

Meeting Minutes
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
August 27, 2009
Nebraska Wheat Board Office, Lincoln, NE

Board Members Present

Scott Osler, President
Shawn Sullivan
Ashley Colglazier

Staff Present

Zoe Olson

President Osler called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Board members answered roll call with a harvest report. Osler reported a record crop with no hail, a perfect crop. Colglazier reported a record crop with only one field damaged with hail. Sullivan reported excellent yields and good test weights.

Sullivan moved to approve the agenda. Colglazier seconded. Voice vote motion passed.

The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. **Colglazier moved to approve the minutes. Sullivan seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

The financial reports were reviewed. There was a discussion of whether the association operates under a fiscal year or calendar year. Olson will check with Dana F. Cole and report to the board at the next meeting. Olson reminded members that reimbursements should be submitted within 60 days of incurring the expense. **Sullivan moved to accept the financial report. Colglazier seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

Osler reported that the signature cards need to be changed on the CDs. **Colglazier moved to have Osler, Sullivan and Olson as signatories on the CD. Sullivan seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

Osler stated in his President's report that he had seen the new trailer at State Fair Park and that it is impressive. He reported that all submitted contracts with the Nebraska Wheat Board were fully funded and he felt this is a vote of confidence in the work of the association. He believed the increased visibility in the last year will have a positive effect on membership. There have been requests for membership and the association has been receiving lots of positive press in *Nebraska Farmer* and other magazines. He commended Olson for her efforts on behalf of the association.

Olson reported that the mobile baking lab was very well received in Chadron. She reported on the Colombian Trade Team visit in July and the upcoming visit in with a trade team in China in September. The mobile baking lab will be used to make buns for prime rib sliders in conjunction with the Beef Council at River City Roundup in September.

Daren Coppock joined the meeting via teleconference/webinar and reported on NAWG activities. NAWG has an issue with climate change and the recommendation out of committee is for an emergency meeting of the board next week via conference call. The full board will either have an emergency meeting face-to-face or the executive board will have one representative per state. The policy position advocated by NAWG and governance issues was brought to light. There has been a staff/communication to producers issue and there may need a possible task force of the board to assist on solving the issue. Coppock thanked Sullivan for his voice of reason during the climate change discussions and voiced appreciation to Nebraska for the respect and support they have given NAWG staff. NAWG is still

working on the clean water reauthorization act and staff are working with Senators wanting to codify exemptions for wet lands from rules into actual statute—"navigable" by court rulings for EPA and Corps of Engineers having the meaning of water going into a body of water on which a boat could be operated. Cori Wittman is working for Ag on transportation issues. There are two competing bills earlier dealing with anti-trust and commerce issues. Work is now underway on a comprehensive transportation bill and they are drafting an invitation to Union Pacific to discuss issues. Ag is facing the real possibility of budget reconciliation and any program could be on the chopping block. The Farm Bill will be up front and one of the first talking points will be that it is less than one percent of the federal budget. There is a rumor that the USDA will issue more reductions on PIMA. Coppock noted that on climate legislation the Senate won't have a partisan bill and there are problems with the house bill. Healthcare will impact the timing of the climate legislation debate. Senator Kennedy's death will further slow the process and the White House may slow down health care and pick up climate change before Copenhagen. Coppock noted that NAWG has positions on health care.

Sullivan asked if there were any repercussions for states going against NAWG's policy. Coppock said there are no repercussions from NAWG but that staff have suffered personal attacks from various states and that such behavior is totally unacceptable. Sullivan asked if NAWG's credibility is suffering due to internal conflict. Coppock noted that it is a known issue that the national position is not supported by some states and that can be used against NAWG on other issues. Coppock invited all the board to sit in on tomorrow's conference call but noted that no outside resource people will be on the call.

Mick Majors joined the meeting via telephone. He requested that the association send a letter of nomination for his appointment to the Growers Coop Council Board of Directors. Osler, Sullivan and Colglazier noted that Majors would be nominated if he agreed to attend NWGA meetings either in person or via telephone in order that he would have information regarding NWGA policy. Majors agreed to the condition and offered to help at the State Fair booth the last weekend of the fair. The board directed Olson to send the letter of nomination.

With regard to membership promotion, all areas of Nebraska need to be reached. The board will need three new members and all officers are committed to soliciting active board officers for next year.

Sullivan noted that Nebraska will need to have a resolution that cap and trade is a priority item. Nebraska submitted the following wording for national consideration "NAWG opposes the theory of climate change legislation; however, anticipating the enacting of such legislation, NAWG supports the exemption of agriculture from capped sector regulation and requires the inclusion of a robust agriculture offset provision in any said legislation. Furthermore, NAWG opposes EPA regulation of climate change."

Sullivan requested the change of date from 2004 to 2008 on resolutions.

Colglazier moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Zoe Olson