

Annual Meeting Minutes
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
December 16, 2008
Kearney, NE

Board Members Present

Scott Osler, President
Mike Keenan
Mike Sullivan
Shawn Sullivan
Ashley Colglazier via telephone

Staff Present

Zoe Olson

Guests

John Thaemert
Ron & Shirley Suppes
Jennifer Latske

President Osler called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. All board members were present. Roll call was a report on crop conditions—more moisture would be appreciated. Staff and guests were introduced and welcomed.

The agenda was reviewed. **MSullivan moved to accept agenda, SSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

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

The financial reports were reviewed. **MSullivan moved to approve the financial reports as submitted, Keenan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Olson reported that the association had received the personal property tax report for the coming year and suggested that it be paid at one time instead of in two increments. **MSullivan moved to pay personal property taxes for the year in a single payment instead of in two increments, SSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Osler stated in his President's report that the association is back on track after some years in decline. He stated the association is increasing its activity level from previous years. He reserved some items in his report for later in the meeting. Osler stated he believes these are exciting times for NWGA and that the association is returning to a more active status.

Olson reported that there have been some issues with aging office equipment. She has recently replaced the printer that quit working and the computers are both having problems. SSullivan suggested Olson keep the board advised of the situation and noted that computers may need to be updated in the future.

Osler delivered the NAWG report. He reported that Osler, MSullivan and Olson had represented the association at the NAWG/US Wheat joint meeting in Dallas, TX in November. There was a presentation by the USDA on the day prior to the conference with regard to the 2008 Farm Bill. Osler noted there are substantial problems with implementation at this time, but that NAWG is active in addressing the concerns of the growers. NAWG has worked hard on the 2008 Farm Bill and will be addressing direct payments as these are important to wheat farmers. John Thaemert, Past President of NAWG, congratulated the work of the Nebraska growers and specifically its association leadership for their work on behalf of wheat producers on the national level.

The by-laws were given a second reading. **John Sullivan moved to accept the By-laws as changed, Dan Hughes seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.**

MSullivan presented this year's NWGA proposed resolutions. **Dan Hughes moved to drop III-A-1, Larry Flohr seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.**

Dan Hughes moved to drop III-A-6, Brent Robertson seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.

MSullivan noted III-C-6 should have change language to RMA. **Chris Cullan moved to change language as recommended, Delferd Schlake seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.**

MSullivan noted that III-D-16 addresses the issue of additional bumper guard regulation. Dan Hughes would like the growers to oppose the requirement. III-D-20 would be a new resolution that NWGA opposes possible DOT regulations to require rear bumpers on farm trucks. **Keenan moved to add III-D-20, Larry Flohr seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.**

Larry Flohr questioned whether III-C-7 harvest issue requirement has been dropped and wants board to confirm so can be dropped in 2009.

IV-A-3 is a clean up of language.

IV-C-10 is a new resolution. **SSullivan moved accept IV-C-10, John Sullivan seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.**

Dan Hughes moved to strike V-B-2, Chris Cullan seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.

Dan Hughes said he had checked with an insurance carrier regarding the issue in III-C-7. **Larry Flohr moved III-C-7 be dropped, Rick Larson seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.**

MSullivan moved to accept the submitted resolutions changed, SSullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.

Olson reported that membership renewals are being received and that she is sending a new NWGA window cling to members when they either join or renew their membership along with a letter regarding association activity. She will be sending reminder letters next week.

Dick Fleming gave a presentation on the Master Conservationist Program and asked for nominees for the program.

Olson reported NWGA's booth at the McCook Farm & Ranch Show was well received. Although the late corn harvest and unseasonably warm weather on the first day suppressed attendance, she said the other vendors felt it was a well-run show and many she spoke with would be attending again next year. She suggested the association consider having a booth at the show next year.

Osler announced that the association is in the process of creating a mobile baking lab similar to the Oklahoma baking lab in order to promote wheat throughout the state. He spent yesterday at an auction acquiring some of the necessary equipment. Olson will be looking for other items for the lab. This is an exceptional outreach opportunity for the association.

Olson announced a March educational event that will be the first in a series of wheat crop related forums that will be held in conjunction with NWGA board meetings. Members should watch their mail and the website for more information.

Dan Hughes directed the board elections. He commended the board for taking positive actions during difficult times. Osler thanked MSullivan for serving as Past President for the last year and noted that MSullivan will leave the board following Commodity Classic in February.

John Sullivan nominated Scott Osler for the office of President, asked that nominations closed and that Osler be elected by acclamation. Colglazier seconded. Voice vote was unanimous.

Nominations for board of directors were made. Colglazier nominated Keenan; SSullivan nominated Colglazier; MSullivan nominated SSullivan. **Osler moved that the nominations cease and the slate be elected by acclamation. Rick Larson seconded. Voice vote, board elected.**

Osler noted that SSullivan will be moving up to the NAWG board and will attend WOLF training prior to the NAWG/US Wheat meeting in Washington DC.

Osler directed Olson to acquire a \$300-500 item unique to wheat and in particular unique to Nebraska Wheat for the Wheat PAC auction at the Commodity Classic.

SSullivan moved that NWGA endorse the NCTA one hundred acre program as presented by Dr. Weldon Sleight at the Nebraska Wheat Board meeting, MSullivan seconded. Voice vote, motion passed.

Olson presented a letter of support for the UNL wheat research plots being retained. Dan Duncan offered an impromptu report on the situation.

Royce Schaneman offered a report on the issue of a proposed water checkoff and elevator rescue fund.

Members of NWGA enjoyed a presentation on carbon credits by John Thiemert, Past President of the National Association of Wheat Growers.

Ron Suppes, past chair of US Wheat Associates reported on recent USW activities.

Future travel includes Wheat Marketing Center Wheat Export Tour January 5-8, NAWG/US Wheat Associates Winter Meeting February 7-11, and Commodity Classic February 24-28. The next meeting will be held in Lincoln on March 17.

SSullivan moved to adjourn, seconded by MSullivan. Voice vote all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Zoe Olson