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### MINUTES

January 24, 2025

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82239894144>

#### Present

Ben Barstow, District II-Wheat / Chair  
Kevin Klein, District VII-Barley / Vice Chair  
Ty Jessup, Position 2-Wheat Industry Rep / Treasurer  
Mike Carstensen, District I-Wheat  
Art Schultheis, District VI-Barley  
Brit Ausman, District III-Wheat  
Ben Adams, District IV-Wheat (Virtual)  
Nicole Berg, District V-Wheat  
Brian Liedl, Position 1-Wheat Industry Rep  
Scott Steinbacher, WA ST Dept. of Agriculture Rep

#### Absent

Barley Industry Rep - Vacant

#### Staff:

Casey Chumrau, Chief Executive Officer  
Mary Palmer Sullivan, Vice President  
Lori Maricle, Director of Communication  
Jake Liening, Market Development Specialist  
Sheila McCrea, Finance & Administrative Specialist  
Parker Dawson, Systems & Data Processing Specialist  
Shari McCarthy, Receptionist/Accounts Specialist

#### Visitors:

Industry, general public and media

**Call to Order** – Chair Ben Barstow called the regular meeting of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) to order at 9:00 a.m. on January 24, 2025.

#### Administrative

1. Additions to Agenda
2. Introductions and Roll
3. Election of Officers – Scott Steinbacher, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Representative on the WGC board, conducted the officers' election process and asked for nominations for the ensuing year. Kevin Klein was nominated as Chair. Ty Jessup was nominated as Vice Chair. Ben Adams and Brit Ausman were nominated as Treasurer. No other nominations were received after requesting three times for additional names.
4. Open Forum – Tom Kammerzell, a Washington wheat assessment payer, presented a statement of concern about transparency to assessment payers and the general public. There was a question whether the meeting agenda was posted online 24 hours in advance, as required by RCW

42.30.077. The meeting was adjourned due to concern about the notice posting and all prior business was declared null and void.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

**Minutes Approval Signature**

Upon passage of minutes by board at subsequent meeting

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and date information.

Ben Barstow, Chair

Date

Washington Grain Commission

January 24, 2025

Statement of Concern:

I am concerned about the apparent lack of transparency to assessment payers and the general public. Example: there are no minutes of meetings published on the website or available without a written request for public records being completed and submitted to the Grain Commission. This leads to speculation as to why the Grain Commission does not want assessment payers and/or the public to know what business is or is not taking place or how assessment dollars are being spent.

Another example is the fact that the protocol for running for a commission seat was not published until after the nomination timeline had expired and candidate statements had already been submitted.

This seems designed to discourage people from participating in the process.

RCW 42.30.077 Titled "Agendas of regular meetings – Online Availability" Clearly states that Agendas of the regular meeting of the governing bodies must be made available no later than 24 hours in advance of the published starting time of the meeting. The Agenda for this meeting was made available after that deadline.

RCW 42.30.120 Violations – Personal Liability - Civil Penalty states that each member who attends a meeting of such governing body where action is taken is in violation and shall be subject to personal liability in the form of a civil penalty in the amount of \$500.00 for the First violation and \$1000.00 for the Second violation.

Also in RCW 42.30.060 it states that "Any action taken at meetings failing to comply with the provisions of this subsection shall be null and void.



WA. Wheat assessment payer



# EVENTS

## January 2025

### - WGC BOARD MEETING

Date: Friday, January 24

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Marriott Residence Inn, 1255 NE North Fairway Road, Pullman, WA

Contact WGC at [wgc@wagrains.org](mailto:wgc@wagrains.org) for access to the virtual meeting.

## March 2025

### + WGC BOARD MEETING

## May 2025

### + WGC ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

## September 2025