

Montana Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes

February 4-5, 2019

Conference Room 225

Montana Department of Agriculture

Helena, Montana

Members in attendance:

Amy Kellogg, Chair, Kalispell

Lars Hanson, Vice Chair, Edgar

Ben Thomas, Director, Department of Agriculture, Helena

Tara Rice, Director, Department of Commerce, Helena (present through proxy to Tom Kaiserski)

John Wicks, Chester

Tara Mastel, Red Lodge

Parry Quisno, Fort Belknap

Members absent:

none

Staff in attendance:

Tom Kaiserski, Industry Development Manager, Montana Department of Commerce

(General/Irrevocable Proxy for Director of Commerce Tara Rice February 4-5, 2020)

Andy Fjeseth, Bureau Chief, Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau, Department of Agriculture

Zach Coccoli, Staff Attorney, Montana Department of Agriculture

Jim Auer, Grants Manager, Montana Department of Agriculture

Charsi Workman, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture

Weston Merrill, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)

Marty Earnheart, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture

Dani Jones, Hail Program Technician, Montana Department of Agriculture

Cindy Trimp, Central Services Administrator, Montana Department of Agriculture (partial attendance)

Amy Kellogg, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 4, 2020 and recessed the meeting at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, February 4, 2020.

Council reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 and adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Roll Call/Call for Proxies

- *Roll Call by Andy Fjeseth. All members present, with Tom Kaiserski serving as Tara Rice's proxy.*

Public Comment

Chair, Amy Kellogg, called for public comments on the morning of Tuesday, February 4, 2020, and Wednesday, February 5, 2020. No public comments were presented.

Review of July 2, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve minutes as presented.

By: Lars Hanson

2nd: Patricia Quisno

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Review of Budget and Financial Report

Jim Auer, Grants Manager, presented the program budget to the Council and answered questions.

Review of Council Meeting Protocol & Conflict of Interest

Zach Coccoli reviewed the requirements of Council members regarding conflict of interest and ethics.

Conflicts identified:

- Tom Kaiserski identified potential conflict with the proposal from Montana Department of Commerce. Tom Kaiserski left the meeting room during this proposal.

Application Presentations

- 1. Truzzolino Tamale Shop, Inc** **\$39,253.50**
Remodeling of current building and purchasing new mini rotating rack oven.
John Truzzolino, Butte, MT
Not Funded
- 2. SporeAttic LLC** **\$11,290.00**
Infrastructure development, initial startup costs and equipment for streamline production.
Benjamin Deuling, Bozeman, MT
Award: \$11,290 Grant
- 3. Farmented Foods LLC** **\$18,700.71**
To expand operations
Vanessa Walsten, Kalispell, MT
Award: \$14,052 Grant
- 4. Montana Premier Protein, LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Engineering study, site evaluation, consulting and market analysis
Christian Orms, Billings, MT
Award: \$50,000 Grant
- 5. Mont-Dulce ABN for Teresa Devin Morales** **\$147,600.00**
Plant-based milk start-up company looking to buy equipment.
Teresa Devin Morales, Missoula, MT
Not Funded

- 6. Caroline Point Farm** **\$30,000.00**
Expanding Geographic Reach of Market for Mountain Meadow Bone Broth
Eileen McGurty, Missoula, MT
Award: \$30,000 Total
• **Award: \$20,000 Grant**
• **Award: \$10,000 Loan**
- 7. Green Ridge Biosolutions U.S. Inc** **\$50,000.00**
Hemp Extraction Capacity Growth through Equipment Acquisition and Building Expansion
Samuel Belanger, Ronan, MT
Award: \$45,000 Grant
- 8. Lavender Lori** **\$30,000.00**
Grant to expand value-added production of premium-priced lavender distillates (essential oil & hydrosol) in Mission Valley
Lori Parr, St. Ignatius, MT
Not funded
- 9. Flathead Lake Cherry Growers', Inc** **\$50,000.00**
Flathead Lake Cherry Grower's Cold Storage Replacement Project - 2019
Bob Sandman, Columbia Falls, MT
Award: \$50,000 Grant
- 10. Kalispell Creamery, Inc** **\$28,000.00**
Kalispell Creamery Glass Bottle Exchange Program.
Mary Tuck, Kalispell, MT
Award: \$28,000 Loan
- 11. Crescent Ridge Farm** **\$25,250.00**
Produce and Flower Production Enhancements
Michael Davidson, Alberton, MT
Award: \$25,250 Grant
- 12. C3 Produce LLC** **\$125,000.00**
Starting a vertical farming facility in Frenchtown Montana for lettuce and micro greens.
Sebastien Guilhemontonia, Missoula, MT
Not funded
- 13. Glacial Greens** **\$17,132.00**
Glacial Greens aquaponics 4 seasons geo-thermal greenhouse.
Isaac Simpson, Columbia Falls, MT
Not funded
- 14. Lifeline Produce** **\$16,990.00**
Value added vegetable prep kitchen.
Casey Louis, Victor, MT
Award: \$16,990 Grant

- 15. Willow Mountain Winery, LLC** **\$105,125.00**
Continued expansion of Willow Mountain Estate Vineyard/Winery.
Roxann McGuire, Corvallis MT
Award: \$25,000 Grant
- 16. Hamilton Pack** **\$50,000.00**
Hamilton Pack LLC Value Adding Equipment and Supply Purchase
Jason Schlange, Hamilton, MT
Award: \$46,000 Grant
- 17. Project Meats, LLC** **\$150,000.00**
Putting Montana Cattle on The Map Expansion.
Tanya and Shane Flowers, Billings, MT
Award: \$150,000 Total
 - **Award: \$50,000 Grant**
 - **Award: \$100,000 Loan**
- 18. Montana Branded** **\$27,000.00**
Increase inventory capacity of direct to consumer retail beef sales.
Joshua Johnson, Westby, MT
Award: \$27,000 Grant
- 19. Montana Department of Commerce** **\$80,000.00**
Commerce-Agriculture international promotion collaboration.
Angelyn DeYoung, Helena, MT
Award: \$40,000 Grant
- 20. Montana Gluten Free Prairie, LLC** **\$7,098.00**
Funding to upgrade equipment & purchase packaging to increase efficiencies & production.
Deb Wheaton, Manhattan, MT
Award: \$5,000 Grant
- 21. Crooked Yard Hops** **\$13,500.00**
Montana Hops Processing Facility Improvements.
Jake TeSelle, Bozeman, MT
Award: \$13,500 Loan
- 22. Big Sky Orchards, LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Processing & Packaging Family Grown Montana Hops.
Maddy Jones, Bigfork, MT
Award: \$40,000 Grant

- 23. HI Country Snack Foods, Inc** **\$140,000.00**
Local Jerky Packaging Expansion.
Travis Byerly, Bozeman, MT
Award: \$75,000 Total
• **Award: \$20,000 Grant**
• **Award: \$50,000 Loan**
- 24. Go Roam Free, LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Keeping the value-add of Montana raised grass-fed bison in Montana by scaling and expanding Roam Free products.
Jonathan Sepp, Hot Springs, MT
Award: \$5,000 Grant
- 25. Cowboy Cricket Farms, Inc.** **\$150,000.00**
Complete automation of a cricket farm open to the public.
James and Kathy Rolin, Bozeman, MT
Award: \$15,000 Grant
- 26. Milk River Joint Board of Control** **\$50,000.00**
St. Mary - Milk River Project Drop 2 Replacement Project.
Jennifer Patrick, Havre, MT
Award: \$50,000 Grant
- 27. St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group** **\$43,388.00**
St. Mary River Siphon Crossing Repairs.
Marko Manoukian, Malta, MT
Award: \$43,388 Grant
- 28. Dry Hills Distillery** **\$49,000.00**
Grain to Glass Production.
Jeffrey Droge, Bozeman, MT
Award: \$49,900 Loan
- 29. Crawford Distillery** **\$17,572.00**
Cooker, fermenters, boiler and pump.
Neil Crawford, Havre, MT
Award: \$5,362 Grant
- 30. Big Sandy Organics, LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Grant- Big Sandy Organics, LLC - Equipment, Expansion, and Marketing Campaign.
Thomas Dilworth, Big Sandy MT
Award: \$40,000 Grant
- 31. Vizsla Brewing, LLC** **\$50,000.00**
Vizsla Brewing increased distribution.
Raymond Miller, Havre, MT
Not funded

32. Otium Brewing, LLC

\$44,643.00

Brewery Startup in Miles City.

Hannah Strong, Miles City, MT

Not funded

Motions

Motion: To give the Marketing Bureau authority to award mini grants, contingent upon available funds and capped at \$50,000 total.

By: Lars Hanson

2nd: Tara Mastel

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Motion: To approve all grant amounts as presented above and as reflected on decision spreadsheet.

By: Lars Hanson

2nd: Ben Thomas

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Other Business

Department of Agriculture Updates

Andy Fjeseth, Bureau Chief, Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau, Montana Department of Agriculture, presented updates to the council on the Student Loan Assistance Program and staffing changes.

Council Terms Expiring

Chair Kellogg reviewed the Council terms that are expiring this year:

- Lars Hanson – term expires July 1, 2020
- Patricia Quisno – term expires July 1, 2020
- Tara Mastel – term expires July 1, 2020

Council members should visit with Jim Auer or Andy Fjeseth about expiring terms.

Next Meeting

Tentatively Scheduled week of July 20, 2020 – at the Department of Agriculture. Firm date will be set by Department of Agriculture Staff by March 1.

Review Council Expense Forms

Council expense forms were distributed and collected by Department staff.

Public Comment

Chair, Amy Kellogg, called for public comments before adjourning the evenings of Monday, February 4, 2020 and Tuesday, February 5, 2020. No public comments were presented.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. (4:35 pm, February 5, 2020)

By: Patricia Quisno

2nd: Tara Mastel

Action: The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Respectfully submitted by: