Bureau, Montana
Department of Commerce (General/Irrevocable Proxy for Acting Director of Commerce
Marty Tuttle February 4-5, 2019)
Kim Mangold, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Agriculture
Christy Clark, Bureau Chief, Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau, Department of
Agriculture
Zach Coccoli, Staff Attorney, Montana Department of Agriculture
Angie Nelson, Program Manager, Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) Program, Montana
Department of Agriculture
Charsi Workman, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)
Weston Merrill, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)
Marty Earnheart, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)
Jim Auer, Business Development Specialist, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial
attendance)
Dani Jones, Hail Program Technician, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)
Cindy Trimp, Central Services Administrator, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial
attendance)
Ingrid Mallo, Accountant, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)

Public members in attendance (partial attendance for all):

Dac Smilie, Helena
Jackie Heinert, AERO, Helena
Chris Hawkins, Helena
Teresa French, Valley Bank, Helena
Sara Anoug, Helena
Michael Peter, Bear Paw Development Corporation, Havre

Shandy Hanks, Great Northern Development Corporation, Wolf Point
Julie Jaksha, Headwaters RC&D, Butte
Courtney Edwards, Headwaters RC&D, Butte

Amy Kellogg, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Monday, February 4, 2019 and recessed the meeting at 4:52 p.m. Monday, February 4, 2019.

Council reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 and adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

Roll Call/Call for Proxies

- *Tuesday, January 15, 2019 a general, irrevocable proxy was received from Marty Tuttle, Acting Director of Montana Department of Commerce, granting voting authority to Tom Kaiserski, Program Manager, Industry Development Program, Department of Commerce, who was present as Acting Director Tuttle's representative.*
- *Monday, February 4, 2019 a general, revocable proxy was received from Ben Thomas, Director of Montana Department of Agriculture, granting voting authority to Christy Clark, Bureau Chief, Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau, Montana Department of Agriculture*

Public Comment

Chair, Amy Kellogg, called for public comments on the morning of Monday, February 4, 2019, and Tuesday, February 5, 2019. No public comments were presented.

Review of December 4, 2019 Council Teleconference Minutes

- Motion:** To approve minutes as presented.
- By:** Greg Jergeson
- 2nd:** Ben Thomas
- Action:** The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Review of Budget and Financial Report

Angie Nelson, Growth Through Agriculture Program Manager, presented the program budget to the Council and answered questions.

Election of Officers

The Council tabled this activity until the next meeting after new Council members have been appointed.

Review of Council Meeting Protocol & Conflict of Interest

Zach Coccoli reviewed the requirements of Council members regarding conflict of interest, ethics and a copy of the Governor's newly revised Orientation Handbook for Montana's Boards, Councils and Commissions (October 2018) was provided to each Council member.

Conflicts identified:

- Amy Kellogg identified potential conflicts with the proposals from Root Foods and Cream of the West. Ms. Kellogg turned over Council Chair duties to Director Ben Thomas and left the meeting room during discussion of these proposals.
- Greg Jergeson identified potential conflict with the proposal from Northern Plains Resource Council due to his being a member of that organization. Mr. Jergeson left the meeting room during the discussion of this proposal.

Application Presentations

- 1. Sunflower Bakery ABN for Fox Valley Farm LLC** **\$18,000.00**
Sunflower Bakery: Bringing Whole Grain Breads and Pastries to the Helena Community
Kate McLean, Helena, MT
Award: \$15,000 Grant
- 2. Montana Certified Beef ABN for SC Group LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Montana Certified Beef - Blockchain Source Verification platform and program to increase product sale prices
Travis Byerly, Bozeman, MT
Not funded
- 3. Root Foods, Inc.** **\$45,000.00**
Bumbleroot Foods - Expansion of Product Line - Producing & Marketing Montana Sourdough Bread Kit & Regenerative Grazing WSE-Certified Beef Jerky
Sara Andrews, Bigfork, MT
Not funded
- 4. Willow Mountain Winery LLC** **\$148,756.64**
Willow Mountain Winery -Expansion of Vineyard and Winery in Corvallis, MT
Roxann McGuire, Corvallis, MT
Award: \$50,000 Grant
- 5. Mountain Kind Farm ABN for The North Shore Farm LLC** **\$150,000.00**
Bringing Locally Grown Vegetables and Pasture Raised Meat to the Flathead Valley and Beyond. Seasonal Production, Year-Round Sales
Ted Wycall, Somers, MT
Award: \$35,000 Grant
- 6. Cream of the West LLC** **\$26,300.00**
Cream of the West: Between a Rock and China
Alicia Moe, Harlowton, MT
Award: \$10,000 Grant

- 7. Strike Farms, LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Equipment purchases to increase on farm food safety and increase production/harvest efficiency while expanding year-round vegetable sales to local and regional grocery stores, institutions, restaurants and customizable vegetable share customers
 Dylan Strike, Bozeman, MT
Award: \$30,000 Grant
- 8. Bear Canyon Farm** **\$50,000.00**
Bear Canyon Farm Expansion
 Eric Harris, Bozeman
Not funded
- 9. Rivulet Apiaries LLC** **\$42,392.00**
Apiary expansion
 Kavita Bay, Alberton, MT
Award: \$30,000 Grant
- 10. Montana Timber and Iron an ABN for Jennifer Resse** **\$50,000.00**
Montana Timber and Iron: Salvage Timber Manufacturing Business Startup: Havre, Montana
 Jennifer Reese, Havre, MT
Not funded
- 11. Bainville Meats LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Bainville Meats Processing and Specialty Meats
 Shawn Bilquist, Bainville, MT
Not funded
- 12. Missouri Breaks Brewing, LLC** **\$75,000.00**
Missouri Breaks brewing equipment expansion
 Mark Zilkoski, Wolf Point, MT
Not funded
- 13. Meadowlark Brewing LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Expanding Through Canning. Meadowlark Brewing is looking to expand our distributions through a canning line
 Melisa Letherman, Sidney, MT
Not funded
- 14. Golden Triangle Brew Co** **\$136,683.00**
Golden Triangle Brewery Startup
 Brandon Roberts, Fort Benton, MT
Not funded
- 15. Limberlost Brewing Company, LLC** **\$40,000.00**
Limberlost Brewing Company Start-Up and Facility Remodel
 Zachary Whipple-Kilmer, Thompson Falls, MT
Award: \$19,000 Grant

- 16. Living Root Farm ABN for Evan Van Order** **\$14,500.00**
Increasing On-Farm Vegetable Production and Processing Capacity
 Evan Van Order, Hardin, MT
Award: \$14,500 Grant
- 17. Tomorrow Farms ABN for Kelsey Allen** **\$20,000.00**
Tomorrow Farms is an aquaponics farm raising bait fishing minnows in Montana plus produce. Eventually farmed crawfish and produce is for sale. Produce is harvested all year and available locally for schools, community centers etc. on a mass scale.
 Kelsey Allen, Billings, MT
Not funded
- 18. Northern Plains Resource Council, Inc.** **\$46,344.10**
Launching the Yellowstone Valley Food Hub
 Teresa Erickson, Executive Director, Billings
Not funded
- 19. Cowboy Cricket Farms Inc.** **\$12,791.00**
Equipment for the increased efficiency of cricket production for human consumption
 James and Kathy Rolin, Bozeman, MT
Award: \$12,800 Grant
- 20. KJ'n Ranch, Inc. & Sheep Mountain Creamery** **\$7,000.00**
Sheep Mountain Creamery value added equipment purchase providing storage capacity of frozen raw sheep milk and tools to help with forecast increase in production. This will position KJ'n Ranch, Inc. to add one .25 FTE employee.
 James Ashmore, Helena, MT
Award: \$7,000 Grant
- 21. Montana Sheep Company** **\$8,497.73**
Montana Wool by Montana Sheep Company - Fort Shaw, Montana - 100% Sustainable Virgin Wool - Grown, Spun & Woven in the United States of America - An Application for Aid in Business Expansion and Efficiency of Production
 Tracie Roeder, Fort Shaw, MT
Award: \$8,500 Grant
- 22. Ray Holes Leather Care Products, Inc.** **\$4,700.00**
Ray Holes Leather Care Product Expansion/ Increased Retail Visibility
 Sarah Rowley, Butte, MT
Award: \$4,700 Grant
- 23. Trout Culture LLC** **\$67,073.55**
Trout Culture Smokehouse Project
 Justin Gatewood, Virginia City, MT
Award: \$35,000 Grant

- 24. Montana Craft Malt Company** **\$50,000.00**
Montana Craft Malt. Malted Barley and Wheat - Specialty crafted to drink and eat.
Application for Innovation Center Kitchen, Lab and Pilot Brewing
 Susan Redgrave, Butte, MT
Award: \$50,000 Grant
- 25. Meier Farm and Orchards dba for Noelle and Corey Meier** **\$50,000.00**
Meier Farm and Orchards--Orchard Expansion with On-Farm Storage and Processing Facility
 Noelle Meier, Dillon, MT
Award: \$25,000 Grant
- 26. Bell Crossing Farms, LLC** **\$28,585.00**
Western Montana Regional Hops Processing Facility
 Desiree Funston, Stevensville, MT
Award: \$28,600 Grant
- 27. Crooked Yard Hops LLP** **\$13,000.00**
Crooked Yard Hops Production Facility Expansion
 Jake TeSelle, Bozeman, MT
Award: \$13,000 Grant
- 28. Grist Milling and Bakery LLC** **\$40,000.00**
Grist Milling & Bakery - Granite mill and bakery equipment purchase
 Selden Daume, Missoula
Not funded
- 29. Nourishing Roots Farm, LLC DBA Native Seed Foundation** **\$25,130.00**
Native Seed Foundation - Expansion Project - Increase Production of Native Seeds Supplied to Nurseries, Foresters and Conservation Projects - Extend Seed Cleaning Services to Small and Mid Sized Vegetable/Grain Farmers to Foster Market Opportunities
 Michael Billington, Polson, MT
Award: \$16,500 Grant
- 30. Lower Valley Processing Company, Inc.** **\$50,000.00**
Cold Storage Building Expansion
 Wesley Plummer, Kalispell, MT
Not funded
- 31. Fat Robin Orchard & Farm a dba for Lise Rousseau** **\$17,700.00**
Growing Fat Robin's Value-Added Cherry Business
 Lise Rousseau, Polson, MT
Award: \$17,700 Grant
- 32. Western Cider Company LLC** **\$30,277.85**
Purchase additional tanks to expand distribution across Montana
 Jon Clarenbach, Missoula, MT
Award: \$25,000 Grant

Motions

Motion: To approve all grant amounts as presented above and as reflected on decision spreadsheet.

By: Tara Mastel

2nd: Ben Thomas

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Motion: Not to fund proposals as indicated above and as reflected on decision spreadsheet.

By: Tara Mastel

2nd: Ben Thomas

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Other Business

Department of Agriculture - FY 2020/2021 Marketing Request

Marty Earnheart, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture, presented the proposed marketing plan for FY2020-2021 – beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2021.

The proposed plans included requesting the Council consider setting aside funding in the amount of \$20,000 for each of the next two fiscal years of 2020 and 2021 for marketing activities including the Montana Food Show and the Grown in Montana Fair store for a total of \$40,000 over the biennium.

Ms. Earnheart also introduced the new marketing officers to the Council, Weston Merrill and Charsi Workman.

The Council was in agreement with the recommendations submitted by the department marketing staff and approved the budget set-aside as proposed.

Next Application Deadline

The Council tabled setting the next application deadline until the Montana Legislature had concluded and GTA program funding decisions had been finalized.

Council Terms Expiring

Angie Nelson, GTA Program Manager reviewed the Council terms that are expiring this year:

- Amy Kellogg – term expires July 1, 2019
- Greg Jergeson – term expires July 1, 2019

Council members are allowed to reapply and Ms. Nelson will provide additional information to these council members about the application process at the conclusion of the meeting.

Next Meeting

Tentatively Scheduled May 1, 2019 10am – at the Department of Agriculture or via teleconference/SKYPE.

Review Council Expense Forms

Council expense forms were distributed and collected by Department staff.

Public Comment

Chair, Amy Kellogg, called for public comments before adjourning the evenings of Monday, February 4, 2019 and Tuesday, February 5, 2019. No public comments were presented.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. (4:15 pm, February 5, 2019)

By: Tara Mastel

2nd: Greg Jergeson

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angie Nelson, GTA Program Manager

Montana Department of Agriculture