

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND ROLL CALL:

The regular meeting of the Board of Agriculture & Conservation (BAC) was held on 01/23/24, in person & via Zoom/teleconference. Chair Jeff Vance called the meeting to order at 12:05p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Brian Scoresby, Division Director (In person)
- Jeffrey (Jeff) Vance, Chair (In person)
- John Anderson, Vice Chair (In person)
- Thomas (Tom) Bergey, Board Member (In person)
- Adam Jensi, Board Member (In person)
- James (Jamie) Boring, Board Member (In person)
- Stuart (Stu) Davies, Board Member (In person)
- Matthew (Matt) Bates, Board Member (Zoom)

Board member(s) absent:

None

VOTE: Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bergy – Yes, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes, Jensi – Yes. Bates – Absent

VOTE: 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Staff in Attendance:

Christy Kolvoord, Natural Resource Specialist III (ARLF Loan Officer, In person)
Victoria Vinson, Administrative Assistant II (In person)
Kevin Higgins, Attorney V, Dept. of Law (Zoom)
George Deaton, Accountant III, DNR (Zoom)
Cynthia Morales, Accountant 4, DNR, (Zoom)

Public in Attendance:

- None

B. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

- a. None

C. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Bryan Scoresby Division Update:**

- i. ARLF loan application processing time. Wrigley was very appreciative for the speed at which his application was processed. Three week turn over time is very quick; we should be proud of that.
- ii. PMC – Dan Coleman was hired for the seed cleaning position. The invasive weed specialist position was out for recruitment nationwide – 17 applicants. They want to interview 7.
- iii. Jarrod Yelton began working on January 8th as the manager of the inspections. He will be trained up by Mia, it will take at least a year.
- iv. Casey Dinkle hired as the PMC manager. Former PMC manager Stoney Wright was on the interview panel for that. He was the forage and revegetation specialist.
- v. RFSI Grant – Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure. 2.2million was awarded for us to administer. For food processing and infrastructure.
- vi. Micro Grants – First round was closed out last summer. 7500 applicants. To encourage local food production. Currently in round 3 or 4 of microgrants. You have to reapply each round.
- vii. Are we tracking the success of the grants? – Only in the final report.
- viii. Is Mia Kirk still with the division? – Yes, she is currently traveling but still with the division
- ix. How is seed cleaning going? – We have a \$2.2million dollar capital improvement budget. Working on getting quotes for the work for the equipment and/or building. We only have the one large clipper as of now. Jessica is still doing the seed cleaning; we are in the process of trying to hire another person to help with that.

b. ARLF FINANCIALS

- i. From the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 2023, to Dec 2023 we have a net income of \$100k. We are essentially on track with where we were last year.
- ii. Add delinquencies to executive session on agenda.
- iii. \$7,000 fee for subdividing for housing rights is now going to be added to the ARLF. It will show up under operating revenues.

c. Public Comment Session

- i. **None**

D. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

- a. Interest rate comparison: loan officer recommends an interest rate increase of 1% for the short-term loans only.
- b. Consider partnering with FSA for loan guarantees
- c. Good borrower credit: Christy created a set of qualifications for the board to consider. If we adopt those qualifications, there is a potential loss of interest collected. This can potentially be offset by the interest rate increase on the short-term loan.

- d. How can the state support growing the industry? Beef/poultry/pork industries and needed infrastructure. – We have capital improvement fund for infrastructure and mariculture. Roughly \$1.5mil that we are looking for a project to spend on, the division is open to suggestions.
- e. Agenda needs to be posted with the public notice.
- f. **MOTION: Motion to increase the interest rate on the short-term loan to 4% per the loan officer's recommendation.**
- i. 1st – Jamie Boring
 - ii. 2nd – Stu Davies
- DISCUSSION: Bates does not support as it will discourage borrowers to apply for the loan at the higher rate. Costs are already high.**
- VOTE: Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates – No, Boring - Yes, Davies – No, Jenski – Yes. Bergy – Absent**
- VOTE: 4 yes, 2 no, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent**
- Motion **APPROVED**
- g. **MOTION: Motion to implement the good borrower credit per the loan officer's recommendations. – MOTION TABLED until February 13th.**

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

- a. **MOTION: Moved to go to executive session to discuss confidential loan information and delinquencies.**
- i. 1st – Stu Davies
 - ii. 2nd – John Anderson
- Discussion: None
- VOTE: All in favor say “Ay”**
- Motion **APPROVED.**

F. PUBLIC SESSION ON LOAN APPLICATIONS

- a. **MOTION: Motion to amend the increase of the interest rate on the short-term loan to 4% to be effective February 1st, 2024**
- i. 1st – John Anderson
 - ii. 2nd – Stu Davies
- DISCUSSION: None**
- VOTE: Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates – Yes, Bergy – Yes, Boring - Yes, Davies – Yes, Jenski – Yes.**
- VOTE: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent**
- Motion **APPROVED**
- b. **MOTION: To approve the Hawk's Greenhouse loan per the loan officer's recommendation.**
- i. 1st – Stu Davies
 - ii. 2nd – Adam Jenski
- DISCUSSION: None**
- VOTE: Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates – Yes, Bergy – Yes, Boring - Yes, Davies – Yes, Jenski – Yes.**

VOTE: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

Motion APPROVED

c. **MOTION: To approve the Starr Fisheries loan per the loan officer's recommendation.**

i. 1st – Jamie Boring

ii. 2nd – Stu Davies

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates – Yes, Bergy – Yes, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes, Jensi – Yes.

Vote was 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention, 0 absent.

Motion APPROVED

G. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS

- a. In-person meeting was much appreciated, and we should aim to meet in person at least once a year.
- b. For next regular meeting: ask a representative from the mariculture industry to answer board questions.

H. SET NEXT MEETING (NO MOTION NEEDED)

- a. **February 6th, 9am Zoom for working session**
- b. **February 13th, 9am Zoom for regular meeting**

I. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm