

Meeting Minutes
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
March 9, 2010
Nebraska Wheat Board Office, Lincoln, NE

Board Members Present

Shawn Sullivan, President
Dayton Christensen
Michael Thomas, Jr.
Scott Osler, via phone

Staff Present

Zoe Olson

Guests

Dana Peterson, NAWG, via phone

President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Board members answered roll call with a current crop conditions report.

The agenda was reviewed. **Osler moved to approve the agenda. Christensen seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

The minutes of the December meeting and the Annual meeting were reviewed. **Osler moved to approve the minutes. Christensen seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

The financial reports for October through February were reviewed. Olson reviewed pending receipts and requested the submission of all bills by the end of March. **Christensen moved to accept the financial report. Thomas seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

Sullivan stated in his President's report that the association board and staff have been busy and are accomplishing much. He reported on participation at the NAWG winter meeting, hill visits and Commodity Classic.

Olson presented the office report and explained the need to updated QuickBooks which can be accomplished online. **Osler moved to authorize Olson to update QuickBooks. Thomas seconded. Voice vote motion passed.** Olson reported the March educational event focus will be on transgenic wheat including opportunities and challenges. Board members suggested combine settings, elevator issues, cleaning combines, red and white segregation, new varieties, monitoring for pests, and a brief presentation on challenges moving into the state, i.e., diseases, sprout, and pests as topics for the June educational event.

NAWG CEO Peterson joined the meeting via telephone and reported on activities at NAWG. The Commodity Classic just completed in Anaheim. The gavel was passed to Jerry McReynolds, President and other new officers are 1st Vice-President Wayne Hurst, 2nd Vice-President Erik Younggren, Secretary/Treasurer Bing Von Bergen and Past President Karl Scronce. NAWG is developing new efforts for outreach and will be hiring a research technology person who will be the point person on public/private collaboration issues. A PowerPoint presentation on wheat economics will soon be on the website. Priority items are conservation in the new farm bill and EPA regulations. Producers in all states will be surveyed on new farm bill issues by end of April. NAWG will compile and disseminate the results to officers and then explore options through representative committees. Options will be determined in May. At the end of June the Farm Bill working Group will be established and develop priorities through August and present findings at the

October board meeting. NAWG has been dealing with appropriations of the current Farm Bill and crop insurance and have implications for baseline budget of Farm Bill and the possibility of reopening the current Farm Bill for budget issues. At the Commodity Classic there were two learning sessions on climate change and fertilizer issues regarding climate change. Christensen asked if NAWG and US Wheat will be joining into one organization. Peterson stated that the options are to leave the proposal on the books and work toward that end or to remove the proposal from issues. The entire NAWG and foundation board will need to look at the proposal during strategic planning session and Operations & Planning has recommended leaving the issue open. Sullivan stated he thinks the trend is to keep separate identities with a unified voice. Sullivan congratulated Peterson in her role as new CEO. Peterson stated that the at the state execs roundtable in Commodity Classic a fly-in on the Wednesday prior to the Urban Wheat Field was suggested.

Olson gave a legislative update on bills addressed and the protection of check-off dollars.

Sullivan and Olson reported on the Mobile Baking Lab regarding the pickup purchase, funding from BNSF, the possibility of a winch and ramps for generator loading, and a luggage or cover the bed. ConAgra has requested the lab for the Iowa State Fair on August 13-15, will reimburse all costs and multiple volunteers will be needed. The lab may also be requested at the 2011 Commodity Classic in Tampa, FL. Osler received a check from District 11 and it will be used for the Mobile Baking Lab. The bid from Revolution Wrap was reviewed. **Osler moved to pay the down payment to Revolution Wrap for the different mock-ups pending board approval of the design and financial consideration. Christensen seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

Olson distributed a membership list current as of March 9, 2010. She will contact *The Business Farmer* regarding those members who have reported not receiving their subscription. Olson suggested letters from the board to both renewed and non-renewed members.

Sullivan reviewed the committee structure put in place at the Annual Meeting in December. The president oversees all committees. The past president assists the president and both will work on membership. Each of the three executive officers will chair one of three committees: Environment and Renewable Resources, Domestic Policy, and Biotechnology and Research. The chair of the Environment and Renewable Resources Committee and will assist Sullivan on the NAWG board. Kirk Foster has offered his resignation due to scheduling conflicts. **Christensen moved to accept the resignation. Thomas seconded. Voice vote motion passed.** The resignation has created a vacant position on the board. **Christensen nominated Mark Daum from Dix to fill the position until elections in December and moved that nominations cease. Osler seconded the nomination. Voice vote motion passed.** Thomas will chair the Biotech and Research Committee, Christensen will chair the Environment and Renewable Resource Committee, and Daum will chair the Domestic Policy Committee. Sullivan gave a presentation at NCTA and would like to add a collegiate non-voting member to the board. Osler asked if the addition would require a bylaws change and Sullivan answered that it would not since this would be a non-voting member. Sullivan believes the position should be open to all state colleges and is looking into a wheat ambassadors program. Thomas believes the idea has merit. Christensen asked what the term limits would be. Sullivan would like to see it evolve into another committee

and Christensen would like to see annual commitment. Osler would like to explore collegiate programs for further research. Christensen offered to explore similar programs at UNL.

Sullivan explained the Wilot and WOLF leadership programs sponsored at the national level. Wilot is sponsored by Monsanto and is a leadership training program. WOLF is tailored to NAWG board initiation and occurs prior to the winter meeting in DC. Christensen is interested in the Wilot program and will recommended when applications become available.

Sullivan noted it is vitally important for growers to visit with our national representatives more than 30 minutes/year at the DC meeting. Visits will be making visits in conjunction with the Urban Wheat Field in DC this year but there is a need to explore future years. The board directed Olson to research the Congressional schedule and what opportunities exist in October and mid-August.

Sullivan reported the Commodity Classic was well attended and will be held March 5-7, 2011. Osler noted there will be a survey from domestic policy on survey monkey. Sullivan asked if corn and beans will be involved and noted the April 15 deadline.

Sullivan stated Informa Economics gave a presentation on cap and trade with implementation costs and possible profits. NAWG will continue to monitor. Data has been presented and is being analyzed to get a better understanding of the information to determine NAWG's position. The Environmental and Renewable Resource Committee directed Mark Gaede to get more involved in discussions with members of Congress and policies in writing.

Sullivan suggested meetings could be held via the web at ASA offices. Olson noted that NWGA has a Skype account and that interested growers could access for meetings. Thomas believes in augmenting meetings with technology but believes gains are made in person and technology can not be a 100% substitute.

Biotechnology issues are facing the industry and there is much to be learned. Minnesota has a biotech wheat contract announcement. There will be a relation to food safety. Thomas would hate to see yields out of control. Olson would like to see a benefit to the consumer. Sullivan would like to see additional uses.

Olson was directed to look into jackets, binders and dress shirts for new executive officers.

Sullivan thanked Thomas for his representation at the Governor's Ag Conference. Christensen and Thomas thanked Olson for preparing legislative testimony and other prepared remarks.

Olson was asked to explore Google calendar. The calendar and future travel was reviewed.

Sullivan questioned whether the board should explore charging for the Mobile Baking Lab in order to avoid over-scheduling Olson. Olson encouraged the board to trust that she will not over-schedule and encouraged communication between board members.

Osler will circulate the signature card through the mail from Pinnacle Bank for the CD when it is received and asked members to watch for the card and pass it along.

Osler moved to adjourn the meeting. Christensen seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Zoe Olson