

Montana Alfalfa Seed Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 15, 2022

I. Call to order

John Mehling called to order the regular meeting of the Alfalfa Seed Advisory Committee at 12:57pm on Tuesday February 15th, 2022.

John Mehling called for public comment, none at this time.

II. Roll call

Dani Jones conducted roll call. The following persons were present:

Committee Members: Chair John Mehling, Tom Niebur, Cavin Steiger, Ernest Johnson, Dallas Steiger, and Justin Wiese. Tom Matchett was absent, proxy to Chair John Mehling

Department Staff: Alyssa Piccolomini and Dani Jones

Members of the Public: Eric Sommer with USDA NASS via phone call

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Dani Jones asked if the committee members had any comments or changes to the meeting minutes from the February 23, 2021, meeting. Cavin Steiger made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tom Niebur 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

IV. Department Staff Update

Dani Jones shared with the committee that Governor Gianforte has appointed Christy Clark to be the Department of Agriculture Director. No other staff changes currently. Alyssa updated the committee that there were no staff changes in the Science Division. All equipment is in working order, she has had about 14 samples come into the office, and no changes in the samples; this is about average for this time of the year.

V. Financial Report

Dani Jones presented the financial report to the committee members and updated the committee that all past due assessment was received and added to the budget information. The list of assessments payments was reviewed by the committee, no outreach is needed at this time by Dani Jones. Dallas Steiger made the motion to accept

the budget as presented and explained. Ernie Johnson 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

VI. Old Business

- a) Montana Ag in the Classroom, Lindsay Orem 20ALF002 has been competed, no discussion at this time.

VII. New Business

- a) 2021 Alfalfa RFP Applications
 - i) Montana Department of Agriculture, presented by Alyssa Piccolomini, “Alfalfa Leaf Cutting Bee Registration and Analysis Programs”. Total funds requested \$2,1790.00. Ernie Johnson made the motion to fully fund the project as presented. Tom Niebur 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
 - ii) USDA NASS presented by Eric Sommer, “Prepare district level estimate of planted acres, harvested acres, yield, production, price/pound, and total value on an annual basis”. Total funds requested \$5,100.00. Ernie Johnson made the motion to fully fund the project as presented with an additional line to include “Acres Raised Under Contract for the 2022 crop year”. Justin Wiese 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

VIII. Committee Terms

Tom Niebur and Tom Matchett’s terms end 12/1/2022. Tom Niebur is interested and willing to serve the Alfalfa Seed Committee again. Tom Matchett was absent from the meeting, so Dani will reach out to Tom Matchett via phone call to discussed serving another term on the committee. Dani Jones will send the committee applications via email or mail as requested.

IX. Other Business

- a) The current assessment for Alfalfa Seed is “half of 1%”, Tom Niebur made the motion to keep the assessment at “half of 1%”. Ernie Johnson 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

X. Public Comment- No Public Comment currently.

John Mehling adjourned the meeting at 1:55pm

Minutes submitted by: Dani Jones