



NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE

Post Office Box I • 411 Niobrara Ave.
Alliance, NE USA 69301-0775



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NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday March 17, 2020

10:00 a.m. CST

Location: Arrow Hotel

509 S 9 Ave.

Broken Bow, NE 68822

All agenda items are for discussion and action will be taken as deemed appropriate. A current agenda shall be readily available for public inspection at the Nebraska Brand Committee office during normal business hours.

The Committee reserves the right to go into closed session in accordance with Neb.Rev.Stat. §84-1410.

Call to Order at 10:17 CST

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

Adam Sawyer-P Terry Cone- P Jay Martindale-P Chris Gentry-P

A. Adoption of Agenda

Jay moved to adopt the agenda as presented, Terry seconded. No discussion, did not vote.

B. Current Business

3. Introduction of Attendees.

Adam Sawyer- Vice Chair Nebraska Brand Committee

Chris Gentry- Nebraska Brand Committee Member

Jay Martindale- Nebraska Brand Committee Member

Terry Cone- Nebraska Brand Committee Member

John Widdowson-Executive Director, Nebraska Brand Committee

Monty Sever- Area 4 District Supervisor

Brent Deibler- Area 4 Investigator

Dean Anderson- Registered Feedlot Inspector

Kortnie Shafer- Area 3 Supervisor

CJ Fell- Area 3 Investigator

Melody Benjamin- Nebraska Cattleman

Tom Hughson- Area 2 Investigator

Cody Waite- Area 2 District Supervisor

Danna Schwenk- IT Coordinator

Marie Farr- Chairman, Nebraska Cattlemen



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Doug Strait- Nebraska Beef Council
Dave Horton- Chief Investigator, Nebraska Brand Committee
Becki Vineyard- Office Manager, Alliance
Shelby Shrewsbury- Administrative Assistant, Alliance
Cheyanne Volz- Business Operations, Alliance
Mark Fahleson- Legal Counsel

4. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Terry nominated Adam Sawyer for Chairman, Chris Gentry seconded. There were no further nomination. Votes are as follows:

Terry Cone-Y Chris Gentry-Y Terry Cone-Y Jay Martindale-Y Adam Sawyer-Y

Adam Sawyer moved to nominated Chris Gentry. Jay seconded. There were no further nominations.

Adam Sawyer-Y Jay Martindale-Y Terry Cone-Y Chris Gentry-Y

5. Approval of December 10, 2019 meeting minutes Jan 21, 2020 and February 6, 2020 meeting minutes.

Chris moved to approve all three sets of minutes as written. Jay seconded. No discussion

Chris Gentry-Y Jay Martindale-Y Adam Sawyer-Y Terry Cone-Y

6. Consideration and acceptance of financial statements.

A. Comp-Time Report.

Becki reviewed the financial statements, all accounts are cleaned up as of Feb 28. She also reviewed the comp time report and discussed that number are high due to end of year cash outs.

Adam requested a report showing starting cash, debits and ending balance. Becki, John and Adam will get together for budget training.

Jay moved to accept the financial statements. Adam seconded. Terry requested that the financials be sent out monthly for the committee to look over before the meetings. Becki went over comp time report in more detail. She will add year to date accruals to the report.

Jay Martindale-Y Adam Sawyer-Y Terry Cone-Y Chris Gentry-Y

7. Nebraska Brand Committee Policy Updates.

A. ID Badge.



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Brent discussed proposed ID Badge policy. Becki stated that the badge maker had already been purchased for Gibbon and Tyson required badges.

Jay moved to accept the badge policy. Adam seconded. There was discussion about how badge should be carried for inspectors in the field. No further discussion.

Jay Martindale-Y Adam Sawyer-Y Terry Cone-Y Chris Gentry-Y

C. Meal Reimbursement.

John proposed a new policy that would allow reimbursement for lunch during one-day travel. There was discussion regarding the policy as it relates to state statute.

Terry moved to accept the meal reimbursement policy after receiving verbiage and legal counsel from Mark Fahleson. Jay seconded

Terry Cone-Y Jay Martindale-Y Chris Gentry-Y Adam Sawyer-Y

8. Legislative Updates.

John discussed updates and outcomes of LB220 and LB 1160. So far no action has been taken on either bill. The ag committee has requested a task force be put together to review the Nebraska Brand Committee compared to other states. It will be a 13 person voting committee along with 3 non-voting senators. Melody discussed that all designations went away. There was further discussion regarding the committee members. No further updates or discussion.

9. Staff Updates and Ratification of Personnel Changes.

Listed in Attachment

Jay moved accept personnel changes. Terry seconded. There was discussion on employee count YTD. It was asked how many positions are open in Lexington and Kearney. The open positions in these locations are being evaluated.

Jay Martindale-Y Terry Cone-Y Chris Gentry-Y Adam Sawyer-Y

10. Executive Session: To Receive Legal Advice Related to Potential or Anticipated Litigation. –moved to after item 13

11. Consideration of Uniform Application of Registered Feedlot Provisions. – No action taken.



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12. Estray Reports.

Dave discussed that the estray report will be reviewed at the next meeting as changes need to be made.

13. Strategic Plan Review.

John stated that the strategic plan will be reviewed every meeting. He explained the newly formed Brand Leadership Team and their function. The goal is to improve communication and be more synergistic moving forward.

John had a discussion regarding meeting with Dave, Becki, himself and state officials regarding COVID-19.

Jay moved to enter Executive Session to receive legal advice and litigation. Adam Seconded. No discussion.

Jay Martindale-Y Adam Sawyer-Y Chris Gentry-Y Terry Cone-Y
Exec session at 12:11 CST

Terry moved to resume open session, Jay seconded. No discussion

Terry Cone-Y Jay Martindale-Y Adam Sawyer-Y Chris Gentry-Y

Open session resumed at 1:34 CST

14. Fee Schedule Discussion.

John discussed that the legislature felt the Brand Committee is not fiscally viable and how its related to raising and/or maxing out fees. There was discussion regarding the effect of raising and not raising fees.

15. Open Market Review: All reviews are attachments

A. Albion Livestock.

B. Elgin Livestock.

C. JBS Swift Grand Island.

Dave reviewed the open markets update.

Terry moved and Adam seconded to approve open market review. No discussion.

Terry Cone-Y Adam Sawyer-Y Chris Gentry-Y Jay Martindale-Y

16. Beef Council Contract Review.

There was discussion pertaining to the contract regarding cash transactions.

Chris moved to approve the contract. Jay seconded. No further discussion.



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Chris Gentry-Y Jay Martindale-Y Terry Cone-Y Adam Sawyer-Y

17. Technology Report, IT Coordinator Danna Schwenk.

Danna gave an update on the time keeping app. It should be finished soon. She discussed support package options offered by Sigma Solve. The brand book is available to beta team for testing and we are within a month of electronic roll out. Business intelligence was discussed to do our own analytics. Hardware issues were discussed. Inspector printers are running low and need to be replaced. John is having a conversation with NI about using a hardware replacement stipend. Danna requested that the committee purchase iPads with cellular service for all the supervisors as they are currently using their personal phones as hot spots.

Terry moved to purchase iPad airs for the supervisors. Chris seconded. There was discussion moving forward on what the committee wanted to vote on vs just have Executive Director approval (not be presented to committee).

Danna asked if the committee members would be interested in an iPad to use for committee meeting back up material (Electronic Binders) in lieu of paper.

18. Investigator's Reports.

A. Tom Hughson Area II.-see attached

B. CJ Fell Area III.-see attached

C. Brent Deibler Area IV.-see attached There was discussion on if the committee would approve Investigator Deibler to apply for a grant for investigative equipment. It was decided that more information was needed and the Executive Director would look into it.

19. RFL Inspector Report, Dean Anderson. See attached

20. Executive Report, John Widdowson.

John discussed that he is open to questions and suggestions if anyone has any. There was more discussion on COVID-19

21. **Public Comment**

None

22. **Adjournment**

Terry moved to adjourn the meeting. Adam seconded. No Discussion.

Terry Cone-Y Adam Sawyer-Y Chris Gentry-Y Jay Martindale-Y

Adjourned at 3:43