

**Utah Agricultural Advisory Executive Committee
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
4315 S 2700 W
Taylorsville, UT 84129**

**Hybrid Meeting
In Person**

**Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
4315 S 2700 W – TSOB South Building – Room 2492
Tuesday January 30, 2023 @ 1:00 pm
VIA Google Hangout**

MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/cyz-bfvy-nan

Phone Number: (US) [+1 567-623-9040](tel:+15676239040) PIN: 487 147 754#

Attendees:

Craig Buttars, Commissioner	Kelly Pehrson, Deputy Commissioner
Amanda Petersen, UDAF	Roberta Valdez, UDAF
Amy Wengren, UDAF	Shelly Rentmeister, UDAF
Sean Trease, UDAF	Jim Bowcutt, UDAF Conservation Director (virtual)
Camille Knudson, UDAF (virtual)	Cliff Lillywhite, Egg Growers (virtual)
Mike Larson, UADC (virtual)	Ron Stratford, Utah Farmers (virtual)
Dr. Kerry Rood, USU (virtual)	Nicole Hanna, Utah AG Office (virtual)

Unable to attend:

Robert McMullin, Fruit Growers	Dr. Ken White, USU
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Val Jay Rigby, Farm Bureau (traveling), attempted virtual but had to drop off.

Amanda Petersen explained that for public notice requirements this meeting is recorded. She also explained that we are waiting for others to join us so we have a quorum of four members of the Executive Committee to conduct business as there are loans to approve today.

Cliff Lillywhite, Ron Stratford, Mike Larson, and Dr Kerry Rood are all present virtually.

Call to Order and Welcome: Cliff Lillywhite, chairman

Cliff Lillywhite asked about meeting minutes from previous meetings for approval.

Amanda Petersen explained that we do not have all those ready to approve yet, but we will have a number of those ready for approval at our next meeting with the full board in March.

Cliff Lillywhite turned the meeting over to Commissioner for appointing board members.

Appointment of Board Members: Commissioner Buttars

So the executive board is appointed by the commissioner and the commissioner has the ability to stagger the terms of the board members. Each position is a four-year term. What we've decided to do here since Val Jay just came on board the end of last year. We will appoint Val Jay for a term of four

years beginning immediately in terminating on December 31st of 2027. So other board members that will be reappointed with their terms expiring that same day December 31st, 2027 would be Cliff Lillywhite, Robert McMullen, and Dr. Ken White. And then based on current appointment dates for the remaining members, Mike Larson, Ron Stratford, and Dr Rood, your current terms will show with an expiration date of December 31st, 2025. Amanda Petersen added that there is an option for reappointment in the rule.

Commissioner Buttars stated that this doesn't require action. It's just by way of notice and we have appointment letters we will send out to each of committee member to make sure you are aware, and we can track those dates on our end also.

Amanda Petersen explained that as the secretary of AG Advisory Board, going through different meeting notes, we found that letters had not gone out and that we didn't have any official appointment dates. This is meant to clear that up so we are on a regular tracked schedule. It does extend Dr. Rood's appointment a little longer than a typical four-year term but it will get the executive committee on a staggered two year scheduled as recommended by the governing rule for the board.

Commissioner Buttars thanked everyone for being on the call. He turned the meeting over to Amy Wengren from Conservation Division to discuss loans for discussion and approval.

****Note:** Val Jay Rigby was able to join briefly but the call dropped. For voting purposes, it was recommended that we count him as an abstention for action on the proposed loans.

Loan Summary and Approval Proposal (ACTION ITEM): Amy Wengren, UDAF Loans Specialist

Amy Wengren went over the Loan Summary for Rural Rehab Loans and the month end report highlighting current pending loans and fund balances in state and federal rural rehab accounts. Commissioner Buttars shared that Representative Kohler from Heber is putting in a request for appropriation for the state rural rehab account to the tune of \$5 million. It is a very tight budget year and this was not part of the governor's proposed budget so we as a Department cannot advocate for it so we are not overly optimistic about this happening this year, but he has filed that request.

Loan #1 for Approval

Details for loan shared from loan proposal document #1

Motion to approve: Dr. Kerry Rood

2nd Motion: Mike Larson

No other questions relating to the loan details.

Cliff Lillywhite	YES	Mike Larson	YES	Val Jay Rigby	Abstention
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Dr. Kerry Rood	YES	Ron Stratford	YES
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Roll Call vote unanimous.

Loan #2 for Approval

Details for loan shared from loan proposal document #2

Motion to approve: Dr. Kerry Rood

2nd Motion: Mike Larson

Mike Larson asked about the loan limit and Amy clarified that there are loans for this borrower in ARDL and Rural Rehab programs. Dr. Rood asked if there are any exceptions to the current loan policy on this loan. Amy Wengren responded that there are not. Borrowers can have loans from both programs.

Additional question asked about the general status of dairy farms. Amy deferred to Roberta Valdez, UDAF Loan Specialist. Commissioner Buttars responded that the price of milk has improved, and we are also seeing improvement in feed prices. Not knowing all the details of the financial situation, Commissioner Buttars reiterated that the borrowers are current on their other loans. Amy stated they make regular payments. Commissioner Buttars also shared that this is a milk assignment loan so payments come regularly. Ron Stratford shared that the last year has been a real struggle for dairy farmers. They have been way below cost of production although prices are starting to creep up and there is some hope going forward. The majority of the milk industry have been in the hole for the past few months. Dr. Rood stated as far as this loan he is comfortable with the loan position with the collateral. Ron Stratford clarified the monthly payment amount. Amy Wengren explained that the monthly payment would cover all current loans for this borrower (ARDL and Rural Rehab) with UDAF through a milk assignment.

Cliff Lillywhite	YES	Mike Larson	YES	Val Jay Rigby	YES
Dr. Kerry Rood	YES	Ron Stratford	YES		

Roll Call vote unanimous.

Maturity Modification Proposal (ACTION ITEM): Amy Wengren, Loan Specialist

Amy Wengren explained that each year the loan specialists review rural rehab loans for modifications and extension of maturity. Every 10 years, there are loans come due which must be renewed with a modification and currently there are two that will mature during the year of 2024. These loans were amortized every 10 years with state code, title 4, chapter 19, section 3. With renewal of terms as approved by AG Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve: Dr. Kerry Rood
2nd Motion: Ron Stratford

Open for any other discussion. Cliff Lillywhite clarified that this happens every 10 years. Amy Wengren explained that yes, each year there are different loans that come to the 10 year mark and they present all of them at the same time so it can all be approved in one meeting.

Cliff Lillywhite	YES	Mike Larson	YES	Val Jay Rigby	YES
Dr. Kerry Rood	YES	Ron Stratford	YES		

Roll Call vote unanimous.

Amanda Petersen introduced a new loan specialist Sean Trease who is working with the loans division.

Legislative Review: Commissioner Buttars

Commissioner Buttars shared that UDAF staff presented their budget to NRAEQ Committee today, which is Natural Resources Agriculture and Environmental Quality. We felt that it went well, not many questions were asked. As a Department we are following some key pieces of legislation and have some important hearings to attend. He opened it up for any questions.

Dr Kerry Rood asked about the branch lab in Spanish Fork set for remodel. Commissioner stated there is a request for funding for that facility. Dr. Rood also stated that the lab in Logan could also use some funding and attention, especially in consideration of the recent avian flu outbreak. Cliff Lillywhite echoed that sentiment. Mike Larson asked if the Department had a tracking sheet for what is being watched. Commissioner stated that the Department has a tracking document that could be shared. Mike Larson asked for the name of the representative asking for the appropriation for rural rehab. The

Commissioner stated it is Mike Kohler. Dr. Rood asked if impact statements are being sought after or collected. Commissioner referred anyone who wants to share information, would be welcome to reach out to their representatives.

Open to any other comments from the Committee.

Amanda Petersen reviewed those online for any public comment. There was none.

Amanda Petersen thanked the Executive Committee members for being responsive and for being an incredible group of people to work with. Cliff Lillywhite stated that we are all working together.

The next meeting is scheduled as a full board meeting March 27, 2024 at 9am with legislative updates. Discussion about meetings to be held in person instigated by Dr. Rood. Commissioner Buttars stated he will defer to the Committee. Cliff Lillywhite stated that once a year would be good for all to meet in person. The goal is to have the meeting in person for March with an option for virtual.

Cliff Lillywhite with motion to approve.

Motion to approve: Dr. Kerry Rood

2nd Motion: Cliff Lillywhite

Adjourn