MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY COMMITTEE

Summer Board Meeting Minutes
In-Person & Virtual Meeting
Fargo, ND
June 23, 2026

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

DIRECTORS

Terry Angvick, Chairman, District 1
Logan Anderson, Director, District 2
Jim Bjelland, Director, District 3
Lee Dahlman, Director, District 4
Cindy McKamey, Director, District 5
Courtney Herzog, Director, District 6
Brett Dailey, Director, District 7

STAFF

Kent Kupfner, Executive Director
Lori Wickett, Director of Engagement
Sabrina Lahaderne, Office Manager
Skye Smith, Ag Program Manager

GUESTS

Jillien Streit, Director, Montana Department of Agriculture
Shawna Severson, Interim Executive Vice President, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)
Kera Birkeland, Senior Policy Advisor, MGGA
Doug Holden, MSU Foundation Seed Program
BranDee Johnston, MSU Foundation Seed Program
Dr. Ryan Thum, MSU Department Head, Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology
Dave Tweet, Barley Consultant
Jake McFarlin, Industry Trade Representative

Tuesday June 23, 2026

Chairman Terry Angvick called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm Central Time. Roll call was conducted, establishing a quorum with all seven district directors present. Self-introductions were completed for in-person and remote participants.

The board welcomed Skye Smith as the newly hired MWBC Agriculture Program Manager.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Chairman Angvick called for additions or corrections to the tentative agenda. Kent Kupfner noted a minor schedule shift: Jake McFarlin had a conflict and would join the Zoom call later to present, suggesting his report be placed at the conclusion of the district reports.

Director Brett Dailey moved to approve the agenda as presented; Director Jim Bjelland seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Call for Public Comment

Chairman Angvick called for public comment. No public comment was made.

Approval of March 24, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 24, 2026 board meeting were presented for review.

Director Logan Anderson moved to approve the minutes as presented; Director Cindy McKamey seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Department of Agriculture Update
Jillien Streit

Jillien Streit provided updates on behalf of the Department. Jillien started with market development and how we are continuing to expand global market access with trade missions to Latin America and Asia (Colombia, Chile, India, Taiwan). Direct efforts focus on promoting Montana beef, beef genetics, pulse crops, and value-added food/beverage products. She discusses agricultural sciences division and expanding the pesticide container recycling capacity by adding two stationary granulators in Polson and Scobey, with five additional statewide locations planned so producers no longer have to time recycling with mobile trucks. She continues her update with the Diagnostic Lab Transition. A grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for July 17, 2026, in conjunction with the MSU Wool Lab and Department of Livestock. Jillian finishes her update with the State Grain Lab and how they are fully staffed. They added 17 new inspector licenses, four new full-time employees, and seasonal/part-time samplers.

Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA) Update
Shawna Severson & Kera Birkeland

Shawna Severson introduced herself as Interim EVP; assuming the role in early April. MGGA launched the "Working For You" policy alert series and hosted its first Legislative Roundtable on June 5. Shawna shares how the annual MGGA Golf Tournament/Calcutta sold out in under two hours and the event was a success. She continued by discussing weekly crop condition reports resumed in mid-April. Early reports were not

optimistic, but recent rainfall has significantly improved crop conditions. She tells the board of the hired summer intern Helen Darlington of Great Falls and discusses how the Annual Convention is scheduled for December 1–2, 2026. New activities will include a "Best Bread in Montana" baking contest and an antique farm toy display. Shawna continues her update by sharing recent meetings with Governor Gianforte's office, Northern Ag Network, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Pulse Crop Committee, and NAWG committees. She updates on hosting the National Association of Barley Growers (NBGA) and American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) joint meeting. MGGA signed onto a joint letter opposing proposed Section 301 tariffs affecting Mexican beer.

Kera Birkeland gives a legislative update including addressing heavy crop destruction by elk and working with FWP/lawmakers on mitigation funding and legislative solutions. Other efforts are focusing on railroad safety and discussing BNSF dual-track uncontrolled crossings where parked rail cars obstruct vision, creating severe safety risks for farm equipment and school buses, opposition to a general sales tax and monitoring exempt water well issues, tracking Senator Boozman's H-2A labor proposals and noted that piecemeal passage of federal policy (outside a traditional Farm Bill) presents advocacy challenges, but MGGA remains focused on farm safety nets.

Industry Report
Dave Tweet

Dave Tweet starts his report with regional crop status. Idaho has experienced drought conditions and roughly a 75% loss in winter barley which makes up 25% of their total barley production. Wyoming growers faced a 30% contract reduction from Briess Malt last year, forcing acreage shifts. Montana crops show extreme variability depending on localized rainfall. Canada is reporting a strong barley crop overall following good moisture. Dave continues by reporting on procurement and grain trade changes. Great Western Malting, acquired by Soufflet, is now managing contracting out of Calgary following local personnel departures. Strong feed barley demand into Lethbridge, Alberta is creating competitive alternatives against malt contracts due to ease of management and higher potential yields. Malteurop is expanding acreage of Canadian variety Churchill. Dave ends his report with telling about events and trends including his participation in Anheuser-Busch's "Brew Across America" event in Fairfield with representative Troy Downing. There is growing interest in pet food and food-grade barley, particularly in North Dakota markets.

MSU Foundation Seed Program Update
Doug Holen & BranDee Johnston

Doug Holen and BranDee Johnston reviewed spring seed sales and new releases. Foundation seed movement was solid despite broad agricultural economy headwinds. Demand was especially high for dual-use Endurance barley and Dagmar spring wheat. New variety names included Solid Stem Durum (MTD19241): Tentatively named MT Sheridan, Hollow Stem Durum (MTD19011) Tentatively named MT Robust, and Spring Wheat (MT21074): Named MT Sunrise which is a red chaff variety showing high interest

and strong sawfly resistance. MSU is finalizing seed distribution and licensing collaborations with the Washington State Crop Improvement Association to market hard red spring wheats forage wheats/barleys without negatively impacting Montana producers' priority supply. MSU Foundation Seed will be focused on one-on-one discussions at MSU field days.

MSU Plant Sciences Update
Ryan Thum

Ryan Thum reported that most faculty are currently on 9-month contracts and are heavily focused on research and field testing. The department hired an external facilitator for strategic planning to help manage the entire enterprise, which includes over 50 graduate students, seed certification programs, diagnostic labs, and the potato lab.

Director District Reports

Terry Angvick
Terry reported that local crops looked bleak due to devastating windstorms that caused massive topsoil loss, but recent rain has significantly improved conditions. Many spring crops were delayed and not planted until the third week of May due to cold, dry, and windy weather. Terry plans to attend via Zoom the MAES Advisory meeting in Corvallis and looks forward to the NCI tour.

Logan Anderson
Logan reported that spring crops look good, while winter wheat is spotty. He anticipates an average winter wheat crop, though seed crop acres sustained more severe damage.

Jim Bjelland
Jim reported that after a dry April and May, his area received 3.8 inches of rain in June, which rescued the crops. Spring wheat is looking promising, and he noted that a large volume of barley in his region is being shipped north to Canadian feedlots.

Lee Dahlman
Lee reported an average winter wheat crop, with some fields already destroyed and sprayed out due to poor timing of spring moisture. Increase of wheat stem sawfly in barley and spring wheat, as well as the return of the Russian wheat aphid. He also noted a Bayer program that will respray fields if their herbicide fails to kill targeted weeds. Lee attended a positive MGGA meeting and participated in a Zoom call with Constellation regarding direct producer contracting and the proposed AMBA and NBGA merger. Malteurop is slow to take delivery of contracted barley.

Cindy McKamey
Cindy reported severe drought conditions with only 0.30 inches of rain over the last 30 days. Frost damage is prominent near Judith Gap, with one farmer's winter wheat being 100% adjusted out by insurance. Cindy reported that the Wheat Marketing Center is struggling with its budget due to decreased

leasing income at the Albers Mill. Cindy reported that she enjoyed networking with customers and US Wheat staff during the anniversary events in Taiwan and Japan, and attended the Brainerd Farm Fair.

Courtney Herzog
Courtney reported dealing with bugs in grain bins and severe Russian wheat aphid infestations, requiring multiple rounds of spraying. Hay supplies are very short, and all pastures are brown. Some winter wheat is being adjusted out due to severe frost and drought damage.

Brett Dailey
Brett reported patchy winter wheat and extremely short hay supplies. Due to the feed shortage, some winter wheat is being sold on the stump for $200 an acre. His area also suffered from severe wind erosion.

Industry Report
Jake McFarlin

Jake discusses poor hard red winter wheat crop conditions across the country. The U.S. is carrying over respectable ending stocks, providing a roughly 40% stocks-to-use ratio. This large buffer limits immediate price rallies despite the poor crop. He continues by reporting that The Golden Triangle received 3 to 5 inches of rain recently, vastly improving conditions. Jake expects the best spring wheat crop in that area in over five years. He discusses the futures market backed off about $1.50 in the six weeks post-Iran conflict excitement and this price drop has helped the U.S. regain competitiveness in the export market, with Japan actively buying recently. Secondary shuttle freight values have fallen to near zero, a significant relief for producers compared to the high freight costs seen previously. He anticipates strong demand for quality wheat.

Financial Report & Office Management
Sabrina Lahaderne

Sabrina presents to the board the second quarter totals for refunds. She discusses the application process and how the new online application system has been implemented. The utilization is evenly split, with approximately 50% of producers submitting applications online and 50% calling the office directly. She reviews the first half of the year's financials with the board, and reviews the new and improved travel expense reporting form.

Travel, Events & Approval
Kent Kupfner

Kent reviews current calendar and upcoming trade teams and field days with board members.

New Business
Lori Wickett

Lori discusses Peru trade team which arrives June 30th and departs July 3rd. Through Reach Higher Montana externship, Carissa Jenkins, a science teacher from Fairfield will be accompanying the group to observe operations. Dinner at Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, sponsored by EGT, will be on July 1st and board members are invited to join. Lori discusses how she coordinated a barley panel for the NBGA meeting. The panel featured industry participates and focused on feed barley, food barley, and pet food markets. She updates on WebGrants the process of applying for the upcoming calendar year and the change of 45 days rather than 30 days for review. Distribution of board books for members were given to review and return with comments and changes.

Next board meeting was set for October 28 and 29 at the MWBC office.

Call for Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Terry Angvick adjourned the meeting at 4:04 pm Central Time.