

# ***Montana Pulse Crop Committee Meeting Minutes***

Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 9:00 am via Zoom Meeting

## **I. Call to order**

Ryan Bogar called to order the regular meeting of the Montana Pulse Crop Committee at 9:01 am on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **II. Introductions**

Introductions were made starting with the committee members with department staff following.

### Committee Members:

Ryan Bogar, Chair, Vida MT

Paul Kanning, Vice-Chair, Flaxville MT

Colby Johnson, Conrad MT

Jillien Streit, Chester MT

Gordon Stoner, Outlook MT

Ben Thomas, Director of the Department of Agriculture from Helena MT

Sreekala Bajwa, Ex-Officio, MSU Dean of Agriculture -Absent

Matt Franks, Ex-Officio, Columbia Grain, Plentywood MT -Absent

Christy Clark, Department of Agriculture Deputy Director from Helena MT

Zach Coccoli, Department of Agriculture Attorney from Helena MT

Cindy Trimp, Department of Agriculture CSD Administrator from Helena MT

Weston Merrill, Department of Agriculture Marketing Officer from Billings MT

Andy Fjeseth, Bureau Chief, ADD, Department of Agriculture, Helena MT

Cassidy Marn, Executive Vice President, Wheat and Barley Committee, Great Falls MT

Sam Anderson, Outreach Coordinator, Wheat and Barley Committee, Great Falls MT

Dani Jones, Department of Agriculture from Helena MT

### Members of the Public:

Chris Westergard, Northern Pulse Growers Association

Dolores Rohrich, Northern Pulse Growers Association

Jeff Rumney, USADPLC

Todd Scholz, USADPLC

Brian Gion, USADPLC

Augie Aga, Northern Broadcasting System, Billings MT  
Becky Garrison- joined later in the meeting  
Dan Bruce- joined later in the meeting

### **III. Public Comment**

Ryan Bogar called for public comment, none at this time.

### **IV. Board Administrative Consent Items**

- a) Approval of Past Meeting Minutes, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - a. Jill Streit made the motion to approve the June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, Paul Kanning 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
- b) Travel Expense Vouchers, Reimbursements, and Out of State Travel
  - i. Dani Jones reminded the committee on the protocol for out of state travel and reimbursements.
    - 1. Gordon Stoner may have an upcoming in person meeting coming up. He will let Dani Jones know for preapproval for Out of State Travel.
  - ii. No other travel plans for the committee members planned at this time.

### **V. New Business**

- a) Cindy Trimp presented the committee with the Financial Report, and discussed the FY21 budget projections
- i) Gordon Stoner commented that the \$1.4 million assessment might be a little high, the 2020 actual was \$1.6 million.
  - (1) Ben Thomas and Jill Streit agreed with Gordon. Jill Streit suggested to stay conservative with the figures.
  - (2) Ben Thomas suggested 10-15% reduction in the projected assessment, Gordon Stoner suggested 10% reduction, which would bring it down to \$1.1 million.

- (3) Paul Kanning requested money being placed into a reserve, for Cindy Trimp to start tracking over the years, request for a line item adjustment for the budget papers.
- ii) Gordon Stoner made the motion to accept the budget as presented with the assessment projection changes, Jill Streit 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed
- b) Review and adopt the FY21 Request for Proposal
- i) Paul Kanning made the motion to approve the FY21 RFP as presented. Colby Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, motion passed.
- c) GFDA Staff Changes/Declining Grant Award
- i) Update by Weston Merrill, Brett Doney from the Great Falls Development Authority declined the award amount of \$18,700 due to personal changes. The \$18,700 will be “put back into the grant fund” for future funding.
- d) Committee Reports
- i) Info Gov- update given by Gordon Stoner- Upcoming meetings are planning out to be virtual. Paul Kanning suggested that Gordon Stoner and Jill Streit join the DC meeting February 8-12, also encourage all committee members to attend.
- ii) Domestic Marketing- update given by Paul Kanning
- iii) International Marketing- update given by Jill Streit
- iv) Research- update was given by Chris Westergard
- v) National Board- update was given by Gordon Stoner
- (1) Committee Elections- Jill Streit made the motion to keep the committee members as is. Paul Kanning 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

## **VI. Updates**

- a) Department of Agriculture Update
- i) Ben Thomas let the committee know that this was going to be his last meeting with the Pulse Committee.

- ii) Weston Merrill updated the committee on Latin America Virtual Pulse Marketing HolaMontana. Pulse webpage from specialty crop block funding. <https://www.holamontana.com/>
- b) USADPLC
  - i) Update from Jeff Rumney, 302 Million in the budget to promote US Pulses market development and trade relations
  - ii) Todd Stolz updated the committee on the research that is being done with USADPLC
  - iii) Dan Bruce gave an update on the grading. Jill Streit made a motion to accept the grading position and the letters proposed. Gordon Stoner 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, motion passed.
  - iv) Paul Kanning made the motion to “carry over for support” \$44,146. Jill Streit 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, motion passed.
  - v) USADPLC Policy Positions on the 2021 Farm Bill- Jill Streit made the motion to accept the policy positions as presented for the 2021 Farm Bill. Gordon Stoner 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed

## **VII. Public Comment**

Ryan Bogar called for Public Comment, Ben Thomas addressed the committee to ask for transparency in the from the USADPLC

## **VIII. Meeting and other updates**

Northern Pulse Growers Association, Brian Gion gave the update that the MT Pulse Days was online. Goals for increase the consumption in schools, with testing first, and reaching out to grocery stores.

Paul Kanning shared with the committee that a lot of Pulses are heading across the board

## **IX. Next Meeting**

- a) March 10, 2021 to hear RFP Proposals, 9am to 3pm- all in favor

## **X. Executive Session**

- a) The meeting moved into Executive session and members of the public were excused at 12:07pm

## **XI. Adjournment**

Jill Streit made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Gordon Stoner 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor- motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:46pm

Minutes submitted by: Dani Jones