

Meeting Minutes
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
March 17, 2009
Holiday Inn, Lincoln, NE

Board Members Present

Scott Osler, President
Shawn Sullivan
Mike Keenan
Ashley Colglazier

Staff Present

Zoe Olson

President Osler called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm. All board members were present. Roll call was a report on crop conditions—more moisture would be appreciated and wheat looks in good condition at this time. Staff and NWGA members were introduced and welcomed.

The agenda was reviewed. Sullivan requested a modification to add a discussion regarding computer needs and a promotional item. **Keenan moved to accept agenda as modified, Sullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. **Sullivan moved to accept the minutes, Colglazier seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

The financial reports were reviewed. Sullivan asked for clarification on the Alltel bill variance. Olson explained that every other month there is a credit that has not been explained by Alltel. Colglazier noted the same issue occurs with her personal phone account. **Colglazier moved to approve the monthly financial reports as submitted, Keenan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Osler explained that he had submitted expenses to NAWG that were related to his RMA trip and expected reimbursement. This would clarify the travel involved on the DC trip. **Sullivan moved to approve the second quarter financial reports as submitted, Keenan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Osler stated in his President's report that the association has been busy back playing offense instead of defense and sees the association making positive movement. He believes the mobile baking lab is going to be a great asset and will serve well to promote the association and Nebraska wheat. He noted the presentation of RMA was good for Nebraska—Colorado was at the same time as this meeting, hosting a meeting with RMA officials; however, this is a regional RMA issue for Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas. Osler noted that the RMA insurance issue of primary note is the need for a major safety net for farmers. This issue is the focus of NAWG's attention. The Commodity Classic was a great meeting and there was great interaction with others in the wheat industry. He reported that Nebraska had been thanked by Oklahoma at the NAWG board meeting for helping in the booth—Nebraska was singled out from all volunteers for our assistance.

Olson reported the office has been rearranged to implement a better appearance and workflow. Ann Bauers is the new administrative assistant for NWB. There are several items of office furniture and equipment that should be disposed of. Olson will compile a list of those items; NWGA board members will have the opportunity to purchase them first after which time Olson will sell them to the public.

Daren Coppock joined the meeting via teleconference/webinar and reported on NAWG activities. He has agreed to report on NAWG activities via phone at future NWGA meetings. Coppock encouraged the Board to support NAWG's efforts in obtaining a seat on the board of The Hand That Feeds Us organization.

Olson explained the mission of The Hand That Feeds Us organization is to promote and be proactive in telling agriculture's story. **Sullivan moved to commit \$1500 to this effort, Colglazier seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Osler reported is now chair of NAWG's nominating committee. Sullivan reported that Natsource is asking for volunteers in order to conduct a study of farming practices as they relate to carbon sequestration. Nebraska has offered to be a volunteer state and will contact individual farmers in Nebraska.

The March education event will be held on the 18th. Olson will look into the use of wheat issues monitoring or wheat tour funds for this event as it will be held throughout the state.

Osler opened discussion on the development of policy for the mobile baking lab. It was determined that the lab will operate within the state free of charge; however, following Oklahoma's advice, we will request reimbursement of expenses when operating the lab outside Nebraska. Olson requested the board allow staff to determine the lab's availability. Olson is awaiting response from Conagra with regard to their sponsorship of the trailer and reported Conagra has agreed to donate flour, Pam and Wesson oil in exchange for publicity.

Olson reported she is looking for presenters willing to discuss scouting for disease, storage issues, elevator issues and USDA grading. The event will be held June 10, 2009 at the Farm And Ranch Museum in Gering.

Sullivan recommended having one computer instead of a desktop and laptop so all information can be portable and easily accessible. Due to the age and declining function of both computers, Sullivan recommended getting a laptop that will have portability and help with web conferencing. **Keenan moved to authorize Olson to spend up to \$2,000 for a new laptop and software, Sullivan seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.**

Sullivan brought a promotional glove piece he received at the Commodity Classic as a possible handout for Nebraska Wheat.

Olson informed the board that Ken Rajhes with KRVN may be contacting producers for interviews.

The next meeting will be held June 11, 2009 at the Farm And Ranch Museum in Gering, NE.

Sullivan moved to adjourn, Colglazier seconded. Voice vote all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Zoe Olson