



**Oregon Wheat Commission Meeting
May 6, 2024 Minutes**

Call to Order:

Pursuant to notice made by press release to newspapers of general and local circulation throughout the state and e-mailed to persons on the mailing list of the Commission a regular meeting of the Oregon Wheat Commission (OWC) was held at the Fairfield Inn, The Dalles, OR with video/phone conference availability. Commissioners in attendance for all or part of the meeting included Dana Tuckness – Chair, Tyler Hansell – Vice Chair, David Brewer – Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Marguth, Jason Middleton, Rob Rye and David Prybylowski. Staff members present were Amanda Hoey, CEO; Tana Simpson, Associate Administrator; and Corey Shrader, Project and Office Coordinator. Chair Tuckness called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introduction of Visitors

In addition to the above-listed Commissioners and staff, the following guests were in attendance for all or part of the meeting: Ryan Graebner, Eric Morris, Brent Martin, Francisco Calderon and Margaret Krause.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No additions were made to the agenda.

Conflicts of Interest Declaration

No Conflicts of Interest were declared.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the April 8, 2024 meeting were provided.

Commissioner Hansell moved to approve the April 8, 2024 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Middleton seconded the motion. Commissioner Padget was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

March 2024 Financial Report

Associate Administrator Simpson presented the March 2024 Financial Statements for consideration.

Commissioner Marguth moved to accept the Financial Statements through March 31, 2024. Commissioner Hansell seconded the motion. Commissioner Padget was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed the current year to date expectations for the Legal/Audit and Office Rent categories. Both are expected to be higher than anticipated

but within budget.

Guiding Principles Project Funding

CEO Hoey updated the Commissioners on outcomes from the last Commission State Administrators meeting. Discussion regarding common challenges of state wheat entities, as well as the collective role of the Commissions in working with research, policy marketing and promotion of wheat, led to a proposal for engaging in development of ‘Guiding Principles’. These would also be a useful base for individual state strategic planning. The intent would be to establish a framework for each organization to use as a foundation to collectively address the headwinds our industry is facing. Roots and Legacies has been selected for the project. Involvement for each state would require a \$2,536 financial commitment.

Discussion: Commissioners asked if this was a one time or an annual expenditure. The request is for one year of funding.

Commissioner Marguth moved to approve participation in, and funding of, the Guiding Principles Project up to \$2,536 in FY 23-24. Commissioner Middleton seconded the motion. Commissioner Padgett was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

2024-2025 Budget Hearing

Chair Tuckness opened the budget hearing at 10:15 a.m. and stated the following:

The Oregon Wheat Commission is holding this hearing to review its budget for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 in compliance with ORS 578.151 the commission has taken the following procedures:

1. *On April 19, 2024, notice of this public hearing appeared in the Capital Press of Salem. This publication appeared more than fourteen days prior to the budget hearing.*
2. *The proposed budget was made available for public inspection under reasonable circumstances as set forth in ORS 576.425 in the OWC office and on the Oregon Wheat website.*

At this time, we will now accept comment on the 2024-2025 Proposed budget.

CEO Hoey reviewed the proposed budget presented at the April 8, 2024 meeting and a few proposed revisions for consideration in the final budget:

- Decrease the OSU research line by \$18,250.
 - The funding for the Graduate Student participation in the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research fellowship in Margaret Krause’ proposal is no longer needed as the fellowship was not secured. Removing that funding reduces the breeding project amount by \$16,250.
 - Ryan Graebner has received additional assistance in his Hard Red spring wheat breeding project from the Resilient Dryland Farming Initiative, reducing his proposal amount by \$2,000.
- Review the proposal submitted by Dr. Chen for stripe rust research.

No written comments were submitted and the budget hearing was closed at 10:42 a.m.

2024-2025 Budget

CEO Hoey noted that the beginning balance in the Proposed budget column of the budget in your meeting book should be \$4,207,530.

Discussion: Commissioner Middleton informed the Commission that most upcountry elevators are still holding over 20% of the 2023 crop. There is currently a rally in the market that may move some of that grain, but it is likely there will be a significant amount of grain carried into the next marketing year.

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the restoration of the funding for the Improving Control of Wheat Stripe Rust in the 2024-2025 budget. Commissioner Middleton seconded the motion. Commissioner Padgett was absent. Commissioners Hansell and Tuckness opposed. With all remaining Commissioners present voting in favor, the motion passed.

Commissioner Hansell moved to approve the 2024-2025 budget as proposed with the following changes: the beginning balance changed to \$4,207,530 and OSU wheat research reduced to \$665,349 (Includes reduction of \$16,250 from the Krause: Breeding proposal and \$2,000 from the Grabner: HRS Breeding proposal) and Tri-state Research increased by \$12,000 (Includes the Chen: Stripe Rust proposal). With these changes, the Commission approves a total budget of \$6,362,670. Commissioner Marguth seconded the motion. Commissioner Padgett was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Operational Plan

CEO Hoey presented the 2024-2025 Operational Plan for consideration.

Commissioner Hansell moved to approve the 2024-2025 Operational Plan as presented. Commissioner Marguth seconded the motion. Commissioner Padgett was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

OSU Update

Margaret Krause announced the approval for release of a soft white wheat variety that will be named Gale after longtime Willamette Valley Extension Agent Gale Gingrich. The variety is well suited to the Willamette Valley and is expected to be a replacement for Rosalyn. Foundation Seed has been produced by Tualatin Valley Seed. A second variety 2190025 CL+, has been proposed for release, and if approved would have foundation seed available through the Washington Crop Improvement Association. This variety is suited to the low to intermediate rainfall zones with a good disease resistance package, yield and agronomics. It was also reviewed by the PNW Wheat Quality Council and performed better than the check and has a preferred variety ranking of desirable.

Ryan Graebner demonstrated the new App for the variety trial data. It was developed by two OSU students as part of their capstone projects. The data includes yield, disease ratings, quality, test weight and protein. It is formatted so that it can be easily edited in the future and could also be easily adopted by other variety trial programs. It is still working through processes for release. Ryan also mentioned the need for a drill to allow for additional no-till research. That cost is expected to be over \$100,000. It was not presented for the budget consideration this year and is not included in the budget.

Executive Session

Chairman Dana Tuckness called the meeting into Executive Session per ORS 192.660(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. He stated: “Representatives of the news media and designated staff shall be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience are asked to leave the meeting/videoconference. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on or otherwise disclose any of the deliberations or anything said about these subjects during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision may be made in executive session. The Commission will return to open session at the end of the executive session.”

The Executive Session was closed at 12:12 pm and no action was taken.

Election of Officers

CEO Hoey reviewed the status of current officers.

Commissioner Tuckness nominated and moved to approve the 2024-2025 Officers as follows: Chair – Tyler Hansell, Vice Chair – David Brewer and Secretary/Treasurer – Jason Middleton. Commissioner Marguth seconded the motion. Commissioner Padget was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Policies and Procedures

CEO Hoey reviewed the Commission’s policies and procedures. She recommended the following changes to the OWC Policies and Procedures

- Update section III.C ‘Request for Proposals’ to align with the new thresholds for RFP requirements took effect at the beginning of 2024. An RFP is now required for those services above \$25,000.
- Update section III.E ‘Required Approvals’ to align with the new thresholds for the contract review by Department of Justice which also took effect at the beginning of 2024. DOJ review is now required for contracts exceeding \$250,000.
- Strike the language in section XII to XV, instead referring to the substance of the policy and directing to the policy document itself. All employees and Commissioners can access a copy of all statewide policies at <https://www.oregon.gov/das/pages/policieshr.aspx>.

Commissioner Marguth moved to approve the above recommended changes to the Commission’s Policies and Procedures. Commissioner Hansell seconded the motion. Commissioner Padget was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Each Commissioner verbally acknowledged that they received these revised Policies and Procedures.

CEO Hoey reviewed the Commission’s Personnel Policies. She recommended the following changes

- Revise Section IV. Sick Leave to remove redundant language and remove reference to a non-existent section

- Add Paid Leave Oregon section, as it was adopted by the state since our last personnel policy changes and needs incorporated.
- Change the Family/Medical leave and Military Leave sections to directly refer to state policy.
- Update the legal holidays to the current state holidays.

Commissioner Prybylowski moved to approve the above recommended changes to the Commission’s Personnel Policies. Commissioner Marguth seconded the motion. Commissioner Padgett was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Audit Report

Auditors Steve Tuchscherer and Josh Huffman reviewed the FY 2022-23 OWC financials and determined that “In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above, present fairly and in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Oregon Wheat Commission as of June 30, 2023 and the respective changes in the financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.” There were no findings, and it was a clean audit.

Commissioner Hansell moved to accept the July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023 Audit report as submitted by Umpqua Valley Financial. Commissioner Middleton seconded the motion. Commissioner Padgett was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Travel Request

CEO Hoey requested travel authorization for one Commissioner and one staff to travel in October to Santiago, Chile and one other location to visit the new lab and explore new market opportunities.

Commissioner Hansell moved to approve travel to Latin American for one Commissioner and CEO Hoey. Commissioner Marguth seconded the motion. Commissioner Padgett was absent. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioners overall reported good crops in all areas, most receiving beneficial rains in the last week.

CEO Report

CEO Hoey reported that she has approved a \$200 penalty waiver for Treasure Valley Grain due to a personnel change and their self-reporting of the late report. The lease for the World Trade Center space has been approved through DAS but is still being negotiated through DOJ. Our partner is looking to move quickly but is awaiting our negotiations to sign final documents. Trade team season is nearing but we are seeing quite a few deferrals due to the RAPP funding delays.

On the research front, Commissioner Brewer and CEO Hoey participated in the Cereal Pathologist Interview Committee. We will likely see issues with transition timing and workload as the position’s 9-month appointment and teaching requirements are likely to pull the new hire

away from field work. It is advised that we have a strategy session to discuss the transition, changes to the role moving forward, what we need from the program and how we best support this work.

The OSU Crop and Soil Science Department Head position closed in April. We are not involved in the preliminary screening of this position but hope to have some involvement once it is narrowed to final candidates. We did recently have a meeting of the Tri-state Commission Executives which focused on common issues including the furthering of the South America visit, further discussion of branding for the PNW, communication around difficult issues and maintaining a collective market focus.

Commissioner Middleton reported on the recent Latin American trip attended by Brian Liedl of United Grain. One of the Major issues expressed was the fact that as they blend in SW to their cookies customers think that they are under cooked because they are lighter. Commissioner Rye reported that the next step in expanding the South American market will be organizing the smaller buyers to purchase jointly. Commissioner Hansell and CEO Hoey will both be attending and participating in panels at the USW World Staff Conference.

The Tri-state Convention schedule will be as a Tri-state in 2024, an Oregon/Idaho Bi-state Convention in 2025 and back as a Tri-state in Pendleton for 2026. The Crop Reports have started back up monthly and will move to bi-weekly during harvest. Local pictures and updates appreciated.

For the League, current focus is on rulemaking. They are expecting to extend their contract with Dalton Advocacy at the June League meeting. CEO Hoey reviewed the status of Farm Bill discussions. She noted the announcement of the RAPP and the Food Aid funds was released. She stated that the League legislative tour will likely defer into the beginning of 2025 to allow key legislators to participate. She reviewed the current and future staffing for the League.

ODA Report

Eric Morris, Commodity Commissions Oversight Program Manager, reported that Commissioner appointments are expected mid to late May and they have applications for all three of the Oregon Wheat Commission's open positions. They will be processing budgets through the accounting department and they have many contracts in the queue and they are working hard to keep that process as timely as possible. He is planning to do a new commissioner orientation online meetings to do an overview and best practices of the role of Commissioners for mid-June or July. For DAS year end reporting he is working to get the documents updated and out soon. The ODA Strategic Plan is being finalized and will likely be available for the meeting in September.

Other Business

No other new business was presented.

Adjourn

Chair Tuckness adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2024 in conjunction with the Oregon Wheat

Growers League, in Boardman, OR with a virtual connection available.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Tuckness", written over a horizontal line.

Dana Tuckness, OWC Chair

Prepared and submitted by OWC Associate Administrator, Tana Simpson