

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY COMMITTEE

Summer Board Meeting In-Person and Virtual Meeting Red Lodge, Montana June 24, 2024

The following were present for either a portion of or the entire meeting.

DIRECTORS

Terry Angvick, Chairman
Max Cederberg, Vice Chairman
Brett Dailey, Director
Keven Bradley, Director

Lee Dahlman, Director
Denise Conover, Director
Charlie Bumgarner, Director

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Jake McFarlin, Grain Trade, Mountain View Coop
Christy Clark, Director of Department of Agriculture

STAFF

Kent Kupfner, Executive Director
Lori Wickett, Communications Director
Kolleen Spurgin, Budget & Grants Coordinator
Tammy Suek, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS

Alison Vergeront, Montana Grain Growers
Vince Peterson, US Wheat Associate
Boyd Heilig, Montana Grain Growers
Deanna Nash, MSU
Eric Summers, NASS

Monday, June 24, 2024:

Chairman Angvick called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions. No public comment.

Review of March 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Angvick presented the minutes of the Spring Board Meeting.

Director Dailey moved, and Director Conover seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

MT Grain Growers

Boyd Heilig talked about the golf tournament that was a great success with lots of teams. He visited with legislators in Washington DC about the farm bill. He talked about their upcoming meetings and convention. Boyd let the board know about the new hire for the Director of Policy position, Kera Birkeland. She will be working with John Semple, to learn the ropes.

US Wheat Associates

Vince Peterson the president of US Wheat Associates came and talked about the world grain situation and how it affects the producers of Montana.

Department of Agriculture Update

Director Clark gave the update for the department, summer is always slow, most employees are out in the field working. She attended many events and spoke at a lot of them. One of them was with the EPA to answer questions the department and others had concerning the Invasive Species Act. She brought everyone up to speed on bills and budgets that will be going before the Legislature this fall. The director talked about the changes at the State Grain Lab, including the new executive, Tristan Bradford.

Grain Trade

Jake McFarlin gave a weather update first; in his area he saw hail and thunderstorms that affected what was a great winter wheat crop. In the meantime, grain prices have been going from one extreme to the next. The US has become more competitive to the Russia grain market. He talked about the railroad and some of their issues.

Director Reports & Crop Conditions:

- Chairman Angvick – Gianforte visited his farm. He had rain and his crops look good.
- Director Conover – Her area crops look good.
- Director Dahlman – National Barley Growers - Constellation & Heineken Zoom Calls – Winter wheat looks great; barley has some thin spots.
- Director Bumgarner – Wheat Marketing Center – their budget is down. Ag Banquet, National Barley Growers – They will be working on bylaws, MGGGA Golf Tournament
- Director Cederberg – Spring wheat behind, winter wheat looks good, grasshoppers were 20 miles south but now showing up.
- Director Dailey – Gianforte Visit – Good visit. Grasshoppers are back.
- Director Bradley – Got a good snow so crops doing good. USWA World Staff Meeting – Good trip and gave a presentation.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Eric Summers talked about budget cuts at NASS and how it will affect MWBC programs. Redoing some of the sampling for both winter wheat and barley to make more sense.

Financial Update

Kolleen Spurgin presented the financial update including refunders.

Communication Director Report

Lori discussed her marketing and communication strategy for the committee. She is using several different methods to engage producers and buyers. She explained that the web cam in Havre is down now, but the barn owl is working in Winifred. The sawfly video is a work in progress.

Lori talked about her trip to Wheat Foods Council, and changes she thinks needs to be looked at in the future.

Executive Director Report

Kent went through his activities since the last meeting. He also talked about the new commodity companies that we discovered while getting GenTax set up.

Board Assignments

Kent went over the board assignment sheet, and made changes, some will have to wait until the new directors come on board.

Approval of Staff and Director Travel

Director Bradley moved, and Director Dahlman seconded the motion to approve the travel. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Jun 25	NCI Ancient Grains Conference – Fargo, ND
Jun 26	Field Day – Moccasin
Jun 27	Field Day – Sidney
Jul 1-12	MWBC Sponsorships Available
Jul 3	Pasta MT Trade Team – Great Falls
Jul 4	Office Closed
Jul 8	Nutrien Field Day – Conrad
Jul 9	Nutrien Field Day – Chester
Jul 9	Anheuser Busch Customer Appreciation Day – Idaho Falls, ID
Jul 8-11	US Wheat Summer Meeting – Oklahoma City, OK
Jul 10	Nutrien Field Day – Fort Benton
Jul 10	Field Day – Conrad
Jul 11	Field Day – Creston
Jul 11	Nutrien Field Day - Billings
Jul 15-16	NARC offsite plot tours - Havre
Jul 17	Post Farm Field Day – Bozeman
Jul 19	Chinese Trade Team
Jul 22-25	Constellation Trade Team
Jul 24-25	Malteurop Field Day – Great Falls
Jul 29	MSU Campus Farm Tours - Bozeman
Jul 29-31	US Grains Council Meeting – Salt Lake City, UT
Aug 3	MT Brewers Summer Rendezvous – Helena
Aug 10	Nisshin Trade Team
Aug 25-28	Japanese Mid-Level Management Trade Team
Sep 2	Office Closed
Sep 6	MGEA Golf Tournament
Sep 13-Oct 15	2025 MWBC Grants Open
Oct 14	Office Closed
Nov 9	MSU Ag Appreciation
Nov 16-26	USWA North Asia Crop – Japan
Nov 28	Office Closed
Dec 2	MWBC Budget Meeting – Great Falls
Dec 3-5	MGGA Convention – Great Falls
Dec 25	Office Closed

New Business

Next board meeting – October 28-29, 2024, in Great Falls
There was a discussion about Wheat Foods Council.

Contract extension was discussed and should there be a limit on how many times an extension can be granted.

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Lori Wickett has taken over Sam's position of Marketing and Research. She is willing to learn the position and continue to do her current position. In three to six months reevaluate whether we need to hire another employee.

The Endowed Chair position was discussed at the meeting.

Director Dahlman moved, and Director Dailey seconded the motion to approve Dr. Sherman taking over one of Dr. V. Mendu's "DEVELOPING HEAT STRESS TOLERANT WHEAT AND BARLEY LINES" grant projects. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Dailey moved, and Director Cederberg seconded the motion to complete funding through July 31st for Dr. L. Mendu's "DEVELOPING UNIFORM SOLID STEM WHEAT VARIETIES FOR WHEAT STEM SAWFLY RESISTANCE" grant project. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Bradley moved, and Director Dahlman seconded the motion to complete funding through July 31st for Dr. V. Mendu's "HOST INDUCES GENE SILENCING (HIGS) MEDIATED WHEAT STEM SAWFLY" grant project. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Angvick asked for public comment and heard none. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Kent Kupfner, Executive Director

Date