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MINUTES

May 14-15, 2025

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

Present

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

Staff:

Casey Chumrau, Chief Executive Officer
Mary Palmer Sullivan, Vice President
Jake Liening, Market Development Specialist
Sarah Marquez, Manager of Communications
Sheila McCrea, Finance & Administrative Specialist
Parker Dawson, Administrative Systems Specialist
Shari McCarthy, Receptionist/Accounts Specialist

Visitors:

Industry, general public and media

Absent

Barley Industry Rep - *Vacant*

Call to Order – Chair Kevin Klein called the regular meeting of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) to order at 10:00 a.m. on May 14, 2025.

Administrative

1. Additions to Agenda – None
2. Introductions and Roll
3. Open Forum – Public Comment Period. No visitors addressed the board.
4. Approval of Minutes – March 25 and March 26, 2025. The minutes of the special and regular meetings were circulated to the members of the WGC prior to this meeting.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the special March 25, 2025 meeting as recorded.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the regular March 26, 2025 meeting as recorded.

5. Approval of Financials – Chair Kevin Klein reviewed the WGC financial statements for the months of March and April 2025 with the board as follows:

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE GENERAL FUND

April 30, 2025

Assets:	
Checking – US Bank	39,860.75
Petty Cash	108.46
W – US Bank Saving	1,103,801.97
B – US Bank Savings	38,901.98
W – Robert W. Baird Mmkt Acct	2,913.33
W – Robert W. Baird Investments	18,503,561.83
B – Robert W. Baird Mmkt Acct	2,886.11
B – Robert W. Baird Investments	245,610.92
Assessments Receivable	<u>133,980.47</u>
Total Assets:	<u>\$20,071,625.82</u>
Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	22,561.26
ID Withholding Payable	183.00
WA Cares Fund	413.60
Paid Family Medical Leave	512.10
L&I Premium Payable	285.11
Unearned Assessments Revenue	133,980.47
Unearned Revenue (Renter Deposit)	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities:	\$160,935.54
Equity:	
Retained Earnings-Current Year	1,586,134.37
Fund Balance (Unassigned)	11,424,555.91
Reserved Fund Balance (Committed)	5,400,000.00
Marketing Reserved Fund Balance (Committed)	<u>1,500,000.00</u>
Total Equity:	\$19,910,690.28
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$20,071,625.82</u>

Transfers and disbursements were reported to the board for the periods of March and April 2025 and recommended that all disbursements and electronic payments be approved and authorized for payment. There were no voided checks.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve ACH Transfers 410 – 431 and Checks #33238 – #33258 representing March 2025 expenditures, and ACH Transfers 432 – 451 and Checks #33259 – #33278 representing April 2025 expenditures.

6. Assessment Collections / Investments – CEO Casey Chumrau presented the Analysis of Assessment Collection report which showed that as of May 9, the following amounts were received: barley assessments \$100,670; and wheat assessments \$5,192,346. A conservative estimate of total revenue and interest income is \$6 million this fiscal year; there are six more weeks of collections to be received.

Current investment details of certificates of deposit and federal notes for barley and wheat, which are tracked separately per RCW 15.115.280, were communicated to the board. Combined CD and FN investments for barley totaled \$248,576; and wheat investments totaled \$20,129,620.

Continuing to purchase additional investments upon maturity and surplus of income received, targeting highest rates offered to ensure funding to support programs throughout the year.

7. FY 2024/25 Budget Adjustment Authority – CEO Casey Chumrau requested authority to adjust line-item dollar amounts between categories of the FY 2024/25 budget at the end of June, if necessary, with the total budget amount of \$7,287,379 to remain the same. It was estimated that this year's budget will be under-expended by approximately \$128,000; A detailed document will be submitted to all commissioners outlining any transfers made between categories for their signatures showing approval for audit purposes.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to provide authority to the CEO to adjust between the WGC budget categories for FY 2024/25 at the end of June, if necessary, with the total budget amount of \$7,287,379 to remain the same.

8. Strategic Plan – Chair Kevin Klein and Casey Chumrau opened discussion regarding the revised Strategic Plan that was drafted after the WGC held special Priority Sessions meetings to reset priorities and goals. Some Commissioners stated that they thought it should go farther in measuring goal setting and successful attainment.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to accept the 2025 Strategic Plan as presented and allow staff to continue to work on expected measurable metrics to be achieved and to present at the next board meeting in September for final passage.

District Reports

- Mike Carstensen (District 1: Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens) – All winter crops are sprayed. Spring crops haven't been sprayed yet. Chem fallow guys are pretty much finished. Most farmers have done everything they need to do, and now they can focus on the extra things around the farm. Crops look good, slightly above average. Farmer sentiment is that price sucks, and inputs are expensive.
- Ben Barstow (District 2: Whitman) – Winter wheat in the eastern part of the county looks fairly good. Most of the spraying wrapped up in the last week. Spring wheat is coming along; looks pretty good. So far, so good.
- Brit Ausman (District 3: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla) – The west side of the district has received good moisture. Spring crops are in, and all crops look good. As you move east, less moisture and more drought stress are showing up. Speaking with growers, a lot of growers cut back on inputs where they could, whether it was fungicide, cheat grass, or goat grass treatment to the point where companies were starting a 30%-fee on return of product. So far, the crops look okay.
- Ben Adams (District 4: Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan) – Most of the spraying is done. Spring wheat is already in—a mixed bag of conditions—but a lot of the wheat looks good. Reseeding needed to happen in some fields due to snow mold. They need moisture between now and harvest—hopefully two big rains.
- Nicole Berg (District 5: Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Yakima) – Winter wheat looks rather good; they're cautiously optimistic. The spring wheat is lacking. There are fields that really need some rain, but overall, they are set up and need that June rain to come through and help them out.
- Art Schultheis (District 6 Barley: Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Whitman, Yakima) – About 0.6" of rain was received where they would usually get 2" of rain in April. Winter wheat looks good, slim spots are starting to show stress. Re-crop looks good, but received frost recently. Spring wheat crops are 95% seeded. Frost occurs in the mornings and on some nights. Spring wheat looks good. A limited number of barley acres were planted in the

spring, reflecting a statewide decrease in barley acreage for 2025. Lower barley acres are worrisome.

- Kevin Klein (District 7 Barley: Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens) – All spring planting is mostly complete. Crops look good. Pleasant surprise with the rain that came last weekend as it was dry. Keeps the winter wheat looking dark green instead of on the yellow side. Doesn't know if the crops will be record-breaking but definitely staying in average. The cooler temperatures with the rain are welcomed as last year at the same time, it was quite hot. The limited number of barley acreage is concerning.

Industry and WSDA Reports

- Ty Jessup (Position 2-Wheat Industry Rep) – USDA came out on Monday with updated reports for the crop year. Wheat is a bear sentiment. Carryout is increasing—the largest in 5-6 years. Globally, the Russian crop is in fairly good shape. Markets and prices are terrible but the U.S. is somewhat competitive. Reports of new crop trade have been happening. The grower is not selling much wheat as old crop. Growers who need money will sell at these low prices, but other than that, no selling. They won't sell at values that are lower than the cost of production. Low liquidity in new crop. Grower sentiment is not particularly good. It's concerning that inputs are being reduced as that has the possibility of affecting not only the current crop, but the next crop cycle as well. Old crop left in the assessment area; most will go into the current month at the same time as last year with less wheat.
- Brian Liedl (Position 1-Wheat Industry Rep) – Section 301 is under review; a 180-day delay. Section 301 tariffs are additional import taxes imposed by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on foreign goods, stemming from investigations into unfair trade practices. These tariffs are authorized by Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows the USTR to take action, including tariffs, to address foreign government actions that burden or restrict U.S. commerce. More information on what the vessel restriction looks like. The trade bounced back to life once this news came out; previously the trade had gotten quiet. They didn't want to take on the trade price. Wheat FOB price was competitive, but we were losing business due to Section 301 concerns. Wheat prices are attractive to buyers; buyers have been covering demand. We didn't lose exclusive wheat buyers due to the 301 delay. In the long run, we will have to circle back to the 301 topic at some point in the future. Because of tariffs, there's not a lot moving. Rumors are that ag products could be a winner in these discussions as countries will always need to buy ag products. No changes have been seen yet. International trade is grinding along; day to day. Things could change at any moment. Stateside, farmers have been working in the fields for the past 60 days. Moisture everywhere seems fairly good. Reports are there will be a good-looking crop, but we could use more rain. Overall, seems as though the crop is in an acceptable place. Zero China demand as of now.
- Scott Steinbacher (Eastern Washington manager of the Warehouse Audit/Grain Inspection Programs, Washington State Department of Agriculture) – The agency is working through both federal and state funding cuts. They are trying to figure out where they will get that money back.

Grower Services

1. WAWG Update – Jeff Malone, Washington Association of Wheat Growers president, reported that they are working on two separate legislative tours that are scheduled for August and September. One will be held in Eastern Washington and the other will be held in the Longview area. Both tours are coordinated with the potato growers. WAWG Executive Board member Andy Juris informed the WGC that NAWG is going through some staff transitions and WAWG's executive committee has been asking for an action plan. WAWG will be hosting the annual Wheat College on June 4 in Ritzville at the Fairgrounds, featuring Wheat Pete.

Executive Director Michelle Hennings informed the group that she is planning a tour of the Snake and Columbia River System for a group of Midwest river users to be held June 22-28. She also provided a report on her recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the PNW Waterways Association.

2. State Legislative Update – Mark Streuli, Streuli Public Relations; and Diana Carlen, Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs, reported that the Legislature adjourned on the 105th day of the 2025 Legislative session on April 27 at 6:30 p.m. In the final week of the legislative session, the Legislature adopted the 2025-2027 operating, capital and transportation budgets. However, it is unknown if Governor Ferguson will sign the operating budget, veto it, or partially veto it. The main focus of the session was how to respond to the state's budget shortfall. Originally, Democrat budget writers had proposed \$21 billion in new taxes over four years, but the governor was critical of relying on a wealth tax and the large amount of taxes proposed. Democrat budget writers went back to the drawing board and proposed \$12 billion in new taxes over four years, but again the governor said that was too high. The final operating budget passed by the Legislature on the final days of the session landed on almost \$9 billion in new revenue. The governor has not publicly stated whether he supports the final budget. The Legislature also spent the final week passing bills. In total, the legislature passed over 400 bills during the long session. Once a bill passes the legislature, it is delivered to the governor to be signed into law, vetoed, or partially vetoed (he has the authority to remove entire sections of a bill, but not specific sentences). The governor has five days, excluding Sundays, to act on bills, unless the Legislature is within five days of adjournment, in which case the governor has twenty days to act. He has until May 20 to act on the budgets.
3. Industry Relations – Mike Miller, Washington Genetics, LLC, said the tariff pause is to help the globe position vessels, as necessary. Wheat won for right now. He arranged for several speakers to address the board regarding the Administration's goals and they are recorded under Other Topics.
4. NW RiverPartners – Executive Director Clark Mather addressed the board via Zoom to relate the shared vision with growers of retaining water transportation as a major vehicle of grain movement, with hydroelectricity as the cornerstone. He shared their ongoing media campaign. NW RiverPartners is a key partner in support of the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs).

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to support the NW RiverPartners at \$25,000 this fiscal year and \$25,000 in FY 2025/26 (totaling \$50,000) which includes membership in the organization and to charge the Wheat Special Projects (Grower Services Category).

Research

1. WSU Report – Dr. Rich Koenig, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences professor, Washington State University, reported that College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) has selected a new dean, Dr. Raj Khosla, and he will start September 1. Dr. Leslie Edgar, CAHNRS Associate Dean for Research, has left to serve as Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Idaho. As a result, a search will be on for her replacement.

As a result of the state legislature budget cuts, WSU's budget will be cut 3% for the upcoming fiscal year. Federal budget funding is still uncertain and there are concerns that there may be cuts to capacity funds and grant funding. Dr. Koenig informed the WGC that Dr. Clark Neely and Dr. Karen Sanguinet will be leaving WSU for other employment. The USDA-ARS building is on track to be completed in March/April of 2026. Since the last meeting of the WGC, Dr. Koenig learned that the building furnishings may be covered by ARS or potentially through an appropriations request, and as a result, he withdrew his previous funding request to the WGC. The Wheat Quality Assurance Program planted 523 wheat samples last month, and they will be sprayed with glyphosate to determine if there is resistance.

2. WSU/ARS Committee Reports – Mary Palmer Sullivan reported that WSU has offered to provide a tour on May 30 to see construction of the new ARS building. The WGC was invited and encouraged to participate in the Western Wheat Workers meetings in Pullman, May 29-30.
3. Optimizing Human Health and Nutrition from Soil to Society aka: Evergreen Grain Consortium – Dr. Mike Pumphrey, Washington State University (WSU) spring wheat breeding and genetics program, provided a written proposal to the WGC for their budget meeting consideration which requested \$455,000 for equipment and an additional \$1,650,430 match for Washington Research Foundation's (WRF) grant titled "Optimizing Human Health and Nutrition from Soil to Society." The project involves faculty, students, and staff from WSU and the University of Washington (UW) who will work closely together with the private sector and government organizations to co-create more nutritious, affordable, and accessible grain-based foods. Translation of this combination of basic and applied research will target 1) systematic characterization of crop varieties grown using sustainable agricultural practices released commercially for Washington and Pacific Northwest (PNW) growers; and 2) development of functional whole grain-based food products that can be licensed by food industry partners.

If funded, the five-year grant would contribute an additional \$10 million for a match of \$5 million from cash contributions from the WGC, the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, the American Heart Association, The Land Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation, and food companies. The WGC discussed the options of how to pay for the project, and it was determined that the equipment request could be paid out of the current year's budget and the remaining funds would be paid out incrementally over the five-year period of the grant.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to fund \$455,000 this fiscal year for equipment at WSU as part of a matching grant application to the Washington Research Foundation.

4. Field Days – Copies of the 2025 field day schedules were distributed, and Commissioners and staff were encouraged to attend events in their districts.

Market Development

1. U.S. Wheat Associates – Mike Carstensen, Ben Barstow and Casey Chumrau reported on the recent USW board meeting. There were two projects recommended that the WGC participate in:
 - a. Indira Bread Study
"Evaluating SW and SRW in Ethiopian Injera Bread" to be conducted at the Wheat Marketing Center. This end-product quality study will evaluate the use of U.S. soft white wheat and soft red winter flour for use in make or blending with limited grain teff flour to mimic traditional Ethiopian Injera bread. The projected results will be used to advocate for substituting U.S. soft wheat classes for sorghum and Ukrainian hard wheat in U.S. food aid shipment to Ethiopia, ultimately benefiting the use of U.S. wheat. The hypothesis is that U.S. soft wheat will make an acceptable substitution for teff, or allow a limited teff supply to be stretched, and create a more culturally appropriate product than the sorghum or Ukrainian hard wheat. U.S. food aid shipments have recently accounted for close to 10% of all soft white exports.
 - b. Food Aid Advocate
This advocate will represent WGC's efforts in gaining policies that support food aid programs, benefiting Washington growers and will work to influence government officials and policymakers to support the funding, expansion, and improvements to food assistance programs, both domestically and internationally. The project (and funding thereof) is contingent upon other funds being secured to match.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to support the “Evaluating SW and SRW in Ethiopian Injera Bread Study” conducted at the WMC this fiscal year at \$15,000.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to support the hiring of a Food Aid Advocate in FY 2025/26 at \$25,000.

After some discussion...

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to amend the previous motion to read up to \$60,000.

Motion was then moved, seconded and passed to support the hiring of a Food Aid Advocate as amended.

- c. Trade Team Schedule – Mary Palmer Sullivan reported that the trade team schedule was printed in the board packet and WGC is looking for commissioner and grower participation with the teams again this year.
2. Barley Update – Chair Kevin Klein reported that he, Art Schultheis and Mary Palmer Sullivan will participate in the National Barley Growers Association summer board meeting held in Golden, CO in mid-June. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the American Malting Barley Association. Mary Palmer Sullivan reported that the House of Representatives had a “Dear Colleague” letter that received 27 signatures for support of the Resilient Barley Initiative and the Barley Pest Initiative and their potential funding via appropriations.
3. Wheat Marketing Center – Brit Ausman related the current standing of the WMC including team visitations and building occupancy. They passed a negative budget for next year. The title holding company holds \$12 million debt on the building. There is still approximately \$3.5 million owed to the WMC by the title company. There were two projects presented for WGC funding; 1) SRC machine/study at \$25,000 for each state; and 2) C-Cell machine for lab at \$50,000 total cost.

Communications and Education

1. Washington Wheat Foundation – President Randy Suess gave an update on the WWF activities and budget. The Seasons of Farming was not concluded this fiscal year, so the \$52,000 slated for the program will be included in next year's budget. He thanked the commission for their support in funding a floor tile at the building.
2. WA State Fair – Jake Liening presented on the upcoming agricultural exhibit for the Washington State Fair's 125th Anniversary. Washington's top 10 commodities will be displayed as an interactive exhibit in a warehouse to illuminate agriculture's impact on WA's economy heritage and future while bridging the gap between east and west, and the public and farmers. As wheat is the headlining commodity, the WGC has the unique opportunity for a brand activation on the West side of the state and future events. It was suggested the board approve funding from this year's budget for a mobile exhibit display to be used at this and future events.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve up to \$15,000 this fiscal year for the building of a wheat educational booth display and to provide to the Puyallup State Fair this fall; with the booth to be returned to the WGC for use in future events.

3. Washington Grown Proposal – The board discussed going forward with the Washington Grown TV proposal, concluding the value of co-executive producer is ensuring one's commodity is routinely and accurately represented. The Washington Potato Commission has been featured on the program for a long time, with help from a Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) grant. With high viewership in a target demographic (Western Washington), participation in the program may serve as a vehicle of voter and consumer education, with customer education as a

secondary benefit. The board further discussed the desire to own the video so it could be used across WGC's various communications channels.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to support the WA Grown TV show at the Executive Producer level of up to \$253,200 in FY 2025/26, matching the total production costs with the Washington Potato Commission.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was called by Chair Kevin Klein and held on Wednesday, May 14, from 4:10 p.m. for 1 hour 10 minutes to discuss personnel issues (RCW 42.30.110(1)g).

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the public meeting at 4:10 p.m. and go into Executive Session for 1 hour 10 minutes.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. and to reconvene the public meeting at 5:21 p.m., and to then adjourn the public meeting at 5:22 p.m. until Thursday, May 15, at 8:30 a.m.

No action was taken following this Executive Session.

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The meeting was called back into session on Thursday, May 15, at 8:30 a.m. and as the first order of business, the following motions were made:

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to accept staff salary recommendations as presented by the CEO for FY 2025/26.

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to accept the CEO salary recommendation as presented by Chair Kevin Klein for FY 2025/26.

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Other Topics

1. WGC FY 2025/26 Budget Approval – Chair Kevin Klein led discussion regarding the FY 2025/26 proposed budget bearing in mind the information the CEO presented on the available assessment, cash, investment interest, lease, and miscellaneous income to support the budget (\$10,088,445). The commissioners discussed extensively each category of the proposed budget, line by line, including increased efforts in education and work related to transportation/infrastructure and other national and state needs. Increasing reserved funds was also addressed.

Market Development

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Market Development portion of the budget at \$1,564,069.

Research

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Research portion of the budget at \$2,492,024.

Education / Information

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Education/Information portion of the budget at \$994,875.

Grower Services

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Grower Services portion of the budget at \$1,637,610.

Professional Services & Support

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Professional Services & Support portion of the budget at \$1,100,000.

Office Operations

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Office Operations portion of the budget at \$456,700.

Policy Development

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Policy Development portion of the budget at \$115,000.

**WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION - FY 2026 BUDGET
CATEGORY OVERVIEW**

	2025/26 Approved	Percent of Budget
MARKET DEVELOPMENT	1,564,069	18.71%
RESEARCH	2,492,024	29.81%
Wheat	1,925,120	
Barley	171,818	
EDUCATION / INFORMATION	994,875	11.90%
GROWER SERVICES	1,637,610	19.59%
PROFFESIONAL SERVICES	1,100,000	13.16%
OFFICE OPERATIONS	456,700	5.46%
POLICY DEVELOPMENT	115,000	1.37%
TOTAL BUDGET	8,360,278	100.00%

		2025/26 Projected
REVENUE		5,000,000
	Wheat	4,900,000
	Barley	100,000

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

	2025/26 Approved
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS	981,684
1. U.S. Wheat Associates	674,600
a. USW Membership	649,600
b. Conferences (LA, Asia, ALIM, World Stf)	15,000
c. Containers	10,000
2. Wheat Marketing Center	
a. WMC General Support	215,070
b. WMC Special Projects	31,250
3. Wheat Foods Council	54,764
4. U.S. Grains Council	6,000
TRADE SERVICING	253,000
1. Wheat	252,000
a. Asia Trade Servicing	180,000
b. Latin America Trade Servicing	40,000
c. Wheat - Trade Teams	20,000
d. Wheat - Hosting	12,000
2. Barley	1,000
a. Barley - Trade Teams	500
b. Barley - Hosting	500
CROP QUALITY REPORTING	117,385
1. Wheat Quality Sample Collection	5,000
2. WMC - PNW SWW Quality Testing	71,585
3. NDSU - HRS Quality Testing	1,000
4. PGI - HRW Quality Testing	7,800
5. NCI / KSU-IGP SWW Shipments	3,000
6. WSDA - SWW Protein ID Survey	14,000
7. Foreign Quality Assurance Program	15,000
TRAVEL	12,000
1. ALIM Buyers Conference Travel	12,000
ADDITIONAL PROJECTS	200,000
1. Market Development Special Projects	200,000
TOTAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT	1,564,069

RESEARCH

		2025/26 Approved
WHEAT		1,925,120
Carter	SW Winter Wheat Breeding	266,337
Burke	Weed Management	127,176
Carter	HW / HR Wheat Breeding	83,322
Pumphrey	Spring Wheat Breeding	300,842
Pumphrey	Evaluation of Wheat Varieties	282,036
Carter	Molecular Technology	135,754
Burke	Herbicide Resistance	18,500
ARS-Campbell	Club Wheat Breeding	112,000
ARS-Campbell	Cold Hardiness	50,000
ARS-Kiszonas	Breeder Quality Trials	60,908
ARS-Chen	Rust Research	125,444
Pumphrey	End Use Wheat Quality	40,250
ARS-Kiszonas	ARS - G & E Study	84,430
ARS-Kiszonas	ARS - Quality Evaluation	24,000
Smertenko	Autophagy for Heat/Drought Tolerance	37,303
Friesen	Wheat Genetics for Soil Health	41,020
S. Singh	Testing Products for Dryland Wheat	19,173
H. Neely	Soil Carbon	44,117
Antonangelo	Soil Base Saturation - pH	58,834
Shikha Singh	Fire's Impact on Dryland Crops	13,674
	OTHER	395,086
	26. Research Equipment	
	27. Research Special Projects	395,086
BARLEY		171,818
Brueggeman	1. Barley Breeding	122,047
Pumphrey	2. Barley Evaluation	49,771
TOTAL RESEARCH		2,492,024

EDUCATION / INFORMATION & GROWER SERVICES

		2025/26 Approved
EDUCATION / INFORMATION		944,875
	1. Portland Grower Tour	20,000
	2. Educational Material	8,000
	3. Promotional Items	10,000
	4. Farm Forum	6,000
	5. Marketing Outlook	1,500
	6. Public Education	300,000
	7. Classroom Education	440,000
	8. Milling / End Use Education	15,000
	9. Washington Wheat Foundation	67,500
	10. Washington Wheat Fndn - Ed Programs	76,875
	11. E&I Special Projects	50,000
TOTAL EDUCATION / INFORMATION		994,875

GROWER SERVICES		1,637,610
	1. WAWG	1,105,700
	a. Education	350,100
	b. Public Relations	90,000
	c. Natural Resources	31,000
	d. Transportation	335,000
	e. Research	1,500
	f. Marketing	7,000
	g. AMMO	48,000
	h. Constituent Communication	210,000
	i. Convention Speakers	33,100
	2. National Assn of Wheat Growers (NAWG)	60,500
	3. Wheat - Special Projects	200,000
	4. Barley - Special Projects	4,200
	5. WSCIA - Wheat Variety Survey	11,500
	6. WSCIA - Sponsorship	1,500
	7. PNW Wheat Quality Council	6,000
	8. Pacific Northwest Waterways Association	16,598
	9. National Barley Growers Assn (NBGA)	4,956
	10. Legislative Monitoring	183,000
Lyon/Weimer	11. WSU - Extension Education	43,656
TOTAL GROWER SERVICES		1,637,610

OFFICE OPERATIONS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

		2025/26 Approved
OFFICE OPERATIONS		456,700
	Communications	17,000
	Office Supplies	11,000
	Printing	1,000
	Publications	1,500
	Office Insurance	16,000
	Equipment Maintenance	40,000
	Building Maintenance	110,000
	Building Supplies	2,000
	Department of Revenue	2,700
	Capital Assets Outlay	35,000
	WGC Audit	10,000
	Wheat - Staff Travel	60,000
	Barley - Staff Travel	8,000
	Automobile	3,000
	WSDA Commission Coordinator	11,000
	Other Administrative Expenses	14,000
	Professional Development	100,000
	Meeting Expenses	14,500
TOTAL OFFICE OPERATIONS		456,700

Professional Services & Support		
	Professional Services and Support	860,000
	Payroll Taxes	62,000
	Retirement	76,000
	Insurance	102,000
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & SUPPORT		1,100,000

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Policy Development		
	Wheat - DAILY ALLOWANCE	28,000
	Wheat - PER DIEM	25,000
	Wheat - TRAVEL	45,000
	Wheat - ELECTIONS	6,000
	Barley - DAILY ALLOWANCE	2,500
	Barley - PER DIEM	2,500
	Barley - TRAVEL	3,000
	Barley - ELECTIONS	3,000
TOTAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT		115,000

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the final FY 2025/26 WGC budget at \$8,360,278.

Further discussion entailed adding to reserved fund balances...

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the creation of a WSU/WRF Reserved Fund Balance (Committed) in FY 2025/26 with \$1,320,344 cash to fund years two through five of financial commitment to research (with year one - \$330,086 funded in FY 2024/25).

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve the addition of \$1 million cash to the Reserved Fund Balance in FY 2025/26 bringing the Committed Fund Balance total to \$6.4 million Reserved Fund Balance.

2. Guest: Dr. Daniel Whittley, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Administrator, gave an overview of the FAS and the current economy, and answered questions:
 - a. FAS mission: Increase US ag exports.
Core functions:
 - 1) Policy (tariff and non-tariff barriers; advocate for production methods and principles; influence trading partners)
 - 2) Promote market access for products globally (partnerships w/over 70 cooperative groups, nonprofit trade orgs; almost half billion annually to promote products; ag is like any other products – you have to promote it; difficult to penetrate new markets if not heavy on the market development side with trade shows.)
 - 3) Market intelligence in overseas presence (foreign service officer force, serving globally; watching legislation, mills, etc., in other countries; building relationships with key trade leads for exports, crop assessments. This intelligence feeds into monthly supply and demand estimates of agricultural products worldwide).
 - b. Economy:
 - 1) Administration is currently negotiating with other countries.
 - 2) Competitors are ramping up their market development efforts, which continue to be vital to FAS and US ag exports. FAS can connect WGC with overseas officers for trade leads, if ever useful.
 - 3) Currently, there's a lot of concern about cadence of Chinese-made shipping vessels, as agriculture is reliant upon them for exports.
 - 4) Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia) is the market to watch, as macroeconomic indicate a growing middle class and growing demand for protein fed by US grains.
 - 5) Middle East and North Africa also demonstrate strong indicators (Morocco building new port just to import more grain for Africa; similar macroeconomic indicators, like population growth, good not great GDP, good movement into middleclass); followed by sub-Saharan Africa.

The board asked about accuracy of supply and demand reports, to which the Administrator shared the report is apolitical and is rigorously checked before finalization by four agencies: FAS (int'l); NASS (domestic); Farm Services, and Soil. Satellite imagery is used for international estimates, adding to about 30 years' worth of data stored in a dedicated index.

3. Guest: Julie Callahan, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative – Was unable to join the meeting, thus no report.
4. Guest: Ambassador Kipp Tom, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, provided an update on Brazil; Roundup®; Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission; America First Policy Institute (AFPI); and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

- a. Brazil: With access to multiple sources of capital from countries like China, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, Brazil has and continues to develop their transportation logistics and trade infrastructure (e.g., Chinese seaport) at a rapid pace, strengthening their position in the global market. Investing in and leveraging sophisticated products, services, and technologies, Brazil now stands out as top competition across agricultural commodities, including wheat. In order to remain competitive, producers need to identify and capitalize on strategies that add value beyond shipping commodities.
 - b. AFPI: Think tank at the cabinet level. On agriculture side, focus is on increasing trade and improving cybersecurity.
 - c. Roundup®: As costs of lawsuits (~\$10B) outpace sales, Roundup has become a loss leader for Monsanto/Bayer, which will likely be ceasing production this year. One challenge is that different states want to update the labels to meet their science and standards, which would increase costs for the manufacturer and possibly create consumer confusion. Regarding other manufacturers of glyphosate, there are a few small manufacturers in the U.S., though mostly in China and India.
 - d. MAHA: Expecting the release of a commission report, which will include pesticides. Current administration ran on lowering food inflation and food security; concerns are report will exasperate current concerns. To leverage MAHA movement, wheat industry could seek opportunities to make wheat healthier and uncover new ways to sell products in the marketplace.
 - e. USDA: Currently reorganizing, seeking to reduce SNAP funding and increase enforcement of certain eligibility requirements, such as working a minimum of 30 hours per week for able-bodied people ages between 16-59.
5. Guest: Jennifer Tiller, Chief of Staff to the incoming Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gave a brief update on USDA. Confirmations (such as for the incoming Deputy Secretary) are going slowly, but should accelerate within the next 2-6 weeks. Currently, some international programs will continue, while others will terminate as the administration aims to only help countries aligned with their own goals.

Calendar & Travel Authority

1. Approve Travel Authority

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to approve and authorize retroactive, future travel and virtual attendance as follows:

Retroactive Travel

May 8-9

USW/Santiago Short Course Team @ WMC, Portland, OR
Ben Barstow / Casey Chumrau / Sarah Marquez

Future Travel

June 10-12

PNWA Summer Conference, Bellingham
Nicole Berg / Jake Liening

Blanket Travel

June 16-19

NBGA Summer Board Meeting, Golden, CO
Kevin Klein / Art Schultheis / Mary Palmer Sullivan

July 14-18

USW Board Meeting, Boise, ID
Mike Carstensen / Ben Barstow / + 2 Commissioners /
Casey Chumrau / Jake Liening / Sarah Marquez

August 18	WAWG Congressional Dam Tour, Lewiston, ID Commissioners / Staff
September 7-12	NCI Grain Procurement Course, Fargo, ND Jake Liening
October 4-11	Tri-State Market Development Trip, The Philippines & Vietnam Ben Barstow / Ben Adams / Nicole Berg / Casey Chumrau
October 22	Tri-State Wheat Commission Meeting, Portland, OR Commissioners / Staff

Future meeting date change discussion...

Motion was moved, seconded and passed to change the November 2025 WGC meeting date from the earlier scheduled Monday, November 17 to Thursday, November 20, at 9:00 at the WGC office building.

Date / Place Next Meeting

Chair Kevin Klein designated September 23-24, 2025 as the dates of the next regular meeting of the commission to be held at the commission office.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the commission, this meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Minutes Approval Signature

Upon passage of minutes by board at subsequent meeting



Kevin Klein, Chair

9-23-2025

Date