

# ***Agriculture Development Council Meeting Minutes***

June 9, 2022

## **I. Call to order**

Chair Amy Kellogg called to order the meeting of the Agriculture Development Council at 8:03 am on Thursday June 9, 2022.

## **II. Roll call**

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

Council Members: Chair Amy Kellogg, Vice Chair John Wicks, Megan Hedges, Lars Hanson, Adam Schafer Department of Commerce Deputy Director proxy for Scott Osterman, and Andy Fjeseth proxy for Department of Agriculture Acting Director Christy Clark. George Kipp was absent

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

## **III. Public Comment**

Chair Amy Kellogg called for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

## **IV. Approval of the past meeting minutes**

John Wicks made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from previous Council meetings, February 23-25, 2022. Megan Hedges 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

John Wicks made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 2, 2021, Council meeting. Adam Schafer 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed

## **V. Department Update**

Andy Fjeseth updated the council on the recent grant funds the division received from USDA, FARSAN, Stress Assistance Grant; Stress and Mental health grants- grants to Ag and Rural Organizations to supply funding for a mental health speaker to their meetings and organizations. The Department has submitted an application to the Local Food Procurement Assistance program, which is a new program being offered through

USDA. The program will help connect local, underserved growers with underserved communities.

## **VI. Student Loan Application Review**

Jim Auer updated the council that there is \$100k to award for Student Loan Assistance. The student loan program is a loan payoff with the agreement that the recipient will stay farming. Bailey Kaskie let the council know that there were only three applications with a total of \$31k. Two applicants have been confirmed, one application is pending a succession plan. Lars Hanson made the motion to approve funding for all student loan applications upon receiving correct paperwork. John Wicks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

## **VII. Grant Amendments**

Bailey Kaskie presented grant amendments requested to the council. Local Bounti requested an amendment to change the use of funds for their GTA grant (22GTAG013). Funding is requested to be used for a standalone greenhouse structure instead of a weather protection structure. Ravalli County Economic Development Authority requested an amendment to the objectives of their FADC grant (22FADC003). Adam Schafer made the motion to approve the two amendments. John Wicks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Bailey Kaskie presented an amendment to the loan terms for Go Roam Free (18GTAL003). The loan terms are requested to be amended to 0% interest, \$700/month payment until April 2026 with a final payment of the remaining principal balance. Lars Hanson made the motion to approve the loan terms amendment for Go Roam Free. Megan Hedges 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

## **VIII. GTA Funding Targets and Priorities FY 2023**

Target Loan Areas for FY 2023 were updated to “Applicant likely does not have access to conventional loan, such as a startup” and “Business is mature and working towards expansion”. John Wicks made the motion to accept the changes made to the FY2023 target loan areas. Megan Hedges 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Priority Areas for FY 2023 were business expansion or investing in processing infrastructure and projects that are utilizing new or innovative solutions to diversify, add value, or provide substantial growth opportunities. The council has not previously set priority areas. Megan Hedges made the motion to approve the priority areas as described. John Wicks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

## **IX. GTA Program Revisions**

Jim Auer updated the council on the changes that are being made, shifting to an incubation and acceleration model for funding. GTA awards will be broken into three

programs. Business Acceleration Program, Market Development Program, and Capital Investment Program.

#### **X. Proposed Rule Changes**

Jim Auer and Andy Fjeseth presented the proposed rule changes to the council. Changes made to arenas including match, targeted areas, application limit, and reimbursement. Rule changes are approved by the governor's office, no motion is needed.

#### **XI. Request to Allocate Funds**

Jim Auer presented to the council that because of the number of loans being declines the council has \$410,00 remaining that must be allocated by the end of fiscal years, June 30, 2022, or it will be lost. (\$378,485 is the actual number) John Wicks made the motion to delegate grant making authority to the department for the remaining funds. To be used in a way like business acceleration or business marketing. Megan Wicks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **XII. GTA FY2023 Grant Timeline**

Bailey Kaskie presented the GTA timeline to the council. To include- Post Concept Paper (Aug 12), Concept Paper Due (Sept 12), ADC Meeting-to invite applicants (Early/Mid October), TA Call (November 15, TA Call (December 5), and Full Applications Due (December 12). The dates for the TA Calls are flexible.

#### **XIII. Next Meeting- August 2022**

#### **XIV. Public Comment**

Chair Amy Kellogg called for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

#### **XV. Adjournment**

Lars Hanson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:17am, motion was second by Megan Hedges. Meeting was adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Dani Jones

Minutes approved by: Andy Fjeseth