

**MEETING of the NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE**

**Monday March 11, 2019  
0900 a.m. CST**

Uncle Buck's Lodge  
US Hwy 75  
Brewster, NE

*All agenda items are for discussion and action will be taken as deemed appropriate. The Committee reserves the right to go into closed session in accordance with Neb.Rev.Stat. §84-1410.*

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 9:08 am CST

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In compliance with the provision of the Open Meetings Act, Public notice of this March 11, 2019, meeting was posted in the headquarters office- in Alliance, NE on February 28, 2018 at 5:40p.m. MT Certification of Public Notice will be provided as part of the record of this meeting,

Notice of this March 11, 2019 meeting was published in the Alliance Times- Herald, North Platte Telegraph, McCook Daily Gazette, and posted on the Nebraska Brand Committee's website, Affidavit of Publication will be provided as part of the record of this meeting.

In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, an agenda and other related material were made available for public inspection in the headquarters office prior to the meeting. Agenda and related items are available for public use and review. An agenda was made available on November 26, 2019 at 11 am. MT. The meeting agenda was emailed to the Committee members on February 26 2019.

A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available to the public at the entrance of this meeting room.

This meeting is being recorded.

- Pursuant to Neb.Rev.Stat. §84-1412(8) a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public.
- Roll Call

John Widdowson (Y) Terry Cone (NP) Jay Martindale (Y) Chris Gentry (Y) Adam Sawyer (Y)

- **Adoption of Agenda**

Jay Marindale moved to accept the agenda, Adam Sawyer seconded.

No discussion, votes are as follows:

Jay Martindale (Y) Chris Gentry (Y) Adam Sawyer (Y) John Widdowson (Y) Terry Cone (NP)

- **Current Business**

1. Introduction of Attendees

Adam Sawyer- Committee Member

Cheyenne Volz- Accounts Payable/Admin

Jay Martindale- Committee Member

Becki Vineyard- Alliance Office Manager

Tom Hughson- Area 2 Investigator

Brent Deibler-Area 4 Investigator

CJ Fell- Area 3 Investigator

Dean Anderson- Registered Feedlot Inspector

Danna Schwenk- Special Projects Manager

Chris Gentry- Committee Member

Dave Horton- Interim Executive Director

Kip Luckasaiwkz- State Vet

Jim Olsen- Producer, Windmill Feedlot

Melody Benjamin- Nebraska Cattleman

Doug Strait- Nebraska Beef Council

2. **Approval of minutes of the December 18, 2018 Committee Meeting, January 24, 2019 Special Working Session, and February 21, 2019 Teleconference Meeting.**

Chris Gentry moved to approve the minutes, Jay Martindale seconded

No discussion. Votes are as follows:

John Widdowson (Y) Adam Sawyer (Y) Chris Gentry (Y) Jay Martindale (Y) Terry Cone (NP)

3. **Consideration and acceptance of financial statements.**

There was much discussion on balancing accounts and the plan moving forward. Staff will provide detailed reports moving forward of expenditures, deposits etc

**Terry Cone stepped in at 10:08 am**

Adam Sawyer moved to accept the financial statements, Chris Gentry seconded

No further discussion. Votes are as follows:

Adam Sawyer (Y) Chris Gentry (Y) John Widdowson (Y) Jay Martindale (Y) Terry Cone (AB)

**4. (AFTER 5 & 6) 2019-2021 Budget Review and Budget Deficit Request Appropriations Committee Hearing Report.**

Members and staff reviewed their view of the Appropriations Committee hearing.

**5. Appearance before the Committee by Jim Olson of Windmill Feedlot.**

Jim Olson and Kip Luckasaiwkz came before the committee and presented their operation using ultra high frequency tags. They asked the committee if they could have a different fee schedule, similar to registered feedlot status due to extensive documentation for their program.

John and Dave explained that due to state statute we are unable to do so at this time.

**Break at 10:45**

**Reconvene at 11:08**

**6. Appearance before the Committee by Patrick Maag Director of Sales, Mobius Communications Company. Security System Discussion.**

Patrick with Mobius presented the committee with security for the Alliance HQ. Three different proposals were provided. The committee will discuss options moving forward.

**7. (After 8 and Lunch) Legislative review, discussion and consideration of any changes and subsequent recommendations to present to appropriate member(s) of Nebraska Legislature.**

- a. Executive Director Law Enforcement Certification.
  - b. Electronic Identification Evidence of Ownership discussion.
  - c. Fee Schedule Review.
    1. Inspection Fee.
    2. Sur-charge Fee.
    3. Applications and Transfers.
- A. Committee is still waiting on the Law Enforcement Certification to bill to go to the “select bill” process. There was discussion about re opening the application process for the Executive Director position without the bill officially going through. It was decided to wait until the bill was determined.
- B. EID ownership discussion consisted of what the committee would need to present a functional EID program to the legislature as it relates to statute. Dave stated that the committee should work with producers such as Windmill and Oshkosh Heifer Development as pilot projects to help implement the EID program. . It was decided to

have a task force to develop priorities and strategies to develop an EID package to present to legislation

- C. There was discussion regarding fees and surcharges and finding a breakeven point moving forward. Danna and Becki will do an analysis of the numbers and provide a forecast of cost savings and comp time reduction.

Dave, Becki and Danna discussed changed of brand fund collection procedures. Becki proposed that we receive payment after the documents were worked. Payment could be taken over the phone or by remittance. There was discussion regarding current office procedure and the need for the change.

John moved to accept Becki's recommendation that brand applications, transfers etc. be sent in without payment, and payment be collected after approval.

Terry Cone seconded

No discussion, votes are as follows:

John Widdowson (Y) Terry Cone (Y) Jay Martindale (Y) Chris Gentry (N) Adam Sawyer (Y)

#### **8. Review and renew of Open Market Agreement with Albion Livestock, Elgin Livestock and JBS Swift & Co. Grand Island.**

Dave went over the open market agreements and recommended that the committee approve the renewal of Albion, Elgin, and JBS of Grand Island.

Terry Cone moved to approve the renewal for the open market agreements. Adam Sawyer seconded.

No discussion, votes are as follows:

Terry Cone (Y) Adam Sawyer (Y) Chris Gentry (Y) John Widdowson (Y) Jay Martindale (Y)

**Adjourn for lunch at 12:15**

**Reconvene at 12:55**

**9.. (moved to last) Executive Session: discussion of litigation review, legislative and statutory changes if needed, Personnel matters, Investigation updates and Suggested Staff Changes.**

**10. (Before 9) Technology Report / Special Projects Manager update.**  
**a. Electronic Time Keeping.**

Danna gave the report that Huss Livestock will be up tomorrow March 12, 2019. There will then be a sale barn live in each area. There was discussion on producers and subscription accounts. Purebred/Special/Bull sales will be able to be done on the iPad moving forward.

Danna discussed the time keeping app. The cost of purchasing and app was high and inefficient. She has since wrote a proposal to software writers and has received great feedback. She reviewed the demo with Becki and very few fields were missing on the admin side. They will be able to build whatever app she requests. The cost is \$8580.00. This can be done in 4 payments. This would take 10 weeks to implement. Danna asked the committee for approval to move forward with purchase.

John Widdowson moved to grant authority to purchase milestone 1 and 2 for \$8580.00 from sigma solve.

Adam Sawyer seconded

No discussion, votes are as follows

Adam Sawyer (Y) John Widdowson (Y) Chris Gentry (Y) Jay Martindale (Y) Terry Cone (Y)

Danna discussed the brand book. It has been brought to the committee's attention that Nebraska Interactive will not be able to put the brand book in "brandabetical" order. This has the book at a standstill.

Packer/Locker development is next on the list for development. Beta meetings will resume for this process. Estrays and violations will follow.

The committee decided to move EID updates to the working meeting.

It was discussed that we have conversations with the OCIO stating we will not be moving to Android development at this time.

#### **11. Ratification of personnel changes.**

- a. Policy changes and updates.
- b. Time Reporting for Exempt Personnel.

There is one position in Lexington open, there are interview tomorrow for this position. If filled the only open position is the Executive Director.

See attached for personnel updates.

Adam Sawyer moved to accept the ratification of personnel changes, Jay Martindale seconded

No discussion, votes are as follows:

Jay Martindale (Y) Terry Cone (Y) Chris Gentry (Y) John Widdowson (Y) Adam Sawyer (Y)

Due to auditing purposes and the possibility of the Executive Director not being located in Alliance, it was requested that Becki be able to sign off on any personnel leave requests.

Adam moved to allow Becki to sign off on personnel leave requests in Dave's absence. Terry seconded

There was discussion as to how leave was requested. All leave is sent through written request. District Supervisors do the initial approval, and Becki or Dave would be final approval.

Adam moved to amend the motion by "adding final approval" time sheets, Jay Martindale  
Seconded

No discussion.

Adam Sawyer (Y) Terry Cone (Y) John Widdowson (Y) Jay Martindale (Y) Chris Gentry (Y)

Discussion on the original motion as amended. There was none. Votes on the amended motion are as follows:

Adam Sawyer (Y) Terry Cone (Y) John Widdowson (Y) Jay Martindale (Y) Chris Gentry (Y)

Becki discussed that after speaking with DAS, the exempt positions are not required to fill out a time card. As long as appropriate leave requests are being filled out, the pay is the same.

Jay Martindale moved to remove the requirement keeping track of hours for exempt employees.

Chris Gentry seconded.

There was discussion on what the change would provide. Votes are as follows:

Jay Martindale (Y) Chris Gentry (Y) Adam Sawyer (Y) Terry Cone (Y) John Widdowson (Y)

**Break at 4:05**  
**Reconvene at 4:12**

## **12. Nebraska Beef Council Contract Review.**

Doug Strait presented the Beef Council contract. Statute states that NBC can only collect 5%. There was discussion on getting Beef Council funds owed paid and working with Linda and Pam to decide where we are. John Widdowson signed the contract.

## **13. Estray Case Funds Transfer to State School Fund.**

Terry Cone moved to approve the transfer to the school fund. Adam Sawyer seconded.

No discussion, votes are as follows:

Chris Gentry (Y) Terry Cone (Y) Adam Sawyer (Y) Jay Martindale (Y) John Widdowson (Y)

- 14. Investigator's Reports.**
  - A. Area II Inv. Tom Hughson.**
  - B. Area III Inv. Christian Fell.**
  - C. Area IV Inv. Brent Deibler.**

See attached.

**15. Registered Feedlot Inspector Report.**

See attached

**Executive session for Litigation began at 4:47**

**16. Executive Session, if needed. Review of Special Projects. (Not taken)**

**Back in open session at 5:47 pm**

Terry Cone moved that the job title for Business Operations Manager changes Becki presented during executive session be approved.

Adam seconded

John discussed that we have the approval of Mark Fahleson to move forward with the changes. Votes are follows

John Widdowson (Y) Adam Sawyer (Y) Chris Getnry (Y) Jay Martindale (Y) Terry Cone (Y)

**17. (before Ex session) Public Comment**

Melody Benjamin said that she believes LB 660 will pass with little to no opposition.

**18. Adjournment**

Adam Sawyer moved to adjourn

Terry Cone seconded

**Adjournment at 5:51**