

Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes

February 17-19, 2021

- I. Call to order
 - a. Chair Amy Kellogg called to order the regular meeting of the Agriculture Development Council at 12:04pm on Wednesday February 17, 2021.

- II. Roll call
 - a. Dani Jones conducted roll call and introductions were made my Council members and department staff.
 - b. Council Members: Chair Amy Kellogg, Vice Chair John Wicks, Tom Kaiserski (proxy for the Department of Commerce), and Andy Fjeseth (proxy for the Department of Agriculture, Director Mike Foster). New Council Members were introduced, Meghan Hedges and George Kipp.
 - c. Department Employees: Jim Auer, Tina Bateman, Director Mike Foster, Christy Clark, Zach Coccoli, Grace Aklestad, Marty Earnheart, Weston Merrill, Ingrid Mallo, Cindy Trimp, and Dani Jones.
 - d. Chair Amy Kellogg asked for public comment, no comment at this time.

- III. Department Update
 - a. Director Mike Foster gave a legislative update. Andy Fjeseth gave a staff update which included an organization chart as requested by Amy Kellogg at the December 2020 meeting. Marty Earnheart was introduced as the Marketing Supervisor.

- IV. Approval of the past meeting minutes
 - a. Council members reviewed the meeting minutes prior to the meeting. John Wicks made the motion to approve the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Andy Fjeseth 2nd the motion. All Council members were in favor, motion passed.

- V. Financial Report FY2021
 - a. Andy Fjeseth gave an update to the Council on the amount of money they will be able to grant. Loans- \$150,000. Grants and Loans- \$734,000

- VI. Council Reimbursement
 - a. Dani Jones reminded the Council about the reimbursement process. With the meeting being conducted via zoom, each Council members can request the \$50 reimbursement, per day. Dani Jones will email the

form to the Council members, which needs to be completed and emailed back.

- VII. Review of Ethics Policy
 - a. Zach Coccoli gave a brief review of Council ethics and conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest was not previously mentioned to Zach, he asked the Council to share if they would be sitting out during presentations and discussion for said applicants.
 - i. John Wick recused from Stricks Ag
 - ii. Meghan Hedges recused from Stricks Ag and Casey Janette Solomon, DVM
 - iii. Chair Kellogg and Tom Kaiserski recused from Department of Commerce

- VIII. Meeting process and Zoom meeting review
 - a. Jim Auer and Tina Bateman reviewed the meeting process with the Council members. Tina Bateman let Council members know that they can mute and unmute themselves and they may leave the meeting open all day.
 - b. Chair Amy Kellogg asked Council members to not log off during breaks, keep their cameras on, and to join or rejoin the meetings early. Amy will call on each member for discussion.

- IX. Growth Through Agriculture Applications 1-8
 - a. Yellowstone Valley Food Hub, \$50,000
 - b. Stricks Ag, \$150,000
 - c. Lone Mountain Cattle Feeders, \$132,971.00
 - d. Butte Brewing Company, \$38,087.00
 - e. Green Ridge BioSolutions US Inc., \$50,000
 - f. Wired, Wild, West, \$44,422.00
 - g. Charter Ranch and Livestock, \$14,340.00
 - h. FireRoot, \$16,000.00

 - i. Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant. Ranking was completed for applications 1-8

- X. Meeting was adjourned
 - a. Motion to Adjourn, Amy: Lars moved, Andy seconded. No discussion. Unanimous.

Thursday February 18, 2021

- XI. Chair Amy Kellogg called the meeting to order at 12:01pm.
 - a. All Council members were present

- XII. Chair Kellogg asked for public comment, none at this time

- XIII. Growth Through Agriculture Applications 9-16
 - a. Ag Processing Solutions, \$144,734.02
 - b. Mahlstedt Ranch Inc., \$14,489.70
 - c. Aspen Grove Farm, \$21,500.00
 - d. F Bar 3 Vineyard, LLC, \$21,000.00
 - e. Moon River Ranch, LLC, \$28,756.00
 - f. Beaverhead Meats, INC, \$50,000.00
 - g. Montana Craft Malt Company, \$50,000.00
 - h. High Horizon Gardens, \$50,000.00

 - i. Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant.
Ranking was completed for applications 9-16

- XIV. BREAK

- XV. Growth Through Agriculture Applications 17-24
 - a. Crawford Distillery LLC, \$49,094.50
 - b. Baltrusch Angus Ranch, \$37,500.00
 - c. Nguyen Holdings, Inc. \$150,000.00
 - d. Good Mama Farm, \$12,600.00
 - e. Casey Janette Solomon, DVM, \$116,925.00
 - f. MT Department of Commerce, \$40,000.00
 - g. Resurrection Ranch LLC, \$48,747.16
 - h. Farmented Foods, \$11,908.08

 - i. Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant.
Ranking was completed for applications 17-24

- XVI. BREAK

- XVII. Growth Through Agriculture Applications 25-29
 - a. Willow Mountain Winery LLC, \$40,369.00
 - b. Lame Jones Meats, \$20,000.00
 - c. Mont-Dulce, \$150,000.00
 - d. Apple Bar Enterprises, \$18,270.00
 - e. Green Source Missoula, LLC, \$13,400.00

 - f. Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant.
Ranking was completed for applications 25-29

- XVIII. Public Comment
 - a. Chair Amy Kellogg asked for public comment, none at this time.

XIX. Adjournment

- a. Lars Hanson made the motion to adjourn then meeting. Megan Hedges 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Chair Amy Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 4:49pm.

Friday February 19, 2021

XX. Chair Amy Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

- a. All Council members were present
- b. Chair Amy Kellogg asked for public comment, none at this time.

XXI. Growth Through Agriculture applications 30-37

- a. Plan-it Hemp, \$150,000.00
- b. Wickens Ranch LLC, \$12,000.00
- c. Missoula Grain and Vegetable Co., \$23918.16
- d. Ray Holes Leather Care Products, \$5,895.00
- e. Swanky Roots Inc, \$ 50,000.00
- f. Daniels Gourmet Meats and Sausages, \$18,000.00
- g. Back to the Mother, \$3,000.00
- h. Big Sky Orchards, LLC, \$ 38,200.00

- i. Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant. Ranking was completed for applications 30-37

XXII. BREAK

XXIII. Final Scoring

- a. Spreadsheet presented and updated by Jim Auer during discussion and final scoring of applicants.
- b. Lars Hanson made the motion to approve the spreadsheet as presented and to award the grants and loans as reflected. John Wicks 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passes

XXIV. Next Application deadline and meeting date

- a. Review and Award FADC, due April 28. May 17, 2021 for possible meeting date

XXV. Public Comment

- a. Chair Amy Kellogg asked for public comment, none at this time.

XXVI. Adjournment

- a. Andy Fjeseth made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Kaiserski 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Chair Amy Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 1:07pm.

Minutes submitted by: Dani Jones

Minutes approved by: Jim Auer