



**Oregon Wheat Commission Special Meeting  
August 29, 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 via video/phone conference. Commissioners in attendance for all or part of the meeting included Tyler Hansell – Chair, David Brewer – Vice Chair, Jason Middleton – Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Marguth, Dana Tuckness, Brent Martin, Rob Rye, Jerry Marguth and David Prybylowski. Staff members present were Amanda Hoey, CEO; Tana Simpson, Associate Administrator; and Corey Shrader, Project and Office Coordinator. Chair Hansell called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.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: Wade Bingaman, Francisco Calderon, Eric Morris, Ryan Graebner, Jason Flowers and Christina Hagerty.

**PNW Statement on USDA Announcement**

CEO Hoey shared that the USDA APHIS announced this week that they had de-regulated the drought-tolerant Genetically Modified (GM) HB4® wheat developed by the Argentine company Bioceres. The HB4 trait takes a gene from a sunflower and introduces it into wheat. It has been approved for cultivation in a couple of other markets and has gone through regulatory approvals in some countries as well. This release states that USDA did not find any risks of harm as they reviewed this trait. There are no field trials yet in the United States. It will likely be at least 3-5 years for Bioceres to commercialize the trait.

She then reviewed the Wheat Industry Principles for Biotech Commercialization, highlighting two with specific applications: ensuring the support of major markets, which would be those that have at least a 5% share of normal export volumes of U.S. wheat on a five-year average, and assurance that an accurate, economical and timely trait detection test must be provided prior to commercialization. Bioceres has indicated that they have a genetic test developed. We expect Bioceres to begin working on market acceptance in a couple of markets of concern, and that they will begin the work on seeking commercialization in the U.S.

The PNW Commission Executives released a statement following the announcement from APHIS to clarify the distinction between deregulation and commercialization, and to assure markets on the PNW's continued commitment to quality and to responding to the needs of our customers.

*Discussion: The Commission requested information on our competitors approach, particularly where is Australia in the development and approval process. The indication*

*is that they have field trials, but have a lengthier regulator process. Thus, while are farther from regulatory approval, they are closer on commercialization/ wheat development*

*Commissioner Tuckness had an opportunity to visit the Bioceres research site and see the wheat in the field last fall. He reviewed the yield increase opportunities. He noted that it has been approved for growth in Brazil and Argentina and approved for feed grain production in the U.S. Chair Hansell reported that former Commission Padget had also seen the wheat in the lab in Santiago and reported that the quality was concerning.*

*Chair Hansell asked if we have received any questions from customers. CEO Hoey reviewed the discussions with customers thus far, which has included a significant amount of clarifying what the deregulation entails. Commissioner Martin expressed his belief that this could be a good thing for his area if we can breed it into some higher quality wheat and the drought tolerance could be a great help in the high desert. Commissioners Middleton and Rye discussed the ability and challenges of the current system to segregate wheat. Commissioner Martin acknowledged that he sees that acceptance will be difficult in some countries, but the PNW also have customers that will likely be accepting.*

The Oregon, Washington and Idaho Commission executives have been working collectively on communication regarding this item. CEO Hoey noted the opportunity for expanded time for a Tri-state Commissions meeting in the near future.

### **Other Business**

No other new business was presented.

### **Adjourn**

Chair Hansell adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2024, in Boardman, OR with a virtual connection available. It will include a joint meeting with the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

### **Approved**



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Tyler Hansell, OWC Chair

*Prepared and submitted by OWC Associate Administrator, Tana Simpson*