

Meeting Minutes
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
October 2, 2008
Via Teleconference

Board Members Present

Scott Osler, President – Elsie
Mike Keenan – Big Springs
Mike Sullivan – Wallace
Shawn Sullivan – Wallace

Staff Present

Zoe Olson

Guests

Chairperson Osler called the meeting to order at 7:00 am. Four board members were present. Roll call was a report on this year's wheat planting—all went well and now waiting for the corn to dry enough to harvest. Staff was introduced and welcomed.

The agenda was reviewed. MSullivan asked to add the topic of a flower fund. **Keenan moved to accept agenda as amended, SSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. **Keenan made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, MSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

MSullivan suggested that a line item to pay for flowers for memorials or illness, be added to the financial statement under office expenses. **MSullivan moved to add a line item for flowers, SSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.** MSullivan noted that Gordon Luhrs, a NWGA member had passed away and suggested a card be sent to Tom Luhrs, Osler will attend the service. **SSullivan moved to approve the financial reports as submitted, Keenan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed. SSullivan moved to approve all bills as submitted, MSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Osler presented the President's Report. Osler and his family staffed the Nebraska Wheat booth at the State Fair on the Sunday before Labor Day. He reported lots of contacts and interest and noted the interest in hard white wheat. He said it was a fun time and encouraged other members to participate in the future. MSullivan reported that he and SSullivan had helped at Husker Harvest Days and supported Osler in board members taking an active role in helping staff at Nebraska Wheat functions.

Olson suggested the association should have a booth at the McCook Farm & Ranch Show November 19-20. She stated that Jeff Noel at UNL had volunteered to help staff the booth. **MSullivan moved to have a booth at the McCook Farm & Ranch Show with staffing by Olson, Noel and any members available, Keenan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Olson presented the Office Report. Membership lists needed substantial work to get in shape for this year's mailing. She reported that she has sent the revised list to NAWG for the Commodity Classic mailing and to Ginger Hartman for the Ag Classic mailing. Olson reported it is possible to have internet service wired into the State Office Building as the association is not a state entity and she is looking into other options to obtain regular internet service for the association. Olson will attend the Urban Wheat Field in New York City next week and will be out of the office but available by phone and email.

Osler presented the NAWG report. Erik Younggren of Minnesota has been nominated for 2009 Secretary-Treasurer. Olson reported that the NAWG conference all for state executives on September 19 focused ACRE issues. Osler, MSullivan and Olson will attend the NAWG/US Wheat Associates joint meeting in Dallas in November. There will be an additional report for NAWG members from USDA on October 31 in Dallas regarding the 2008 Farm Bill.

The by-laws were given a first reading. **SSullivan moved to accept the first reading as corrected, MSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Olson reported that she felt it is important to continue the relationship with *The Business Farmer* through this fiscal year since that was the agreement at the end of the last fiscal year. Olson will continue to investigate other options for the board's consideration for communication outreach and affinity programs. **MSullivan moved to continue the relationship with *The Business Farmer* through the end of the fiscal year, SSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Olson suggested that it may be possible to do a mailing through FSA to all wheat producers in the state as long as it is not a membership drive and suggested some sort of newsletter. **MSullivan moved for Olson to pursue the opportunity of a mailing to all wheat producers, SSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Olson offered there has been significant interest in organic wheat since the bread and cinnamon roll baking at the state fair. The office has been contacted regarding Nebraska organic wheat producers and most callers stated they thought the only organic wheat was grown in Montana. Osler stated he believes the association should pursue some type of organic wheat proposal and members are asked to consider the issue and offer suggestions at future meetings.

Olson reported that the Nebraska Ag Classic will be held at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, December 15-17. The Nebraska Wheat Board will meet on the 15th from 8 am – 5 pm and the Growers will meet on December 16 from 8 am to 11:30 am. John Thaemert, past president of NAWG will attend the grower meeting and will be speaking on the subject of carbon credits. The Wheat Board members, guests and staff will stay at the Hampton Inn; the Growers board members have rooms at the Holiday Inn.

Osler noted that the meeting will need to be very precise due to the amount of material we will need to address and requested all members carefully read all financial and meeting materials in order to move the meeting along. Election of directors will also occur at this meeting. There is the potential for two board members from each district. Keenan stated he may have someone interested in becoming a board member. Osler asked MSullivan to represent him at the Wheat Board meeting on the next day and to ask for recommendation for board members.

Olson noted that the association must also nominate a wheat grower of the year and a person of the year for presentation at the Ag Classic.

SSullivan asked that Olson look into ordering coats for Colglazier, SSullivan and Olson to match those of the other board members. They were purchased from Elite Sports in Ogallala.

Keenan asked if everything is going well with Dana F. Cole. Olson reported it is.

Future travel includes the Urban Wheatfield October 5-9, US Wheat Associates/NAWG October 31-November 3 and the Nebraska Ag Classic December 15-17.

S. Sullivan moved to adjourn, seconded by M. Sullivan. Voice vote all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Submitted by: Zoe Olson