

# **MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY COMMITTEE**

**Summer Board Meeting  
In-Person/Zoom Meeting  
Great Falls, Montana  
June 16, 2021**

The following were present for either a portion of or the entire meeting.

## **DIRECTORS**

Mike O'Hara, Chairman  
Adam Carney, Vice Chairman  
Denise Conover, Director  
Max Cederberg, Director

Charlie Bumgarner, Director  
Brett Dailey, Director

## **EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS**

Cristy Clark, Director, Department of Agriculture  
Dr. Sreekala Bajwa, Vice President of Agriculture, MSU  
Sam Schmidt, Montana Milling

## **STAFF**

Cassidy Marn, Executive Vice President  
Sam Anderson, Industry Analyst & Outreach Coordinator  
Kolleen Spurgin, Budget & Grants Coordinator  
Tammy Suek, Administrative Assistant

## **GUESTS**

Alison Vergeront, Executive Director, MGGA  
Justin Gilpin, Kansas Wheat  
Zach Coccoli, Deputy Director & Staff Attorney, Department of Ag

## **Wednesday, June 16, 2021:**

*Chairman O'Hara called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.*

Director Bumgarner moved, and Director Dailey seconded the motion to approve the tentative agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Review of March 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman O'Hara presented the minutes of the Spring Board Meeting.

Director Carney moved, and Director Conover seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Department of Agriculture Update**

Director Clark talked to the board about the Department moving back to regular office activity. She also explained about the grant program that Director Jones is a part of. The department are also conducting a value-added tour this next week for the governor.

## **Montana Grain Growers Update**

MGGA Executive Vergeront made a small report on their golf tournament, scholarships, convention which is Nov. 30 – Dec. 2 and the Endowed Chair which is at the interview stage.

### **View from the Trade**

Sam Schmidt gave an overview of grain prices.

### **MSU Update**

Dr. Bajwa updated the board on the field days they will be face-to-face this year and MAES advisory committee will be meeting at Southern Ag Research Station, June 30<sup>th</sup> this year. The search is on for two wheat breeders and an endowed chair position. Northwest Farm Credit Services made a gift of two million dollars to the University's Ag department.

### **Hard White Wheat Update**

Justin Gilpin from the Kansas Wheat Commission presented to the board an update on Hard White Wheat and changing the grading standards at FIGIS.

### **Financial Update**

Executive VP Marn went over the latest financials and answered questions about refunds.

### **Wheat Marketing Center**

Director Bumgarner attended the virtual meeting put on by the center. They said goodbye to Bonn, he has retired. Next meeting, they hope to have face-to-face.

### **National Barley Growers Board Meeting**

Chairman O'Hara attended the meeting; the concern was about the drought and it's effect on the barley crop. The demand for barley is good.

### **Executive Vice President Update**

Executive VP Marn is sitting on the search committees for the breeders, it is a lot of work. She talked about the Trade Teams we have interacted with so far. Crop Quality is the bad news but trying to stay positive to buyers.

Director Carney is resigning due to family issues, the governor has appointed Terry Angvick from Plentywood to replace him.

### **Industry Analyst Update**

Sam is working on different ways to promote our wheat, such as video content for the web site & Facebook page. He is also working on working with MSU to set up web cams on a field to watch the growth of wheat.

### **Transportation Update**

Deputy Director Coccoli talked to the board about some of the transportation meeting coming up.

### **Approval of Staff and Director Travel**

Director Conover moved, and Director Bumgarner seconded the motion to approve the travel. The motion passed unanimously.

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**Upcoming Events**

Jun. 29-Jul. 1	US Wheat Meeting – Nashville, TN
Jul. 26-28	US Grains Council – Des Moines, IA
Jul. 29	Wheat Foods Council - Virtual
Aug. 11-12	MT Farm to School Summit – Helena
Oct. 28	Wheat Marketing Center – Portland, OR

**New Business**

Next board meeting – October 12, 2021

*Chairman O'Hara adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.*

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Cassidy Marn, Executive Vice President

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Date