



Montana Pulse Crop Committee Meeting Minutes

*March 22, 2022
Northern Research Center
Havre, Montana*

I. Call to order

Ryan Bogar called to order the regular meeting of the Pulse Crop Committee at 8:58 am on Tuesday March 22, 2022.

II. Roll call

The following committee members were present: Chair Ryan Bogar, Vice Chair Paul Kanning, Jillien Streit, Todd Hansen, Brian Aklestad. Andy Fjeseth (proxy for Christy Clark, Matt Franks was absent

Department of Agriculture: Cassidy Marn, Dani Jones, and Weston Merrill

Members of the Public: Shannon Berndt – Northern Pulse Growers Association, Tim McGreevey – USA Dry Pea & Lentil Association, Eric Sommer -USDA NASS, Tara Becken-REAL Montana, Claudia Mesa, Bozeman MT

Chair Ryan Bogar asked for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

III. Board Administrative Consent Items

The meeting minutes from November 9, 2021, were presented to the committee, changes were recorded. Paul Kanning made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Todd Hansen 2nd the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

IV. New Business

- a) Budget and FY 2022 Projections- Andy Fjeseth presented the budget to the committee. Previous year contracts were discussed, 2021 Grant to Ag in the Classroom is on track to be completed before the end of June 2022. Jillien Streit made the motion to accept the budget as presented. Paul Kanning 2nd the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

- b) USADPLC Carryover Request- Tim McGreevy presented to the committee FY2020/2021 Budget Carryover, “The USADPLC receives funding from several pulse crop organizations and grants to achieve its goals. In FY20/21, the USADPLC budgeted \$3,099,163 and spent \$2,890,401 excluding grants leaving a \$208,762 as carryover. USADPLC asks the Montana Pulse Crop Committee to review these carryover activities and forward your approval to spend the MPCC share of carryover (\$95,321) in FY2021-22. (Carryover4 request and budget information was received by the committee from USADPLC prior to the meeting) Paul Kanning made the motion to approve the funds carryover. Brian Aklestad 2nd the motion, all in favor, motion passed.
- c) Department of Ag Update- Andy Fjeseth shared with the committee that Christy Clark was appointed Director of the Department of Agriculture by Governor Gianforte and she has hit the ground running. Zach Coccoli has accepted the Deputy Director position. He is the administrator over Ag Marketing, Wheat and Barley, and the State Grain Lab in Great Falls. The department is already gearing up for the upcoming legislative session, January 2023.
- i) The Montana Food Show, will be held in Missoula on Monday November 7th at the Hilton Garden In. The event will showcase a chef who will be working with specialty crops, as a cooking demo during the show.
- ii) Weston Merrill will be attending the Alimentec Food Show in Bogota Columbia the first week of June 2022. Latin America is a steady place for product shipments.
- iii) Cassidy Marn gave an update from the Wheat and Barley Committee. Brandy Johnston is a new employee in the variety office. She is from MSU with seed sales and grower meetings background. Jason Laird joined the team last fall as the Communications and Marketing Director. Wheat and Barley is getting a lot of trade team and information requests. Wheat and Barley are having successful talks with State IT (SITSD) and Admin about having the assessment collection moved to an online platform.
- iv) Andy Fjeseth shared with the committee that ARPA approved by the commission, \$7.8 Million in grants. Pulse production, Rail improvements, and meat inspection and processing were among the recipients. The committee asked Andy for a list of awards for the next meeting.
- d) Pulse Variety Survey for Montana- Paul Kanning brought to the committee the discussion for a Pulse Variety Survey, Chickpea variety-“How many of what kind, type, location”. Eric Sommers from USDA NASS shared that a new survey starts

with ICSS data, starting from scratch for Pulse. Startup costs will be expensive; however, it is doable. Eric asked the committee if this will be just for peas, or will all lentils be included, this is up to the committee. Would the committee like a November/December Survey, or wait to send something out in the Spring? The committee will need the decision for a fall survey now or wait for a fall meeting for a spring survey.

- e) Jillien Streit shared with the committee that there was a request from grower groups to have Grain Growers and Pulse Days together. Suggested to put together a working group, subcommittee to collaborate for scheduling and creation. Both Jillien Streit and Brian Aklestad volunteered to help with the collaboration. Paul Kanning suggested that possible members of this committee should come from the board members subcommittee and not from the Pulse Committee. Ryan Bogar suggested to the committee to be in contact, but no subcommittee was needed. All committee members agreed for a combined grower meeting effort.

V. Organization Updates

- a) USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council- Tim McGreevy updated the committee on local and international marketing. Local research grants that were awarded in November at the Pulse Meeting in Bozeman MT. New forms of marketing in the works, like TikTok and other social media platforms. Tim presented to the committee via power point on projects.
- b) Northern Pulse Growers Association- Shannon Berndt updated the committee on the past year of efforts, catching up from virtual meetings and trades shows due to Covid/2020. Shannon let the committee know that NPGA will not be using all the funds from the FY21 grant cycle, those funds will be turned back to the committee. All remaining expenses will be turned in by June 30, through WebGrants.

- VI. Executive Director RFP Draft Review- Cort Jensen joined via cell phone for this portion. Jillien presented to the committee a draft for the RFP for Executive Director for the Pulse Crop Committee. The RFP will go “live” on April 1st, 2022, through the grant website AmpliFund. All applications will be completed and submitted on the grant site. Application deadline is June 1, 2022. Committee would like presentations done in person at the next meeting. Jillien Streit made the motion to have the department make changes on the RFP as needed for grant website information and contact information. Todd Hansen 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed

Chair Ryan Bogar asked for additional public comment. There were no comments from the public.

The next meeting date is set for Monday June 6, 2022, at the Northern Ag Research Center in Havre.

Jillien Striet moved to adjourn the meeting. Brian Aklestad seconded. All in favor and Chair Bogar adjourned the meeting at 3:46 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Dani Jones _____

Minutes approved by: Ryan Bogar _____