

Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee

Minutes
February 19, 2018
Red Lion
Billings, Montana

The meeting was called to order by chair John Mehling at 9:06 a.m.

Public Comment: The chair John Mehling called for public comment, there was none.

Approve Agenda: Tom Neibur moved to add Bee lab standardization and timelines to other business, Cavin Steiger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Introductions: Those in attendance:

John Mehling – Chair, Hardin

Cavin Steiger – Forsyth

Tom Matchett – Billings

Laura Burkle – Bozeman

Christy Clark – MDA, Helena

Alyssa Piccolomini – MDA, Helena

Jana Mertens – MDA, Helena

Tom Niebur – Malta

Ernest Johnson – Chinook

Dallas Steiger – Hysham

Treston Vermandel – MDA, Billings

Beth Eiring – MDA, Helena

Mark Nechodom – MDA, Helena

Minutes: Christy Clark presented the minutes of the February 13, 2017 meeting and the special phone conference minutes of December 5, 2017. Cavin Steiger moved to accept the minutes as presented, Tom Matchett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financial Report: Christy Clark presented the financial report. Ernie Johnson moved to accept the financials Tom Niebur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business: Beth Eiring and Alyssa Piccolomini reported on the new x-ray image reader. They expect the equipment to be running and in use by the end of March or beginning of April. The new reader will be able to send a copy of the image to the producer.

New Business: Grant proposals were reviewed and awarded as follows:

Beth Eiring gave a brief overview of the request for Alfalfa leaf cutter bee registration and analysis program for the Department of Agriculture. \$8,862 was requested and after discussion the committee asked that the entomologist travel to other bee lab facilities in Idaho and Wyoming. Ernie Johnson moved to increase the travel budget by \$1,000 to facilitate travel to Parma, Idaho and Powell, Wyoming to learn about their processes. Tom Niebur seconded the motion. Motion passed. Total grant funds will be \$9,862.

Assessment and Re-releasing the Alfalfa Weevil Natural Parasitoids in Montana, was not funded.

Montana Alfalfa Seed and Leaf Cutter Bee Report, National Agriculture Statistics Service was funded at \$4,600.

Wild Bees in Seed Alfalfa Production was not funded.

The committee asked that Alyssa Piccolomini the state entomologist begin looking for an x-ray cabinet to replace the old one in the bee lab.

Election of Officers: Tom Nieber moved to retain John Mehling as the Chair of the committee. Tom Matchett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Cavin Steiger moved to retain Tom Nieber as Vice Chair, Ernie Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Other business: The level of the assessment was reviewed. Ernie Johnson moved to leave the assessment at .5%. Dallas Steiger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Beth Eiring reported that the state entomology lab space is being remodeled to make the space more secure and efficient. She asked for any input from the committee on what they would like to see.

Ernie Johnson moved as a good will jester to support the lab and pledged to fund \$3,000 towards the state entomology lab remodel. Cavin Steiger seconded the motion. After discussion Ernie Johnson moved to amend the motion to include a contingency that more information was furnished about time spent on Alfalfa Bee and what other industries would contribute to the funding deleting the \$3,000-dollar amount and base the funding on need after the lab staff presents the details at the 2019 meeting of the committee. Cavin Steiger seconded the amendment. Amendment motion passed. Vote on the amended motion passed.

Public Comment: Chair called for public comment, there was none.

Adjourn: Tom Nieber moved to adjourn the meeting. Dallas Steiger seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jana Mertens, Technician

Approved by:

John Mehling, Chair