

Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes

February 23-25, 2022

I. Call to order

Chair Amy Kellogg called to order the regular meeting of the Agriculture Development Council at 12:05pm on Wednesday February 23, 2022.

II. Roll call

Dani Jones conducted roll call and introductions were made by council members and department staff.

Council Members: Chair Amy Kellogg, Vice Chair John Wicks, Megan Hedges, George Kipp, Director Scott Osterman, , and Andy Fjeseth (proxy for the Director Christy Clark).

Department Employees: Jim Auer, Bailey Kaskie, Ginny Hurt, Marty Earnheart, Alicia Hamm, and Dani Jones.

Members of the Public: Ali Moxley, Laura Hann, Kacie Sikveland, Hailey Vine, Abby Majerus, Rich Gannon, Genevieve Barhaugh, and Wyatt Anderson

Chair Amy Kellogg asked for public comment, no comment at this time.

III. Approval of the past meeting minutes

Council members reviewed the meeting minutes prior to the meeting. Andy Fjeseth made the motion to approve the October 29, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Lars Hanson 2nd the motion. All council members were in favor, motion passed.

IV. Department Update

Andy Fjeseth shared the department update starting with the news that Christy Clark was appointed Department of Agriculture Director by the Governor. After GTA wraps up the grant team will transition into Specialty Crop Grants and ARPA awards should be wrapped up at the end of March. The Marketing team is shaping up to have the first normal year since 2019. There will be 9 tradeshow, 5 outbound trade missions and 4 inbound trade missions. The Food Show is planning to host a chef to showcase the foods that are at the show. FRSAN Grant- Trade show assistance grant. Student Loan awards will start up around spring or at fiscal yearend.

V. Financial Report FY2021

- a) Andy Fjeseth gave an update to the council on the amount of money they will be able to grant. \$1.2 Million to fund, but the committee does not need to grant all the funds out. Three different pools in which the funds come from; Loan only, Coal Tax Trust Fund can be grants and loans, and the General Fund which can be grant only.

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

- i) Jim Auer gave a brief review of council ethics and conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest was not previously mentioned to Jim, he asked the council to share if they would be sitting out during presentations and discussion for said applicants.

Megan Hedges withdrew from the review of the Farmers Union proposal to avoid appearance of conflict with her employer.

VIII. Meeting process and Zoom meeting review

- a) Jim Auer and Bailey Kaskie reviewed the meeting process with the council members and let council members know that they can mute and unmute themselves and they may leave the meeting open all day. Each applicant will have 10 minutes for Q&A.
- 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 Review of Applications 1-9

- a) The Rancher's Rail, \$30,000
- b) 41 Grains, \$50,000
- c) Rimrock Flower Farm, \$17,424.84
- d) Primitive Meats, \$50,000

- e) Branding Iron Butcher Shop and Smokehouse \$50,000
- f) Cold Spring Organics, \$50,000
- g) Big Sky Processing, \$150,000
- h) Conservation Grains, \$41,000
- i) Vilicus Farms, \$50,000

Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant. Ranking was completed for applications 1-9

X. Adjournment

- a) Chairwoman Amy Kellogg closed the day's meeting at 4:02pm.

XI. Thursday February 24, 2024

- a) Chairwoman Amy Kellogg called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.
 - (1) George Kipp was absent, all other members were present
- b) Chairwoman Amy asked for public comment, none at this time

XII. Growth Through Agriculture Applications 10-15

- a) Clark Fork Organics, \$2,130
- b) Montana Premier Protein, \$50,000
- c) Pioneer Meats, \$50,000
- d) Bausch Potato, \$45,762.88
- e) Discount Meats, \$43,580
- f) Nguyen Holdings/M&S Meats, \$150,000

Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant. Ranking was completed for applications 10-15

XIII. BREAK

XIV. Growth Through Agriculture Applications 16-21

- a) Montana Craft Malt, \$50,000
- b) Oddfellow Inn and Farm, \$150,000

- c) Gastro Gnome Meals, \$45,593.67
- d) Miles Community College, \$50,000
- e) Farmented Foods, \$5,221.36
- f) Big Sandy Organics, \$48,150

Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant. Ranking was completed for applications 16-21

XV. BREAK

XVI. Growth Through Agriculture Applications 22-26

- a) SporAttic, \$16,330
- b) Third Day Family Farms, \$5,000
- c) Local Bounti, \$50,000
- d) Montana Premium Processing Cooperative, \$50,000
- e) Millay and Meadowlark Flower Farm, \$25,000

Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant. Ranking was completed for applications 22-26

XVII. Public Comment

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

XVIII. Adjournment

- a) Chairwoman Amy Kellogg closed the day's meeting at 4:02pm.

XIX. Friday February 25, 2022

- a) Chairwoman Amy Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:03am.
 - (1) George Kipp was absent from the meeting, all other members were present
- b) Chairwoman Amy Kellogg asked for public comment, none at this time.

XX. Growth Through Agriculture applications 27-33

- a) Auggie's Meat Processing, \$50,000

- b) Homestead Organics Farm/Cultivating Connections Montana, \$49,936
- c) Farver Farms, \$40,146
- d) Western Cider Co, \$33,926.50
- e) Buck 'N Dave's Eggs, \$49,000
- f) Ag Processing Solutions, \$143,000
- g) Grotto Meats, \$49,910

Applications were discussed followed by Q&A with each applicant. Ranking was completed for applications 27-33

XXI. BREAK

XXII. Final Scoring

- a) Spreadsheet presented and updated by Jim Auer during discussion and final scoring of applicants.
- i) Big Sky Processing, M&S Meats, Primitive Meats, and Branding Iron were all recommended to pursue the current USDA Grant.
- ii) Andy Fjeseth made the motion to fund proposed projects as indicated on the scoring spreadsheet. Megan Hedges 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed
 - (1) \$709,255 in Grant Funds, \$198,249 in Loan Funds, and grand total of \$907,504

XXIII. Next Application deadline and meeting date

- a) Student Loan Application and Awards, the next meeting will be before June 30, 2022.

XXIV. Public Comment

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

XXV. Adjournment

- a) Andy Fjeseth made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Osterman 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Chairwoman Amy Kellogg adjourned the meeting at 12:44pm.

Minutes submitted by: Dani Jones

Minutes approved by: Andy Fjeseth