

*Agriculture Development Council*  
*Meeting Minutes*

September 22, 2022

- I. Call to order
  - a. Vice Chair John Wicks called to order the meeting of the Agriculture Development Council at 9:05 am
- II. Roll call
  - a. Andy Fjeseth conducted roll call and introductions were made by council member and department staff
    - i. Council members: Vice Chair John Wicks, Megan Hedges, Sara Hollenbeck, Christy Clark Director of the Department of Agriculture, Liane Taylor as proxy for Scott Osterman Director of Department of Commerce. Lars Hanson and George Kipp were absent.
    - ii. Department members: Andy Fjeseth, Aly Townsend, Marty Earnheart, Alicia Hamm, Bailey Kaskie, Caitlin Hortert.
- III. Public Comment
  - a. Vice Chair John Wicks called for public comment. There were no comments from the public.
- IV. Approval of the past meeting minutes
  - a. Vice Chair John Wicks made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous council meeting, June 9, 2022. Megan Hedges 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion is passed.
- V. Council update
  - a. Andy Fjeseth updated the council on the newest council member Sara Hollenbeck who has replaced Amy Kellogg. Sara Hollenbeck of Molt has been appointed to that seat. Sara took a moment to introduce herself to the Council. Andy Fjeseth informed the council that George Kipp is has expressed a desire to resign from the Council. He will keep the Council updated as that progresses. Christy Clark updated the council that a new communications officer has been hired and introduced Logan Kruse, who was in Great Falls at the State Grain Lab and unable to attend the meeting.
- VI. Department Update
  - a. Andy Fjeseth informed the council that the grants department is now fully staffed. Aly Townsend was introduced as the new grants manager replacing Jim Auer. Caitlin Hortert was introduced as the new SCBG grants specialist replacing Ginny Hurt. Andy Fjeseth updated the council on the trade show assistance program. The council approved \$20,000 to be used to revive the Department's TSAP program at the meeting in August 2021. The money was distributed to 9 companies who have made an immediate \$300,000 in sales and are projected to make \$570,000 in sales over the next 12 months. Andy Fjeseth updated the council on the Marketing Development program and Business Acceleration grant. Both programs are currently live and receiving applications. Discussion was had regarding the need for mild alterations to the standards of the promotional goals on the projects. Christy Clark informs the council that the Lt. Governor is planning to set up council training after the first of this upcoming year.
- VII. GTA application update

- a. Bailey Kaskie updated the council on the progress of the GTA grants. Bailey Kaskie informs the council that the GTA program is currently in the pre application phase. The pre application deadline was September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The program received 81 applications that are now in the prescreening phase for in-house review. Bailey Kaskie explains the pre application scoresheets will be the same as they were the previous year and pulls up an example for the council to see. The application review meeting is then projected to be the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Andy Fjeseth is called on to explain the need for concept papers and a pre application rather than a full application from the start. Liane Taylor asks for the exact date in which the review of the concept papers by the council members will be due. The due date is clarified as Friday October 14, 2022. Andy Fjeseth explains to the council how that meeting will be conducted.
- VIII. Chair and Vice Chair election
- a. John Wicks opens the floor for nominations. Director Clark nominates John Wicks as chair. Megan Hedges 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Director Clark then nominates Megan Hedges as Vice Chair. John Wicks also nominates Megan Hedges as Vice Chair. Director Clark 2<sup>nd</sup> John's motion. John Wicks calls for vote on nominations. All approved. No discussion.
- IX. Next Meeting (s)
- a. Andy Fjeseth calls the next council meeting for the week of Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, either the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, or 20<sup>th</sup>. Council decides on Wednesday Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am.
- X. Public Comment
- a. John Wicks called for public comment. Aly Townsend requests for a proposal of a quarterly scheduled council meeting. Andy Fjeseth proposes to have meeting dates ready for council approval by the next meeting. Liane Taylor informs the council that Scott Osterman will be absent for the next meeting and a proxy will be present. Liane inquires about how GTA grants are distributed and whether it is based on having had awards in the past. Andy Fjeseth confirms that it is not a large factor currently, however it is something they are looking for in rule changes next year. Megan Hedges asks whether rule changes from last meeting have gone into effect. Andy Fjeseth confirms they have not yet, and that it has to be further down the road due to legislative constraints.
- XI. Adjourn
- a. Christy Clark motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:37am. Megan Hedges 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Meeting is adjourned.