**AG Advisory Board Meeting**

**July 14, 2020**

**Minutes**

**This meeting was held via Google Hangouts with 90% of members attending via video/call in.**

**Attendees**:

Ron Gibson, Chairman

Logan Wilde, Commissioner (in person)

Kelly Pehrson, Deputy Commissioner (in person)

Dana Hardy, UDAF (in person)

Cliff Lillywhite, Egg Industry ( via phone )

Alison Fiscus, Pork Producers

Dr. Kerry Rood, DVM

Luke Peterson, Urban and Small Farms

Robert McMullin, Fruit Growers

Dr Ken White, USU

Wade Sperry

Brett Beihling, Farm Bureau

Scott Robins

Rusty Bastian

Amber Brown, UDAF Mandy Taft, UDAF

RJ Spencer, UDAF Ed Lombard, AG’s Office

Leann Hunting, UDAF Amanda Petersen, UDAF

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

Nicole Hanna, AG’s Office Rob Hougaard, UDAF

Amy Wengren, UDAF

Roberta Valdez, UDAF

Travis Waller, UDAF

Brandon Forsyth, UDAF

**Via Phone:** see above note

Chairman Gibson welcomed everyone.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the Jan 14, April 29 and June 2 Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Robert McMullen,

2nd: Cliff Lillywhite.

Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

**Legislative Update – Logan Wilde-**

Budget Update:

2021 adjustments fee structure changes/adjustments will be coming as a result of budget cuts. They will include Milk industry and Predator control. They are in discussion with industry right now as to what these changes will be. The wool tax is down 200K( result of no sales) and moving forward will need adjustments. We will be going to producers for options before we make recommendation how to move forward.

Looking at APO/CPO with RJ Spencer- Rj going to producers so that they may have a buy in before we get started.

 Cliff Lilly white questioned what APO/CPO is?

 Per Commissioner: Rules that the state adopts and submits to EPA

 Ron G: What is the timeline?

 RJ: we have meeting next week with attorneys next week to determine timelines

 LW: We would like it to happen within next month

 RG: when does it need to be to EPA?

 RJ: theres really no deadline

Commissioner really wants to get with producers and get there input.

**SB3006 Update –RJ Spencer/Commissioner**

446 applications approved

9 mil$ approved to be paid

11 mil$ still available

13,099 applications received, a lot are on hold waiting on applicant information to be given to us.

The application process has slowed down.

 Questions:

 Did you say applications have slowed?

 Yes.

**Loan Report and Approval- RJ Spencer**

None to approve

#’ s from last month have not changed much

2 past due for 25k

**Discussion on SB3006- RJ Spencer**

Numbers from cow/calf operations have been 7 cents lb, 3 cents lb …the losses are not as great as they thought they would be. Great news.

Losses are slowing down. Applications are even being pulled. Applications being approved every day.

Questions:

Luke P: If money is not all spent what happens?

LW: that’s up to legislature. Might open to those with minor losses.

Scott R: Those taking bog losses are the feeders. They are taking big big losses.

RJ: Yes we are working with them. I am giving for examples. There are still industries that can take advantage of program.

**Beginning Farmer Loan Program Loans- Policy Request- RJ Spencer**

The FSA is slowing loaning money to farmers who have been in industry less than 3 years. (New farmers, taking raw land and farming FSA denies all together)

What risk are we willing to take on new farmer?

 Policy Requirements for loan officers to follow

 -Classes

 - 10 % down payment

 -business plan

 -loan to value 60% or below

 - must have mentor

Do we want to help or stay away?

How much risk do we want to mitigate?

Questions:

Rusty B: Define new farmer:

RJ: FSA specifies as: any with Ag background with new project is NOT a new farmer. We are talking a new farmer, raw land, no experience etc.

Kerry R: FSA website says it does have potential money for new farmers etc, are we saying it is not what it seems?

 RJ: Yes, if they have less than three years’ experience they are denied and sent to Rural Rehab loans.

 KR: there is a large need to support this, but there a hurdle to find funding.

 RJ: are you ok with setting foundries on our funding? (stated above)

Brett B: What is the default rate on this type of loan?

 Roberta: less than 1%..and those were experienced farmers with other problems. The loans are collateralized.

Rusty B: How do you manage for theft intent (Flip)?

 Ron: FSA terms seem logical, no experience etc opens door to developers.

RJ: terms w/ “AG BACKGROUND”

OPEN DISCUSSION

RJ: Board- Please give me more feedback to next meeting.

**Agriculture Protection Zone- Andrew McDonald- Davis County**

Andrew made a presentation based on the materials provided in hand out. No new information was given.

Board- requested some verbal background. Asked questions about owners etc and it was all clarified.

Ron recommends move forward

Robert MCMullen: Motion to accept

Luke P: 2nd the motion

Discovery Questions:

Kerry R: What are the benefits and what motivates this request.

 Jeff Wither: this is set up to protect land owners and farmers from “nuisance” lawsuits from new developers/UDOT etc.

Kerry: As a board, we are charged to evaluate objections…

 JW: We sent out notices and we received no objections, neither written nor verbal with in timeframes. It was also published in paper.

Roll call vote- unanimous

**Roundtable- Industry Status Report**

Luke P: Produce industry is starting to flatten. Produce season kicking in response is good .

Rusty: Wild Burros!!

NEXT MEETING OCT 13!

Meeting Adjourned!