



Montana Pulse Crop Committee Meeting Minutes

*November 28, 2022
Heritage Inn, Great Falls MT*

I. Call to order

Vice Chair, Paul Kanning called to order the regular meeting of the Pulse Crop Committee at 1:30 pm on Monday November 28, 6, 2022.

II. Roll call

The following committee members were present: Vice Chair Paul Kanning, Jillien Streit, Todd Hansen, Brian Aklestad, and Christy Clark. Chair Ryan Bogar was absent.

Department of Agriculture: Cody Pearce, Cort Jensen, Logan Kruse, and Dani Jones.

Members of the Public: Shannon Berndt – Northern Pulse Growers Association, Sandra Rumney and Jeff Rumney – USA Dry Pea & Lentil Association, Jeff Winkler from Fort Benton MT, Dr. Mary Burrows from MSU, and Mitch Konen -Montana Grain Growers Association

Vice Chair Paul Kanning asked for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

III. Board Administrative Consent Items

The meeting minutes from March 22, 2022, and June 6, 2022, were presented to the committee. Todd Hansen made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Brian Aklestad 2nd the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

Todd Hansen made the motion to keep Ryan Bogar as Chair and Paul Kanning as Vice Chair of the Pulse Crop Committee for another year. Brian Aklestad 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Subcommittees- the committee will do some outreach around the grower base. Recruit for the Research and Info Gov subcommittee. Dani Jones will send the Subcommittee list to Todd at USADPLC.

IV. New Business

- a) Budget and FY 2023 Projections- Cody Pearce presented the budget to the committee. Previous year contracts were discussed. Cody reminded the committee that they can increase board travel if they see more travel in the future. Foreign travel costs have increased. Paul Kanning wanted the “reserve fund” changed to \$200,000 rather than \$400,000. Paul suggested a subcommittee to discuss the reserve funds. Brian Aklestad volunteered to work numbers, having a goal of \$400,000. Brian Aklestad will share the information with the committee at the March 2024 meeting. Todd Hansen made the motion to accept the budget as presented. Jillien Streit 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
- b) The committee reviewed the RFP, updated the deadlines, grant website information, and contact information. Todd Hansen made the motion to post the RFP as updated. Brian Aklestad 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
- c) Committee reports
 - i) Info/Gov update- Jillien shared with the committee a lot of different programs have been rolled out; disaster relief, supply chain issues, movement on the coats, India has been in a trade issue since 2018. 2023 Farm Bill coming up and have strong “white papers”. Looking at new climate smart projects. DC White papers pushing pulse health incitive. Still pushing for funding for pulse to schools. Historic low for info/gov budget. Domestic markets and processors in Montana.
 - ii) Domestic Marketing update- Zoom is on its way out and in person meetings and trade shows are coming back. It is broken up into four areas: targeting consumers, ingredient innovation, food service providers, and public health. All done by multiple means, updates and social media are current tools being used.
 - iii) International Marketing update- Brian shared that the big concern is investing money into countries without traction.
 - iv) Research Committee update- Todd shared with the committee that the message is getting through to consumers, the knowledge of what a pulse crop is.
 - v) National Board update- Paul shared with the committee that a lot of the time is spent talking about climate smart. Politics play a big part; very large companies play a role. Discussion for industry production, protection for

smaller “mom and pop” type businesses. Hiring a director in policy and growth will play an important role.

V. Old Business

- a) Mitch Konen from Montana Grain Growers Association shared with the committee that they have received two resumes for the Executive Director of the Pulse Crop Committee. Grain Growers is planning to hold interviews the second week of December. Montana Grain Growers needs two members from the Pulse Crop Committee to be on the interview panel. The interviews can be done via Zoom. Jillien and Todd volunteered for the positions.

VI. Org. Updates

- a) Sreekala Bajwa Dean of Agriculture shared with the committee that Pulse Trade Teams have been invited to MSU. Domestic and national marketing research is part of their marketing. Montana didn't benefit from the climate smart commodity grants. College update- MSU is at an all-time high in enrollment, fall of 2022 enrollment grew. With high school numbers going down MSU is working to keep interest for graduation seniors, support rural students, scholarships are growing with student numbers.
- b) Director Christy Clark introduced Logan Kruse to the committee. Logan is the recently hired public information officer. The department is working on the MT Ag Summit, happening in January. The department hosted seven trade teams this past summer. Robust group of cattle buyers from Mexico, Latin American pulse trade team that was able to visit MSU, Heineken came into the state and signed a letter of intent; signed with the governor, working on rail logistics. The department is currently fully staffed, minus a pesticide manager. The Wheat and Barley committee has a new executive director, Kent Kuffner. Wheat and Barley are reviewing an assessment increase. The department is gearing up for legislative session prep.
- c) Shannon Bernt with Northern Pulse Growers Association shared with the committee that the research review will be held in Fargo ND. Shannon will email the information for Dani Jones to share with the committee members. The pulse quality survey has now become a national survey. Reminder to send in your yearly samples for testing. Research funding for chickpea planting dates, working on dates that were established 15-20 years ago. NPGA joined with Montana Grain Growers as a major sponsor. NPGA is hosting a meet and greet tonight, the first 30 people get swag bags, plus amazing food.

- d) Jeff Rumney with USADPLC thanked the department for all their hard work and was able to tour the State Grain Lab during the Pakistan trip, it was a highlight. Thank you to Weston Merrill for all his work with promoting US pulses to Latin America. Jeff shared that US growers facing a higher tariff into India.
- i) Action Item – FY21-22 Carryover, the original carryover was not used from the previous project. Research funding would be to “help” with dietary guidelines, partner up and leverage money to have the research done together. Jillien made the motion to redesignate the \$50 thousand from FY 21-22 carryover to research for 2025 dietary impact, CAP project. Todd Hansen 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
- ii) Acton Item – 2023 NIFA, December 16 is the deadline for submitting the proposed project. The topic is environmental impact. Money is granted during awards in June; however, the research topic is yet to be determined. Working on the budget submitted by USADPLC. Research topic is needed and needs to be approved. The committee did not make a motion, no action was taken.

VII. Public Comment

- a) Jillien shared the that TV Show Yellowstone brought the attention of pesticide to the forefront and brought up what can “we” as a grower group do to get ahead of it.
- b) Shannon reminded everyone to come to the social.

VIII. Next Meeting

- a) March 2023, in Helena. Dani will work with the chair to select the best date for the committee.

Brian Aklestad moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Paul Kanning adjourned the meeting at 4:59 pm.

Minutes submitted by: 
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Minutes approved by: 
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