

# **MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY COMMITTEE**

## **Budget Board Meeting In-Person/Zoom Meeting Great Falls, Montana December 2, 2024**

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

### **DIRECTORS**

Terry Angvick, Chairman  
Lee Dahlman, Director  
Max Cederberg, Vice Chairman

Keven Bradley, Director  
Cindy McKamey, Director  
Courtney Herzog, Director

### **EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS**

Christy Clark, Director of the Department of Agriculture  
Dr. Bajwa, Vice President of Agriculture, MSU  
Jake McFarlin, Grain Industry Representative

### **STAFF**

Kent Kupfner, Executive Director  
Lori Wickett, Marketing & Research Director  
Kolleen Spurgin, Budget & Grants Coordinator  
Tammy Suek, Administrative Assistant

### **GUESTS**

Zach Coccoli, Deputy Director  
Boyd Heilig, President of MGGA  
Cody Pearce, Dept. of Ag  
Darrin Boss, MAES  
Casey Peterson, NCI  
Eric Sommer, USDA NASS  
Kera Birkeland, Policy for MGGA  
Deanna Nash, MSU  
Paul Bradley, MGGA  
Leonard Schock, Producer

### **Monday, December 2, 2024:**

*Chairman Angvick called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.* Introductions of new board members Cindy McKamey and Courtney Herzog were made. Introductions of board and guests. The Chairman asked for public comment. Heard none.

Director Dahlman moved, and Director Cederberg seconded the motion to approve the Tentative Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Review of October 28-29, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Angvick presented the minutes of the Board Meetings.

Director Dahlman moved, and Director McKamey seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 28-29, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Department of Agriculture Update**

Director Clark described the success of the Ag Tech Summit. They have made an offer to a new staff counsel and expect to hear soon. The Bureau Chief for the State Grain Lab will be back on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The department is almost exclusively funded by collected fees.

### **MSU Update**

Dr. Bajwa talked about the Celebrate Ag and what a big success the new format was. She expressed concern in recruiting Montana students to apply to the college of Agriculture. They are recruiting for several positions including the endowed chair.

### **MT Grain Growers Update**

Boyd Heilig informed the committee that the convention is being setup and should be a good time. Kera talked about the farm bill and the farm act. Questions were asked about the legislation proposed involving MT Wheat & Barley.

### **Northern Crops Institute**

Casey Peterson represented NCI and gave an overview of their new building and other changes to the programs. They also had a budget shortfall and personnel changes to deal with. NCI will likely request additional funding in the future.

### **Grain Industry Rep. Update**

Jake only had some disappointing news for producers as most production areas are doing very well around the world. Winter wheat is looking good around the state and our spring wheat is excellent, but it has competition with Canada and other countries. Feed wheat is moving to Korea & Canada. The BNSF is performing adequately but winter weather and logistics issues are a concern.

### **Director Reports**

Chairman Angvick – No wheat moving, only pulse. He attended the MAES Advisory meeting in Bozeman.

Director McKamey – She is excited to attend the Flour Milling course next week. Needs moisture, like everyone else.

Director Dahlman – Enjoyed Celebrate Ag. US Wheat meeting was good.

Director Herzog – Lot of winter wheat was planted. Needs moisture.

Director Cederberg – More winter wheat planted, lots of snow on the ground.

Director Bradley – Went to US Wheat and asked about the sawfly issues and found out they rely on the states and universities.

### **Lunch & Financial Report**

Kolleen went through the refunder list. She went through the remaining items in the budget that have balances.

### **Communication & Research Director Report**

Lori shared that web site traffic is up this month. She encouraged the directors to stop in to the MGGA convention booth and be seen by producers. She is working on getting the newsletter more exposure.

Lori attended the US Wheat meeting and has been talking with others about the situation with Wheat Foods Council.

### **Executive Director Report**

Kent updated the directors on his activities over the past month. He discussed his crop quality trip to Asia.

### **Teams Call with MSU about Bioceres and the HB4 trait**

Joined by MSU representatives: Daniel Juliano, Mike Giroux, Sue Mondal and Madeline Doak.

### **USDA Update**

Eric Sommers asked about the surveys the committee wants and the questions that they might want to ask. The county estimates survey is not going to be done unless someone pays for it like the pulse committee is funding for pulse commodities.

### **Sawfly Teaser Video**

This will be shown during the MGGGA convention and during Executive Director Kupfner's MWBC update.

### **Budget Consideration**

Executive Director Kupfner went over the budgeting for the CY25 grant cycle, his last estimates were missing assessment income for November and December. His new recommendations are a maximum of \$3,550,000 for grants and \$950,000 for Operations totaling approximately \$4,500,000.

### **Operations**

Director Herzog moved, and Director Dahlman seconded the motion to approve \$1,019,000 for the operations budget. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Membership/Market Development Applications**

There was a discussion about Wheat Foods Council.

Director McKamey moved, and Director Cederberg seconded the motion to reduce funding for Wheat Foods Council to \$5500 and become a non-voting member. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Herzog moved, and Director McKamey seconded the motion to approve \$1,156,106 for the Marketing budget. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Education/Information Applications**

Director McKamey moved, and Director Herzog seconded the motion to approve \$307,029 for the education budget. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Research Applications**

Director Cederberg moved, and Director McKamey seconded the motion to approve \$1,931,068 for the research budget. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Budget Approval**

Director Herzog moved, and Director Cederberg seconded the motion to approve \$4,413,203 for the 2025 total budget. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

March Madness – March 24, 2025

Director McKamey moved, and Director Cederberg seconded the motion to approve using unanticipated special project funding for March Madness. The motion passed unanimously.

Next board meeting – March 25, 2025 at MSU Bozeman

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

Director Herzog moved, and Director Cederberg seconded the motion to approve the travel. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Upcoming Events**

Dec 3-5	MGGA Convention – Great Falls
Dec. 5	AB Barley Growers Appreciation Day - Choteau
Dec. 9-11	KSU Milling Course – Manhattan, KS
Dec. 10-12	MT Organic Convention – Great Falls
Dec. 16-19	MT Seed Trade Association 2024 Winter Convention - Bozeman
Dec 25	Office Closed
Jan. 1	Office Closed
Jan. 13-17	US Wheat Winter Meeting – Washington DC
Jan. 22-24	MGEA Convention – Great Falls
Jan. 29-31	PNW Wheat Quality Meeting – Portland, OR
Feb. 3-6	National Barley Growers Meeting – Washington DC
Feb. 5	MSU Variety Release Meeting - Bozeman
Feb. 10-13	Wheat Food Council Meeting - Arizona
Feb. 12-14	US Grains Council Meeting – Austin, TX
Feb. 13	Golden Triangle Barley Conference – Conrad
<b>Mar. 3-6</b>	<b>National Barley Improvement Committee – Washington DC</b>
Mar. 3-6	WMC Producer Tour – Portland, OR
<b>Mar. 17-20</b>	<b>WMC Producer Tour – Portland, OR</b>
Mar. 24	March Madness – Bozeman
Mar. 25	MWBC Board Meeting - Bozeman

The chairman asked for public comment and heard none.

### **Executive Session**

The group went to executive session to discuss Executive Director Kupfner's performance and compensation.

### **Resumed to Public Session**

Director Cederberg moved, and Director McKamey seconded the motion to approve a pay raise of \$140,000 for Executive Director Kupfner. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm – Chairman Angvick

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Kent Kupfner, Executive Director

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Date

Provisional