

The Alfalfa Seed Advisory Committee

February 12, 2019 Billings, MT

In attendance: John Mehling, Tom Matchett, Ernie Johnson, Tom Niebur, Cavin Steiger, Dallas Steiger, Allyssa Picolomini, Layla Dunlap, Eric Sommers, Christy Clark, Zach Coccoli

John Mehling called the annual meeting of the Montana Alfalfa Seed Advisory Committee to order at 1:04pm.

Public comment was called for, none being noted.

The agenda was reviewed, Cavin Stieger moved to accept the agenda, Tom Niebur seconded, motion passed.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, Tom Matchett moved to accept previous meeting minutes, Ernie Johnson seconded, motion passed.

Zach Coccoli, attorney from MDA presented a board overview. Upon presentation of duties and responsibilities the board discussed setting a zero tolerance for Melittiba, a parasite that has devastating effects on leaf cutter bees, be adopted by the committee. Cavin moved, and Tom Neibur seconded a motion that the state adopt a zero tolerance for Melittiba for imported leaf cutter bees, further prohibiting infected bees from entering the state. Motion passed.

Allyssa Picolomini will prepare a procedure for handling quarantine and a prepare a procedure matrix for handling diseased bees in the case of a detection of Melittiba.

Eric Sommers, with NASS, was moved up on the agenda so that he may be excused to travel. Eric presented Nass's grant request. It was requested by NASS that the committee provide a letter of support to including Alfalfa Seed in National Ag Statistics. Cavin Steiger moved authorizing John Mehling to write a letter on behalf of the committee, Tom Neibur seconded, motion passed.

Christy Clark presented the financial statement to the committee, Tom Neibur moved approving the budget as presented, Ernie Johnson seconded, motion carried.

A Montana Department of Agriculture update was presented by Layla Dunlap. In addition, Layla Dunlap and Alyssa Picolomini presented their grant proposal. Tom Neibur moved to fund the MDA proposal for \$7,062, Cavin Stieger seconded, motion passed.

The committee discussed the grant proposal from Montana State Extension, Wendy Becker from Fort Peck. Ernie Johnson moved to fund the grant proposal, seeing no second the motion failed.

Ernie Johnson moved to fund NASS fully, Dallas Steiger seconded, and the motion passed.

The committee discussed travel for the upcoming year. Cavin Stieger moved to approve travel for one person to travel to Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Annual meeting. Not to exceed \$1000.00. Tom Matchett seconded, motion carried.

The committee authorized MDA to pay National Alfalfa Seed dues, not to exceed \$6000.00

The committee agreed to leave the assessment at current rate.

Tom Neibur moved to retain the current slate of officers, Tom Matchett seconded, motion passed.

The committee agreed to provide MDA with suggestions to fill a vacant board position.

The committee respectfully requested the department to renew their state ID cards.


Meeting adjourned 4:06pm

Respectfully submitted by:



Christy Clark, ADD Bureau Chief

Approved by:



John Mehling, Chair