MONTANA ALFALFA SEED COMMITTEE

February 17, 2015 - 8:00 a.m.} - Big Horn Resort- V.I.P. room - 1801 Majestic Lane, Billings, MT

Meeting called to order by John Mehling, Chairman at 8:25 a.m.

**Attendees:** John Mehling, Alfalfa seed grower &leafcutter bees, Chair

Ernest Johnson, Alfalfa seed grower & leafcutter bees

Dallas Steiger, Alfalfa seed grower

Cavin Steiger, Alfalfa seed grower & leafcutter bees

Tom Neibur, Alfalfa seed grower & leafcutter bees, Vice Chair

Kim Falcon, Montana Department of Agriculture

Treston Vermandel, Montana Department of Agriculture

**Guest Attendees:** Eric Sommer, Montana Ag Statistics

Amelia Jordan, Westland Seed

**Absent:** Tom Matchett, Tim Wetstein

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Mehling called for public comment. Seeing none proceeded with Agenda.

APPROVE AGENDA

**Motion:** Dallas Steiger moved to approve. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed

INTRODUCTIONS

Board introductions were made along with an explanation of alfalfa operation.

MINUTES

**Motion:** Tom Neibur moved to approve the minutes. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kim Falcon submitted the financial statements for discussion.

Cavin Steiger moved to approve. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS : GRANT PROPOSALS

See attached grant proposals. Total Grant Requests: $17,500 Total Grants Funded: $17,500(pending other sources of funding)

**ALFALFA SEED STATISTICS PROGRAM**

Requested $3500 (Eric Sommer, USDA NASS Mountain Region: Montana Field Office)

**Motion:** Ernest Johnson moved to fully fund this proposal. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed

**AGRICULTURE LITERACY PROGRAM SUPORT – FARMING AND POLLINATOR EDUCATION**

Requested $9,000 ( Lorri Brenneman, Agriculture Literacy Specialist, Dept. of Ag. )

**Motion:** Cavin Steiger moved to fund this proposal, however, requests that other sources of funding should be considered. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed

**Alfalfa Leaf Cutter Bee Analysis**

Requested $ 5,000( Cam Lay, State Entomologist)

**Motion:** Ernest Johnson moved to fully fund this proposal. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed.

Cam Lay is expected to discuss itemized expenses at next year’s meeting.

10:30- BREAK

NEW BUSINESS: REPORTS

**Motion:** Tom Neibur moved for Ernest Johnson to represent committee at Western Alfalfa Seed Growers and pay $1,000 for expenses. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed

Eric Sommer, USDA NASS-MT, presented the Montana Ag Statistics report, including the Alfalfa survey.

Ernest Johnson discussed the annual NAFA report. The Committee discussed the Alfalfa Leaf Cutter Bee and the Bee Budget report.

Ernest Johnson discussed contracts reported at the Western Alfalfa Growers meeting.

Kim Falcon discussed the new alfalfa bill introduced in the Legislature this year. (House Bill NO. 265)

NEW BUSINESS: NATIONAL DUES, ADMINISTRATION COSTS, PER DIEM COSTS

Membership dues for the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance (NAFA) are $3300.

**Motion:** Ernest Johnson moved to pay NAFA the membership dues. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Ernest Johnson moved to pay $720 for Commodity Checkoff Administration. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Tom Neibur moved to pay $ 400 for Per Diem. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

**Current Officers:** John Mehling, chair; Tom Neibur, vice chair.

**Motion:** Ernest Johnson moved to accept he same slate of officers as last year. Seconded. No Dissent. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reviewed Assessment and discussed the level of assessment.

**Motion:** Cavin Steiger moved to ratify current assessment level. Seconded. No Dissention. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Mehling called for public comment.

**Motion:** Tom Neibur moved to adjourn meeting. Seconded. Motion passed

Chairman Mehling adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.