

**Montana State Hail Board**  
**Missouri Room, Heritage Inn Great Falls MT**  
**November 29, 2022**

Chairman Bing Von Bergen called the meeting to order at 10:34 am and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

**Board Members in attendance were:**

Bing Von Bergen- Board Chair, Moccasin MT  
Jim Schillinger, Circle MT  
Vince Mattson, Chester MT  
Troy Downing, State Auditor, Helena MT, via phone call  
Christy Clark, Acting Director for Department of Agriculture, Helena MT

**Department Staff in Attendance:**

Walt Anseth- Section Supervisor, Helena MT  
Dani Jones- Hail Insurance, Helena MT  
Zach Coccoli- Deputy Director, Helena MT  
Cort Jensen- Chief Legal Counsel, Helena MT  
Cody Pearce- Accounting Supervisor, Helena MT  
Logan Kruse- Information Officer, Helena MT

**Members of the Public:**

Solomon Frazier- Taylor Walker Associates, Utah  
Mari Kindberg- State Auditor's Office, Helena MT  
Eddy Joyce, Geraldine MT -NAU  
Lynn Golden, Great Falls MT -NAU  
Pamela Jackson, Powell WY -RCIS  
Chris Volf, Judith Gap MT -RCIS  
Kent Ridgeway, Stanford MT RCIS  
Trevor Vielleux, Fort Benton MT AgriSompo

**Public Comment-** Chairman Von Bergen asked for public comment and there was none at the time.

**Minutes-** Minutes from the March 23, 2022, meeting were reviewed, and changes were presented. Vince Mattson made the motion to accept the minutes with the changes. Jim Schillinger 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Financial Report-** Walt Anseth presented the financial report and delinquencies as of October 31, 2022, to the board. Operating costs were up compared to last year due to two additional adjusters; more losses equal more miles to be paid out. A "patch" was needed for the current hail program from the

State IT Department, the patch was needed due to the age of the program and security questions. Report is on file.

**Delinquencies-** 4 total delinquent policies for a total of \$29,243.83. Number of delinquents policies has gone down since the program has been in house. A lien is filed on two of the four delinquents. The delinquents include one from 2014, one from 2015, one from 2019, and one from 2020.

**Review of 2021 Season-** Walt Anseth reviewed the 2022 season numbers with the Board. There was 356,057 total acres insured, with the majority being Spring Wheat. Winter Wheat acres were down, Barley and Durum acres were up. The number of policies increased for the 2022 season, 357 total policies issued. There was a total of 128 loss claims filed to a payout of \$3,522,465. Walt also shared the 10, 25, and 106-year report for the Hail Program. Chairman Bing VonBergen would like to address peas and chickpeas at the spring 2023 meeting

**Actuarial Report-** Solomon Frazier of Taylor Walker Associates presented the 2022 Actuarial Report to the Board. Report is on file.

**Reinsurance-** Walt Anseth shared with the Board that the department was awarded funds from the American Rescue Act. Funds have been placed into investment accounts; \$4.5 million is in a short-term account and \$3.5 million is in a long-term investment account. The funds and discussion have been through the governor's office, it was approved through a Senate hearing. Discussion has been happening for a while, which has also included lawyers from the state and federal level. Chairman Bing VonBergen asked if there is a possibility that the funds can be "taken back", Cort Jensen reassured the committee that the funds will not be taken back. Vince Mattson made the motion for Walt to peruse the 50/50 split with reinsurance, Jim Schillinger 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Walt suggested to leave the rates the same for the 2022 year; all in favor.

**Appeals-** No appeals currently

**Adjusters-** Two new adjusters started this spring, for a total of 7 adjusters. Both new adjusters spent time with different adjusters for training. Steve O'Tool is the lead adjuster, who has close to 50 years adjusting for State Hail.

**Public Comment-** No public comment.

Jim Schillinger made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am

Minutes Presented by \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Section Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_