**AG Advisory Board Meeting**

**October 13, 2020**

**Minutes**

**This meeting was held via Google Hangouts with 100% of voting members attending via video/call in.**

**Attendees**:

Ron Gibson, Chairman

Logan Wilde, Commissioner

Kelly Pehrson, Deputy Commissioner

Dana Hardy, UDAF

Cliff Lillywhite, Egg Industry

Allison Fiscus, Pork Producers

Dr. Kerry Rood, DVM

Robert McMullen, Fruit Growers

Dr. Ken White, USU

Brent Tanner, Cattlemans Assoc

Sierra Nelson, Sheep

Allen Henrie/Kristie Davis

Mike Kohler

Rusty Bastian

Amber Brown, UDAF

RJ Spencer, UDAF Amanda Petersen, UDAF

Linda Gilmore, UDAF (in person) Chad Houser, UDAF

Nicole Hanna, AG’s Office Melissa Ure, AG’s Office

Amy Wengren, UDAF Robert Hougaard, UDAF

Roberta Valdez, UDAF Dean Taylor, UDAF

Travis Waller, UDAF Noel McSpadden, UDAF

Brandon Forsyth, UDAF Jay Olsen, UDAF

Peter Gessel, UDAF Cody James, UDAF

Chairman Gibson welcomed everyone.

Read Determination Letter

Roll call

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the July 14 Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Robert McMullen

2nd: Rusty Bastian

Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

**Legislative Update – Logan Wilde-**

A few people have contacted us..Egg industry and hemp/cannabis have changes coming.

**Revisit New Farmer Loan Requirement Policy**

Ron: Any new thought on this from last meeting?

 RJ:As we have new loan requests Rural Rehab new farmer with less than 3 year …it needs to be secured. We want to support Agriculture. There is risk. Farming is a risk. We have a group willing to investigate and set policies. RR is in favor and we want to move forward.

Logan: RJ is saying we need to make changes to accommodate these loans.

Ron: I recommend RJ’s group goes to work on setting up program and policies.

Cliff: what is profile of the beginning farmers? Can it be a child of a farmer or just brand new farmers?

 RJ: Can be both- Just because parents were in agriculture doesn’t mean the family is in agriculture

 Cliff: Do we get many minorities apply?

 Roberta: very few, but we do get some.

 Kerry: @USU they have characterized that data- I could provide it. There generally underserved populations, hobbyists

 Roberta: the profile is those because of FSA fallout of over 3 under 10, they want 5+ acres land purchase. Some don’t have a lot of experience, people may have grown up 20+ years ago on a farm, wants a 60% LTV if land purchased w/out partnership. We need to decide if we want different policies if we want to help those from fallout. How stringent, if we follow what we have now we won’t be able to lend to any of them.

 Rusty: hobbyists- are we interested in loaning to them or just those primarily interested in making a living from agriculture?

 Roberta: is it really viable for a new farmer to buy less than 5 acres to make profit? If it’s going to fail, it’s going to fail in first 5 years.

 ? : you cant pay 10,00 an acre an expect to make a profit

 Logan: I think the 5+ acre rule was because of greenbelt laws, I think now u can go down to .5 acres.

 Roberta: This is the kind of help we need to help create these guidelines for these farmers.

 Logan: if dept brings back policy will board be willing to look at it?

 Ron: yes..i think that’s what we are going for.

 Logan: RJ please put together a proposal for next meeting.

**Monthly Financial Review Rural Loans :**

**RJ: screen Share**

Not a lot closed for October ...monthly end balance etc…

3.5 mil and 9.7 mil

Approved 1 loan

3 loans in process

4 past due—they being worked on

2 fed loans paid off this year

Next 3 months a little over 1 mil in payments due

Next meeting request for funding

Less than 1% in past due balances

**SB3006 update:**  good update we have dedicated and spend 15 mil. We are working to continue to finish strong. We have reached out to those who have not been given grants. Majority of those are cattleman who has said they don’t sell til first week of November. The cap comes off October 15th.

**Fee Schedule : Logan**

With tight budgets the legislature asked us to not be so dependent on general fund and to look at fee schedules as a dept. Just because we approve a fee schedule today doesn’t mean it goes into effect. There is plenty of more time for public comment in the process. A few fees are going from zero to monies have to do with ow we test in the chem lab. The Horse assoc is asking for testing, weight and etc. Many are going from zero to $10 . We are doing away with some Pesticide test we no longer do. Milk testing has not brought in a whole lot of revenue. We test for the general welfare of the population vs. the industry. Now we are hearing we need to charge according to cost. If we need to push for more general funding we need industry to go to their legislators. Comments?

 Brent T: Leann: Change fee Line11/Item 3- brand verifications /slaughter

 Leann: Last legislative session there were quite a custom facilities who do their own brand verifications and when the fee went from 10$ to 20$ they didn’t like it and they went to their legislators and so dept evaluated that request … so we decreased it back down to original cost.

Brent: the other question I have is line 59/item 39- verification of ownership license

 Leann- in an effort to train...thats the license that’s required to do the verifications at those facilities, /it requires training to get that license. So, there a required fee to cover that.

 Robert McMullen-I’m assuming we are only looking and commenting for now?

Logan- 4 step process we are- we will then submit changes- the governor will submit budget portion (they can take action) ... then legislative process...each piece will have time for public comment.

Rusty : What does milk inspection go for now and what was it …

Travis: for dairy farms its about $40-$85 ...want to raise fees to cover the cost # of inspections and samples we are covering from any one producer. This has been entirely subsided by general funds for decades. Now we are being asked to offset that to help program sustain itself. If industry objects (if you think general fund should cover 30%) you need to go to your representative.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Harriet Emmerson: What comes next for these proposed fees?

Logan- Once they are approved they go to Governors Budget ...then opportunities for public comment

Call to motion:

MOTION TO APPROVE: Cliff Lillywhite

2nd: Mike Kohler Roll Call Vote: Unanimous

**BMP Consideration and Adoption:**

Amber Brown:

I have been tasked with creating these documents for General practices as well as sheep, cattle, swine and poultry. Over last few months we have drafted enclosed documents for your review.

We reached out to industry reps for BMP they were using and regulation feedback .From this we drafted these final results.

Rusty: BMP were discussed as being less restrictive as possible, did we follow that?

Amber: yes, we kept that in mind. These were from industry reps. We want to be general but not vague.

Brent: Under Facilities- please change the manure feed/food wording ..

Amber: ok.

Kerry: Why are actual industry names used in some BMPs and not all of them?

Amber: We used what the industry gave us.

Allison: PQA# is a big deal to use in our industry so that I the information we gave.

Amber: Environmental good practices are general but we would like your comment.

Mike Kohler: I would like to spend more time reading these.

Logan: good point. WHEN ARE THEY DUE?

Amber: As soon as we can. If we could at least approve General practices today .It would get something in place. But, if you need more time…

Mike : I would like more time.

Logan: I agree- it would be best if everyone could read through them. We will wait until next meeting and then we can discuss and move forward.

Rusty: What is the intent with this and how are producers better off ?

Amber: Jay or Mellissa would you answer that?

Melissa Ure: there are advantage …first its required by statute and it is helpful under nuisance laws because it states “ must follow sound agriculture practices”…we want to set vs others setting for us.

Allison: next time can we address situation in Millard co as it relates?

Logan : we will revisit in next meeting

PUBLIC QUESTION: will there be an opportunity for public comment on these practices?

Logan: yes

Cliff: thank you Amber. This has been in the works for years. I gave Amber a 20 page document she scaled down to 2 pages..just wondering how she did it?

Amber: We met with leaders and pared it down.

**Roundtable- Industry Status Report**

Allen Henrie- UACD annual Conference in St Geo- Nov 3-4 Everyone welcome.

Additional Public comment- none

On next agenda move public comment to before approval of meeting minutes

NEXT MEETING Jan 2020!

Meeting Adjourned Motion by Commissioner…