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**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**February 10, 2025**

**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  
Brit Ausman, District III-Wheat  
Ben Adams, District IV-Wheat  
Nicole Berg, District V-Wheat  
Brian Liedl, Position 1-Wheat Industry Rep (Virtual)

**Staff:**

Casey Chumrau, Chief Executive Officer  
Mary Palmer Sullivan, Vice President  
Lori Maricle, Director of Communication  
Jake Lienen, Market Development Specialist  
Parker Dawson, Systems & Data Processing Specialist

**Visitors:**

Jeff Malone, WAWG  
Gil Crosby, WAWG  
Dr. Mike Pumphrey, WSU  
Emily Lehning, Roots and Legacies

**Absent**

Barley Industry Rep – *Vacant*  
Art Schultheis, District VI-Barley  
Scott Steinbacher, WA ST Dept. of Agriculture

**Call to Order** – Chair Ben Barstow called the special meeting of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) to order at 9:32 a.m. on February 10, 2025.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call
2. Open Forum – No public comments were made.
3. Work Session - Part 1 | Establishing the Foundation
  - Emily Lehning of Roots and Legacies set the expectations and ground rules for the priority planning session.
  - The group reviewed the internal survey questions that were answered by WGC commissioners and staff prior to the meeting. A discussion was held on why everyone is involved in the industry and with WGC. A discussion was held on what makes a successful commission.
  - The group reflected on the Guiding Principles document that was sent prior to the meeting and prepared by the wheat state executives. A discussion was held on how the principles align with Washington and might be integrated into WGC work.
4. Work Session – Part 2 | Discuss Current State and Aspirational Future State
  - The group identify strengths and opportunities for improvement in WGC strategic areas.

- The group worked in small groups to assess the current strategic pillars and goals, make suggestions for changes, and discussed as a full group.
5. Work Session – Part 3 | Next Steps
    - The group will reconvene on March 25 to build the work plan, identify measurable goals, and clearly define successful outcomes for the goals.
    - Emily will provide a draft document and materials for review prior to the next meeting.
  6. Open Forum – No public comments were made.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

*Minutes Approval Signature*

Upon passage of minutes by board at subsequent meeting

  
Ben Barstow, Chair

Date