



WASHINGTON ASPARAGUS COMMISSION
OCTOBER 6, 2021
WAC OFFICE, 2621 RINGOLD RD, ELTOPIA, WA
CHAIR GARY LARSEN, PRESIDING
MINUTES- DRAFT

Chair Gary Larsen called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Introduction:

Commissioners: Chair Gary Larsen, Gary Johnson, Jon Nishi, Zack Miller, and Steve Thomas

Administrative staff: Alan Schreiber and Liesl Zappler

Guests: Scott Thomas

Approval of Minutes

Gary asked for approval of the July 14, 2021 minutes.

Gary Larsen made the motion to approve the minutes. Zack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan reviewed the Board positions and terms. There will be an election for the at-large positions.

Financial

Financial Report

Alan reviewed the financial report and check detail. Due to cancelled events the money for local marketing remained at \$3000. Assessments this year were the lowest in the history of the Commission, with production at approximately 15 million pounds. This was due to poor weather conditions and a short season.

Zack made the motion to approve the financial report as presented. Gary Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Assessments and Review of the 2022 Budget

Alan reviewed the 2021 assessments and projected funds for the year, as well as a proposed budget outline that he and the Chair developed. Local marketing was zeroed out, as well as events such as the Asparagus and Beef Day in Olympia and the PMA. There were also proposed cuts to research and administration, with more funding for legislative efforts. With direction from the Board, Evado was successful in getting Kroeger to only purchase WA asparagus.

The Board reviewed the proposed budget.

Gary Johnson made a motion to approve the 2022 proposed budget as presented. Steve Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DES overview, contract for administrative services

DES still hasn't returned the delegated authority which was to be reinstated after the administrative contract was approved. Alan was the only applicant for the administrator position. DES has since required the Board to create a new RFP for the administrative position. There is now a new DES Director who is meeting with WSDA next week, as other commodity commissions are having problems with DES.

Committee Reports

Education/Promotions

Marketing for the 2022 Season

The Marketing Committee will reconvene soon and discuss adjustments for the coming year with Evado.

Research

Field Research update and plans for 2022

There was a research field day in September in which Alan reviewed preliminary research data. Alan will have a proposal after the Research Committee meets.

Trade/Legislative

State Issues

Charlie Brown called in and reviewed ag overtime issues and possible collaborations with other commodity and farm groups. This would require an increased retainer of \$25,000. This would need to be approved by November 1. The legislature is still having remote hearings.

The legislative ag tour appreciated the asparagus field tour last week.

Mike Gempler of the WA Growers League is also working on ag overtime issues and called in to discuss this.

International Issues

Alan had testified before a federal trade commission on import issues with blueberries, and this case was lost. It is unlikely that asparagus would succeed in a similar case.

New Business

Annual meeting/ Setting meeting dates

The Board set the following dates for 2022:

January 12th – Prosser

March 30th- Zoom

July 13th – Sunnyside

October 12th - Eltopia

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.