

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY COMMITTEE

Spring Board Meeting In-Person/Zoom Meeting Bozeman, Montana April 12, 2023

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

DIRECTORS

Denise Conover, Chairwoman
Mike O'Hara, Director
Terry Angvick, Vice Chairman
Keven Bradley, Director

Charlie Bumgarner, Director
Brett Dailey, Director
Max Cederberg, Director

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Dr. Bajwa, MSU
Christy Clark, Director of Department of Agriculture

STAFF

Kent Kupfner, Executive Director
Sam Anderson, Industry Analyst & Outreach Coordinator
Jason Laird, Marketing & Program Coordinator
Kolleen Spurgin, Budget & Grants Coordinator
Tammy Suek, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS

Zach Coccoli, Deputy Director, Department of Ag
Jake McFarlin, Mountain View Coop
Dave Tweet, Barley Consultant
Cort Jensen, Attorney, Department of Ag
Brandee Johnston, MSU Foundation Seed
Cody Pearce, Accountant, Department of Agriculture
Logan Kruse, Communications, Department of Agriculture
Shelley Hendricksen-Scott, Law Attorney Intern, Department of Agriculture
Doug Holen, MSU Foundation Seed

Wednesday, April 12, 2023:

Chairwoman Conover called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. Introductions.

Review of November 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chairwoman Conover presented the minutes of the Budget Board Meeting.

Director O'Hara moved, and Director Dailey seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update

Kolleen Spurgin presented the financial update and addressed some refunder issues.

Department of Agriculture Update

Director Clark went on a trip to Great Britain per invite to tour the country and see their agricultural challenges and opportunities. The pay plan agreement was signed by the Governor and HB 738 went back to committee.

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Cort Jensen answered questions about the bill and how things could change for the office staff. He told the directors to make a motion in new business to guarantee that the Executive Director and staff get the pay raise and bonus in case the bill passed with the amendment still attached.

MSU

Dr. Bajwa talked about the field days and the research centers had an all-time high in expenditures, including grants from MWBC. They are unable to offer enough pay, they are about 50% lower than other universities.

MSU will be doing another follow the food tour on the bus heading to Lewistown and Havre, visiting farms along the way.

MSU – Brandee Johnston

Brandee has been very busy; she now has a Facebook page that contains videos. The seed lab gets a lot of questions about MSU seeds.

Doug Holen with the seed lab said that they were working on getting Brandee a truck soon. They also increased their fees by \$.25 and got some push back.

Brandee has been working on field signs with large logos. MSU is also working on getting our seed up to Canada with the help of NDSU. This is a starting point to getting Montana grains into Canada.

US Wheat Association

Chairwoman Conover said that USWA was looking at more MAP/FMD funding, then Secretary Vilseck came and talked to the group and was very negative about everything. So, the farm bill will be an up-hill battle.

Executive Director Kupfner talked about international trade issues and GMO out of South America. He attended the FBI update and things to watch out for concerning agriculture.

Sam and a few of the directors met with the US Grains Council, the barley sector people.

Break

Transportation

Deputy Director Coccoli went over all the activities he did using the grant funding for transportation.

National Barley Growers Association, National Barley Improvement Committee, US Grains Council, Wheat Marketing Center

Director Bumgarner, NBIC is a group we need to be involved in, they do important work. He is going to the Pet Forum in May to see how barley fits into that market. WMC has a lot of trade teams and other groups right now.

Wheat Quality Council

Director Cederberg thought it was a productive meeting with lots of speakers. Sam also went and he talked about the wheat dashboard, and everyone was very interested in having something similar. Sam was appointed to the Hard Red Spring committee.

US Wheat Board Trip

Director Bradley and Executive Director Kupfner went on the Asian tour and showed some of the video that was taken. They talked to a lot of people in lots of countries, they stayed busy most of the days. They were treated well in all the countries they visited.

Barley Update

Dave Tweet showed off the malt plant display.

We had to change rooms at MSU; the new room had no access to the Zoom call.

Approval of Staff and Director Travel

Director Bumgarner moved, and Director O'Hara seconded the motion to approve the travel. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

April 20-24	MSU Plot Trials – Yuma, AZ
May 1-3	Pet Food Forum – Kansas City, MO
May 7-10	Craft Brewers Conference – Nashville, TN
May 9-11	Gallatin Farm Fair – Belgrade
May 13	Craft Brewers – Bozeman
May 24-26	Rail Shippers Association – Chicago, IL
May 29	Office Closed
June 12-14	Wheat Foods Council – Denver, CO
June 13-15	Taiwan Flour Millers Trade Team
June 14-16	National Barley Grower – St. Louis, MO
June 14	Field Day – Huntley
June 24-26	Korean Crop Survey Trade Team
June 26-27	Western Wheat Workers – Bozeman
June 28-30	Heineken Trade Team
June 28	Field Day – Moccasin
June 29	Field Day – Havre
July 4	Office Closed
July 6	Field Day – Conrad
July 10-13	US Wheat Summer Board Meeting – Minneapolis, MN
July 11	Field Day – Sidney
July 13	Field Day – Creston
July 19	Post Farm/Bozeman
July 25	Northern Crops Institute – Ancient Grains Conference – Elk River, MN
July 26-28	US Grains Council Summer Meeting – Calgary, Canada
July 27	Field Day – Corvallis
July 30-Aug 1	SE Asia Trade Team
Aug 15-17	Japanese Trade Team
Sept. 4	Office Closed
Sept. 4-8	Japanese Trade Team
Sept. 14-15	IAOM Western District Golf – Big Sky

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November 3-4 Celebrate Ag!! Weekend – Bozeman
November 6-10 US Wheat Fall Board Meeting – Cincinnati, Ohio

New Business

Next board meeting – June 20, 2023 – in Fort Benton

Director Bradley moved, and Director Dailey seconded the motion for the Executive Director to receive the same benefits stated in HB 13. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Bradley moved, and Director Bumgarner seconded the motion for all MT Wheat & Barley employees to receive the same benefits of HB 13 regardless of the results of HB 738. The motion passed unanimously.

Director O'Hara moved, and Director Bumgarner seconded the motion to make Jake McFarlin from Mountain View Coop the new Industry Representative for the MT Wheat & Barley Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Conover asked for public comment and heard none. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Kent Kupfner, Executive Director

Date