



**Oregon Wheat Commission Meeting
November 19, 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 people 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, ID with video/phone conference availability. 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 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 2:00 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: Vivian Hansen, Margaret Krause, Eric Morris, Luke Muller, Francisco Calderon, Collin Crocker, Rich Remington, John Zielinski, Chris Mundt, Holly Hannah, Vishal Singh, Damon Brosnan, Nathan Adelman and Jason Flowers.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No additions were made to the agenda.

Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the September 16, 2024 Commission and Joint Oregon Wheat Commission (OWC) and Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) meetings were provided.

Commissioner Tuckness moved to approve the Commission and Joint OWC/OWGL meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Marguth seconded the motion. With all Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

July 2024 Financial Report

Associate Administrator Simpson presented the October 2024 financial statements for consideration.

Commissioner Middleton moved to accept the October 2024 Financial Statements. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. With all remaining Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Tuckness and CEO Hoey reported on their trip with representative from the Washington Grain Commission and Idaho Wheat Commission to Chile and Peru. The group received good feedback on the quality and functionality of PNW soft white (SW) and were able to take advantage of some SW shipments that arrived during their visit. The USW staff in South America was excellent and has good relationships with customers. Chile is currently the 9th largest importer of wheat. There is potential to increase exports in this part of the world through expansion of the cookie, cracker, and cake markets, as well as through a new effort in salmon and shrimp feeding.

Commissioner Martin participated in the Wheat Marketing Center board meeting. It was a productive meeting and he is looking forward to a follow-up visit to refresh his knowledge of the quality equipment within their lab. He also had the opportunity to visit the new OWC office and was very impressed.

Commissioners Hansell and Tuckness and CEO Hoey reported on the U.S Wheat Associates Fall meeting. HB4, the new genetically engineered wheat was a topic of significant conversation. They also heard preliminary results from the wheat Life Cycle Assessment and are looking forward to a more detailed presentation at an upcoming meeting. The U.S. Wheat Associates board also approved the promotion of Mike Spier as the next President following the retirement of Vince Peterson on June 30, 2025.

Commissioner Rye reported on the USW Crop Quality Seminar in Southeast Asia that he attended. There was concern expressed about the low protein of the SW crop but customers were assured that there is enough higher protein carryover wheat to blend to the desired protein level. He also shared customers' comments that there is no replacement for soft white.

Crop Conditions

Generally, most areas had delayed planting and small and spotty stands due to the dryness through October. Hopes are that significant rain/snow in November will help get the crop back on track.

Tri-State Commission

CEO Hoey requested Commission consideration of funding for an RVA machine for the U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) Lab in Santiago, Chile. The RVA machine is used to assess starch properties of flour and would help USW assist key mills throughout the region. The need was identified during the latest visit to South America and review of the lab facilities. The total cost is estimated at \$100,000 or \$35,000 if shared equally between the three Pacific Northwest states. She noted that funding of this proposal will require an emergency funds transfer within the Commission budget and ODA approval of the change.

Commissioner Tuckness moved to approve funding of up to \$35,000 for an RVA for the USW Santiago Lab, if also approved by both the Washington Grain Commission and Idaho Wheat Commission and pending the approval of an emergency funds transfer. Commissioner Middleton seconded the motion. With all Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Prybylowski moved to approve the transfer of \$35,000 from the Emergency

Fund to New/Unallocated Projects in the Commissions 2024-2025 Budget. Commissioner Tuckness seconded the motion. With all Commissioners present, the motion passed unanimously.

CEO Hoey noted the primary additional consideration that came from the South America visit was the continuation of market development visits to key regions on an annual basis.

Discussion: Commissioner Rye inquired as to the targeted region, specifically noting opportunities in Southeast Asia and South America. The Commission expressed interest to pursue annual PNW-led soft white market development visits and will assess in budget cycles.

CEO Hoey noted that an additional concept arose from Washington Grain Commission CEO Chumrau who had subsequently attended the southeast Asia Crop Quality tour. With the retirement of Roy Chung, there may be further opportunities to work with Mr. Chung's contracted services to enhance markets. CEO Hoey noted that additional information would be needed and requested that discussion be held for further staff research and development.

The Commission was directed to discussion on GM/GE wheat.

Discussion: Concern was expressed regarding the logistical and infrastructure challenges that are likely to occur if HB4 is fully released. It was suggested that the Tri-state Wheat Commissions pursue a revision to USW Biotechnology Principles of Commercialization #4 (Currently reads, An accurate, economical and timely trait detection test must be provided by the trait developer prior to commercialization.) to include a market validated test.

Commissioner Tuckness reviewed the concept of trademarking wheat, beginning with club wheat. He noted the model of Idaho potatoes. He also reviewed a model for wheat with the joint venture between California and Arizona to market Desert Durum.

Discussion: The Commission was interested to further explore the concept.

Guiding Principles

CEO Hoey presented the draft guiding principles to the Commission. The objective of the project was to identify priorities, recommendations, and outcomes to position state wheat organizations for the future. Research was done through internal and external surveys and interviews of industry thought leaders. The guiding principles to increasing profitability of wheat production through targeted initiatives that advance the U.S. wheat industry are innovation (including technology, research, new uses), demand, policy, alignment, sustainability, and infrastructure. These findings will be used as framework for the joint strategic planning session in April.

CEO Report

CEO Hoey updated the Commission on the activities of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. She reviewed the election results and rulemaking activities. She noted that the League will be hosting a Legislative tour in January 2025 to further educate legislators on our industry as well as our supply chain.

On the federal side, the League has been engaging on Farm Bill passage/extension discussions,

advocating for Disaster Assistance, meeting with federal agencies, coordinating responses on the Columbia Snake River System, and addressing issues related to research matching dollars and administrative overhead.

CEO Hoey provided a brief Commission CEO report, directing Commissioners to additional material in the written report. The Commission has hosted several trade and technical teams since our last meeting. The annual Crop Quality Report and Soft White Quality Report which are both funded by the Commissions and produced by Wheat Marketing Center are complete. We are awaiting the appointment of the new Commissioner for Producer position #5 representing the Willamette Valley. On the legal front, we did receive our stipulated judgement entered to the court and are awaiting final judgement on the reimbursement of attorney fees. The Commission office is moved into the new space at the World Trade Center.

Research Priorities 2025/2026

Commissioners expressed interest research priorities such as development of varieties with attention to end-user (quality and trait) characteristics, leaf analysis to hone plant needs, assessment of fertilizer and relationship to protein, nitrogen and pH interaction, fertilizer optimization and fertilizer timing.

Research Updates

OSU Wheat and Barley breeder Margaret Krause updated the Commission on the wheat breeding program. She has had the opportunity to spend her first year participating in many meetings and field days. Giving her an opportunity to interact with growers and get a good feel for their needs from the program.

OSU has two varieties ready for this year, Gale and Mallory CL+. Gale is anticipated to be a Rosalyn replacement for the Willamette Valley. Foundation seed was produced locally and PVP is currently pending approval. Mallory CL+ is slated for the low to intermediate rainfall zones and has performed well in the Washington Crop Improvement and local variety trials. Margaret was looking for input as there has been little interest in this variety from seed dealers. Brent pointed out that many growers are moving away from the Clearfield varieties due to the increases in the plant back restrictions.

Margaret also asked about grower interest in the continuation of breeding for winter clubs and hard red winter varieties in the OSU program. They have a club that is ready for release but she is concerned there may not be enough demand to cover the cost of PVP. The program is also continuing to develop varieties with the CoAxiom technology in both SW and HRW.

Chris Mundt updated the group on his retirement and the plan for the transition of the Cereal Pathology program to the new hire Alexey Mikaberidze. Collectively Alexey, Margaret, Chris and Christina Hagerty have developed a plan to maintain a reduced screening program until September of 2026 when Alexey's visa will allow his arrival.

Other Requests

CEO Hoey informed the group that this year Oregon has a sponsored spot on the USW South Asia Board Team traveling March 3-11, 2025 which David Brewer has agreed to fill. She informed the Commission that it is typical for an Administrator to attend as well with the cost

must be covered by the participating state. She provided an estimated expense of \$5,000.

Commissioner Tuckness moved to approve travel for CEO Hoey to participate in the 2025 South Asia Board team. Commissioner Marguth seconded the motion. With all Commissioners present, the motion passed.

ODA Updates

Eric Morris, Commodity Commission Oversight Program Manager, reported that the ODA is in the process of doing some reorganization. The appointment of the OWC Producer #5 position is in process and should be finalized early next month. The Commodity Commission Oversight Committee met recently to review the programs budget and no changes to the current fee structure are anticipated. Lastly, Eric mentioned that emails are going out this week regarding required Workday training.

Other Business and Public Comment

Commissioner Hansell thanked Jerry Marguth for his many years of service on the Commission and the League.

Adjourn

Chair Hansell adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be the Research Review and Commission meeting, February 17-18, 2025 in Corvallis, OR.

Approved

Tyler Hansell, OWC Chair

Prepared and submitted by OWC Associate Administrator, Tana Simpson