



**Oregon Wheat Commission Meeting
November 29, 2022 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 Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho with video/phone conference availability. Commissioners in attendance for all or part of the meeting included Tyler Hansell – Vice Chairman, Jordan Van Zante - Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Marguth, Darren Padget, David Brewer, Jason Middleton, and David Prybylowski. Staff members present were Amanda Hoey, CEO, Tana Simpson, Associate Administrator, Corey Shrader, Project and Office Coordinator. Vice Chairman Hansell called the meeting to order at 2:03 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: Robert Zemetra, Ryan Graebner, Bailey Jenks, Christina Hagerty, Jay Gibbs, Jason Flowers, Walter Powell, Tom Chastain, Daisy Woods, Pete Berry, Wade Bingaman, Tom Duyck, Alexis Eichler, Shawn Donklin, Ben Maney, Surrendra Singh, Grayson Namdar, Matthew Hunt, Daniel Rice, Karsten Schumaker.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No additions were made to the November 29, 2022 Commission meeting agenda.

June 30, 2022 Minutes

The minutes from the June 30, 2022 Commission meeting were provided.

Commissioner Van Zante moved to accept the June 30, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Middleton seconded the motion. With Commissioners Padget and Tuckness absent, the motion passed unanimously.

September Minutes

The minutes from the September 7, 2022 Commission meeting were provided.

Commissioner Van Zante moved to accept the September 7, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Marguth seconded the motion. With Commissioners Padget and Tuckness absent, the motion passed unanimously.

October 2022 Financials

Associate Administrator Simpson presented the financials through October 31, 2022.

Commissioner Marguth moved to accept the Financial Statements through October 31, 2022. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. With Commissioners Padget and Tuckness absent, the motion passed unanimously.

CEO Report

CEO Hoey updated the Commission starting with the financial position highlighting the improved assessment collections and the move to budgeting based on the prior year's assessment revenue. We will likely have additional revenue so we may be considering some additional short term projects in the coming year.

The Commission has seen a return to more traditional trade servicing through teams visiting stateside and we expect an increase in overseas visits for that purpose in the coming year. Crop quality seminars are being conducted with the data compiled in the Crop quality reports. One item that has come up is the desire to have a dashboard in SW similar to those provided by other classes. We may need to consider that as a Tri-state moving forward.

Discussion: Vice Chairman Hansell stated that this was discussed at the Tri-state luncheon and there was an interest in having an internal version and a customer version. It was requested that staff pursue a proposal for this project.

The Commission office lease at the Alber's Mill Building expires in 2025. We have two extension options available within our lease but we should begin discussion of all options. Benefits include the wheat shared ownership through the WMC Holding Company and the co-location with other wheat organizations in the building. The downsides are cost and location related. The WMC is also looking at some future equipment needs so we should expect some one-off requests from them as well.

Operationally, we approved an assessment penalty waiver for Union Mills and sent out a letter to the feedlots reminding them of their obligations in relation to assessment collections as a friendly reminder. We have been notified that Kris Anderson with the Commodity Commission Oversight Program will be retiring at the end of the year. We are currently at the funding cap of \$42,000 with the change in personnel it is expected that the increase that has been discussed for some time will not be necessary.

CEO Hoey updated the group on the Oregon Wheat Growers League Activities. Legislatively there will be an update from the OWGL lobbyist at the OWGL annual meeting tomorrow. They have begun preparations for 2023 long session starting with Committee Interim days December 7-9, 2022 and the Annual Oregon Wheat days at the Capital will be held February 13-14, 2023. The Oregon wheat day celebration will include a cake and is a great opportunity to get a face to face with legislators.

OWGL has been active on the federal side both through NAWG and Fly Ins relating to the upcoming farm bill and expressing our national and state association priorities. We have seen a few marker bills we are supporting for MAP and FMD funding. There was also a house bill put forward for consideration to help alleviate a rail strike. OWGL and NAWG have been promoting an active campaign at the grassroots level to try to avoid a strike as it would be very detrimental to the industry.

Operationally at OWGL, Amanda introduced Jason Flowers the new Program Director at OWGL in partnership with NRCS. We are very appreciative of this partnership particularly as we come up on additional funding through the Inflation Reduction Act and this be directed through NRCS programs which we want to insure will be available to wheat.

ARF Fund Availability

We have some funds held at ARF from past projects that were not completed. The total value is \$36,186.00. It was recommended that the funds be applied to projects in 2023-2024.

Commissioner Prybylowski moved to approve the utilization of the balance of funds held at Agricultural Research Foundation in the 2023-2024 contract to offset the total contract amount. Commissioner Van Zante seconded the motion. With Commissioners Padgett and Tuckness absent, the motion passed unanimously.

Research Priorities and Funding Opportunities

We have opened our research funding process asking for Pre-proposals by December 16th to allow us to provide feedback and collect full proposals by our February meeting. CEO Hoey requested input from the Commission regarding priorities in relation to research needs and issues arising in their areas for which we want to encourage responsive research proposal submission. Including: Are there particular pest, disease or weed issues impacting systems that require further analysis for which we want to solicit proposals? Are there new technologies or practices that would benefit from testing prior to implementation on-farm?

Discussion: The following items were identified as current research priorities.

- *A User Interface(app or portal) for variety trial data*
- *Focus on traditional projects including weed management tools*
- *Preference toward projects that allow us to access additional tools around Climate Variability*
- *Communications: In conjunction with OWGL to focus on Glyphosate Dam Breeching and Gluten*
- *Toxins: Ochratoxin, Aflatoxin, Zearalenol and insuring we have the tools needed when those issues arise.*

With the likelihood of some additional revenue this year are there some short-term projects that we should be considering. One idea that has been discussed is endowments. The importance of endowments was highlighted this year during discussion around the recruitment for the new OSU wheat breeder. Endowments provide long term support and security for key positions. CEO Hoey is requesting guidance on if the Commission is interested in pursuing endowments beyond the Kronstad endowment and if so, along what lines.

Former Commissioner Powell has been engaged in this discussion with OSU over the years during the multiple search committees he has served on. He pointed out that endowments are viewed highly by candidates and it has become increasingly difficult to draw candidates. It is likely that we have several positions within our programs will retire in the near term and we will need to recruit and retain high caliber replacements. If the Commission decides to pursue an endowment: how should it be funded, are there ways of encouraging grower, industry, state and federal support such as matching funds. In the past, the endowments have been run through the university but would it be more desirable to run an endowments through our Oregon Wheat Foundation?

Tom Chastain added that these endowments are seen by many as foundational money giving them the foundation to build and maintain a research program. There has at times been provost challenges that can be used to match or capitalize current endowment. He pointed out that the Kronstad endowment is currently at \$1,000,000 which is considered a Professorship and the

College currently considers \$2,000,000 fully funded Endowed Chair.

Alexis Eichler with the OSU Foundation supporting the College of Agricultural Sciences highlighted that they just launched the public phase of their next campaign which is \$1.75 billion and they currently have about \$1 million raised so far. The Provost faculty match may likely return as part of their current campaign. They do have several types of current use funds in addition to endowments. The OSU endowments distribute 4% annually to the program and any additional market return are reinvested to ensure that they maintain the principle. She also mentioned that they have staff that are happy to help in the generation of funds to support this effort.

When asked if they wish to pursue this further, Commissioners asked CEO Hoey to provide additional information for discussion at a future meeting.

Proposal: Oregon Wheat Weed Management Funding

Pete Berry introduced himself as the new weed scientist at OSU. He is glad to return to OSU as a former PhD student at OSU under Carol Mallory Smith from 2013-2019. He has spent the last four growing seasons working for Syngenta in Illinois on product development in GIS systems. His position will be 80% research and 20% teaching and OSU will also be working to fill the Extension Weed Science position vacated by Andy Hulting.

The proposal he submitted is looking to take advantage of the advancements in technology in terms of optical spot spraying. The first step is to do image analysis to separate species such as downy brome and Jointed Goatgrass from wheat as well as Italian ryegrass in the valley. The benefits of this work includes arial imaging that allows a spot sprayer to go out and spray individual plants. Until now the focus of this work has been in corn, soybeans and cotton so the focus to start is on the methodology and using multiple types of sensors.

The other objective in this proposal examines Beyond carryover in Co-Axiom wheat line both in high and low rainfall zones.

Discussion: Jason Middleton and Jordan Van Zante both noted that they believe this technology has tremendous possibility for growers. Darren Padget asked if the Beyond resistance work will be done in on farm trials? It was noted that it would be preferred but the amount of seed available limits to strip trials at this time. It was recommended that he do some farm visits and consider farm trials as the Co-Axiom acres increase.

Commissioner Van Zante moved to approve funding for the Oregon Wheat Weed Management Proposal in the amount of \$27,878. Commissioner Middleton seconded the motion. With Commissioner Tuckness absent, the motion passed unanimously.

US Wheat Associates Fall Meeting: Dues/Budget

Commissioner Hansell reviewed the request from U.S. Wheat Associates for a budget increase. They have not requested an increase in 5 years as they have been able to offset the increases with other funding sources. The new producer budget would be \$6,400,000 our portion of that would be an increase from \$182,700 to \$199,200.

Discussion: It was generally agreed that the increase has been held off for some time but is expected given inflation. Commissioner Padget also mentioned that USW will also be discussing what to do with their office space as they will need to refinance or payoff the

appropriately \$680,000 in the near future. There was concern expressed about support from all of the states and the ability for all states to remain full members with the increase.

Commissioner Marguth moved to approve the budget and dues increase proposed by U.S. Wheat Associates. Commissioner Padgett seconded the motion. With Commissioner Tuckness absent, the motion passed unanimously.

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.

The executive session was opened at 3:32 p.m. and closed at 3:48 p.m. No action was taken.

PNW Wheat Quality Council sponsorship

The Pacific Northwest Wheat Quality Council meeting will be in January and have asked that we again sponsor the AV expenses for the meeting.

Commissioner Padgett moved to approve funding of \$100 to support AV equipment costs at the PNW Wheat Quality Council Meeting. Commissioner Middleton seconded the motion. With Commissioner Tuckness absent, the motion passed unanimously.

OSU Wheat Breeder Search

Powell has been pleased with the search so far. They have had between 20-30 candidates for the position. They have met several times and narrowed the pool to a select group that have been invited to interview on campus in January. It has been a very thorough process including an analysis by Andrew Ross of the quality in the program and Chris Mundt on the pathology in the program. He has met seed dealers on what they are looking for from the program. Each candidate as part of their interview will be giving a seminar on what they feel is necessary to keep the OSU Wheat Breeding program competitive into the future.

Commissioner Reports; Other Business

Commissioner Padgett reported that the Wheat Marketing Center Building Committee is in a holding pattern. He also reported on the U.S. Wheat Associates Manila celebration. He said it was good to be in person with our customers. They are beginning to express concerns regarding the margin as one of the larger millers has kept their rates the same despite the narrowing margins.

Commissioner Hansell reported on the USW Fall meeting reporting that there were some exceptional speakers from the trade. There was concern that there was another effort to move the winter meeting out of Washington, DC for cost reasons but USW voted the request down as it is believed that a presence in DC is critical to our efforts.

Other New Business

CEO Hoey noted that there is a Wheat Lifecycle Assessment Project, a joint across USW and NAWG that is being conducted and our interface will be through our universities.

Commissioner Prybylowski recommended that we replace the word Chem-fallow with Conservation fallow. It was recommended that we begin the effort of educating that word and its perception outside of the industry.

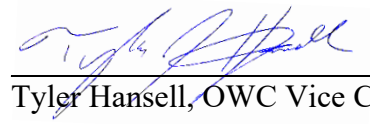
Next meeting

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for February 21-22, 2023.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Approved



Tyler Hansell, OWC Vice Chairman

Prepared and submitted by OWC Associate Administrator, Tana Simpson