

**USCP Board of Directors Meeting  
December 15, 2010**

Board Members Present: Bill Greving, Bill Kubecka, Jeff Casten, Dale Artho, Troy Skarke, Jerry VanZee, Billy Bob Brown, Gary Kilgore, Greg Shelor, James Vorderstrasse, Earl Roemer, Louise Rigdon. Absent: Stewart Weaver

Others Present: Craig Shackelford, Virgil Smail, Tim Lust, Florentino Lopez, Shelee Padgett, Jeff Dahlberg, Sue Ann Claudon, Jenna Hightower, Laura Kelley, Lindsay Kennedy, Kathy Cornett, Jill Goodrich, Alvaro Cordero, Wayne Cleveland, Bruce Maunder

Bill Greving called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Jeff Casten presented the minutes of the August 10, 2010 meeting.

**Billy Bob Brown moved the minutes be adopted with a second by Gary Kilgore. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dale Artho presented the preliminary financial statements from November 30, 2010. There was discussion about the bank fees charged for managing the assets in the trust department. The Finance Committee also recommended to the executive committee to make a few budget adjustments.

**Dale Artho made a motion to accept the financial statements with a second by Earl Roemer. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dale then explained that due to the increase in value of sorghum from \$3.00/bushel to over \$4.00/bushel that we could safely consider an increase to our 2011 budget by \$555,000.

**Dale Artho made motion to increase the research project line item by \$400,000, the market development project line by \$100,000, administration by \$5,000 for legal fees and the communications printing line item by \$50,000. Troy Skarke seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dale Artho presented the concept to the Board of holding fund balances after the referendum passes to be able to budget the current year off of prior year collections. This will allow much more stability for the organization in the case of drought or currency devaluation. He suggested that the board consider this in their April board meeting prior to approving any additional budget increases.

Dale Artho presented the fiscal year 2010 audit conducted by Bolinger, Segar, Gilbert, and Moss.

**Dale Artho made a motion to accept the audit. Billy Bob Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Craig Shackelford congratulated the reappointed board members to the USCP Board, conducted the swearing in ceremony and presented them with the certificate on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture. Those four board members are Troy Skarke, Earl Roemer, Jeff Casten and Dale Artho.

Sue Ann Claudon gave an update on modifications to the USCP Policy and Procedures Manual to make our document in compliance with the new USDA policies. The document was also modified to combine all of our former policy and procedure manuals. She reviewed the changes done to the manual. The wording in the section of non board approved contracts should be changed to have approval from CEO, Executive Director and Committee Chair as opposed to Chairman of the Board for contracts up to \$5000 in value.

**James Vorderstrasse made a motion to approve the changes that were presented and discussed. Louise Rigdon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Earl Roemer presented new research proposals as he reviewed the minutes of the Research Committee meeting:

- Discussion focused on proposals outlined in Research Marketing Proposal handouts. It was suggested that the whole packet be reviewed and then voted on as a whole.
- Proposal submitted by Dave Mengel was discussed and it will be suggested that as this moves to USDA and NIFA funding agencies, whole plant physiologists be added to the team to evaluate root structure and its impact on fertility issues based on early research done at UNL and University of Georgia.
- The proposal from Rick Kochenower for support of a plot combine was discussed and it was recommended that in the contract ownership rights should be clearly outlined, what will happen if the project no longer exists and that the combine will have USCP logos in recognition of the commitment by USCP.
- Proposal from Maria Balota needs some additional breakdown of personnel costs.
- Proposal from Lloyd Murdock requires a more detailed research plan before funding.
- Proposal from Chris Little was discussed and suggested that a weathering site be added to one environment to evaluate both non-weathered and weather sorghum from the same environment.
- Project from Buddhi Lamsal has some health related issues that need to be discussed by full Board.
- *James moved to recommend funding all projects in the packet, with modification as suggested above, and to discuss separately the proposal from Buddhi Lamsal, Iowa State University, on "Improving sorghum starch recovery and purity during wet milling for syrup production." Gary Kilgore seconded. Motion approved.*

**Billy Bob Brown moved that the research project from Buddhi Lamsal for improving sorghum starch recovery and purity during wet milling for syrup production be tabled until more information is available. Gary Kilgore seconded the motion.** Troy Skarke cautioned against defining our product too narrowly. **Motion carried nine for and 3 against.**

**Earl Roemer made a motion to approve all research projects brought forward from the research committee including the projects jointly considered with the Marketing committee with the exception of the proposal from Buddhi Lamsal, Iowa State University, as excluded above. Louise Rigdon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Troy Skarke presented new market development proposals:

- Ethanol Program with Protec – E85 Station in the amount of \$10,000
  - **Greg Shelor made a motion to approve this project with a second by Louise Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Baking and Food Program in the amount \$120,000 a portion to go to hire a consultant to assist in product development and a portion to go to promotion of sorghum as a healthy food
  - **Troy Skarke made a motion to approve this project with a second by Jerry VanZee. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Food Aid Program – Product development and testing in the amount of 59,450
  - Approved as part of research projects
- Aquaculture Program in the amount of \$59,725
  - Approved as part of research projects
- Odor Program up to \$10,000
  - **Troy Skarke made a motion to approve this project with a second by Louise Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.**
- IGP Quality Sampling Project – up to \$67,000
  - **Troy Skarke made a motion to approve this project with a second by Bill Kubecka. Motion carried unanimously Louise Rigdon was not present.**
- Troy Skarke stated that there were funds remaining and that he would like to see some of these funds be used in communications to help with funding of market awareness in the baking and food area.

Billy Bob Brown presented a report from the communications committee and new communications proposals.

- McCormick had presented a \$50,000 proposal for awareness on food. There was discussion about sending flour and recipes to magazines and news sources. This would require an additional \$1,250. The \$50,000 for this project was approved under the baking project in marketing.
  - **Billy Bob Brown made a motion to approve the additional \$1,250 with a second by Dale Artho. Motion carried unanimously.**

Tim Lust presented a review of programs – what have we accomplished over the past two years. The slides considered starting from scratch in December 2008 to having over 60 projects implemented and numerous staff run projects to date. We can't definitively prove an impact on growers fields yet but the projects are started that can have this impact in the near future.

**Jeff Casten made a motion to go into executive session for the annual management review, with a second by Louise Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Gary Kilgore made a motion to exit executive session with a second by Bill Kubecka. Motion carried unanimously.**

The next meeting would normally be during Commodity Classic. With the referendum it was decided to not have a meeting during that time. We are looking at a board meeting the last week of April possibly in southwest Kansas - Manhattan. Dates proposed Tuesday afternoon – April 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday morning – April 27<sup>th</sup>. The USCP Executive Committee meets with the NSP Executive Committee at Commodity Classic to meet twice per year. So the Executive Committee will be going to Commodity Classic. Greg Shelor will be there on behalf of the Kansas Association. Do others want to go – will the checkoff pay for it? No.

Louise Rigdon gave a report from the nominating committee.

- Chair - Bill Kubecka
- Vice Chair - Stewart Weaver
- Secretary – Greg Shelor
- Treasurer – Earl Roemer

**Jeff Casten made a motion to accept the report of the nominating committee. Jerry VanZee seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Bill Greving outlined the process that would be followed for the election process.

**Dale Artho made a motion that the nominations be accepted by acclamation. Gary Kilgore seconded the motion. Motion failed with a vote of 11 to 1.**

Bill Greving then asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor for Chairman, Vice Chairman, or Secretary.

**Troy Skarke nominated Dale Artho for the position of Treasurer.**

Ballots were passed out with the board instructed to fill in the nomination names. Board members completed their ballots. James Vorderstrasse and Jerry VanZee collected the ballots and along with Craig Shackelford tallied the votes.

The officers for the USCP board effective December 15, 2010 are as follows:

- Chair - Bill Kubecka
- Vice Chair - Stewart Weaver
- Secretary – Greg Shelor
- Treasurer – Earl Roemer

Bill Greving thanked everyone for their support and turned the meeting over to Bill Kubecka. Troy Skarke thanked the officers and particularly Dale Artho for all of his work. Gary Kilgore suggested that something be done for the outgoing officers.

**Louise Rigdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by James Vorderstrasse. Motion carried unanimously.**