WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

2702 W. Sunset Boulevard, Suite A
Spokane, WA 99224

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MINUTES

May 13-14, 2026

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
Tony Benfiet, Position 1-Wheat Industry Rep
Scott Steinbacher, WA ST Dept. of Agriculture Rep

Absent

Barley Industry Rep - *Vacant*

Staff:

Casey Chumrau, Chief Executive Officer
Maddison Dayton, Communications and Content Manager
Stephanie Dinning, Director of Operations and Organizational Development
Parker Dawson, Systems and Records Specialist
Shari McCarthy, Office and Program Support Specialist
Alyssa Bentz, Finance and Compliance Manager

Visitors:

Industry, public and media

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 13, 2026.

Administrative

1. **Additions to Agenda** - added Max Jones from Rainmaker, supported by Steve Matsen of Klickitat County.

2. **Introductions and Roll**

3. **Open Forum -**

   Assessment payer Tom Kammerzell presented an issue with the public comment format.

4. **Approval of Minutes** - March 17-18, 2026. The minutes of the regular meeting were circulated to the members of the WGC prior to this meeting and included in the meeting packet. An edit to the 'call to order' section was made to indicate a change of venue.

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the March 17-18, 2026 meeting as amended.

5. Approval of Financials -

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE GENERAL FUND
March 31, 2026

Balance Sheet
As of 3fl112026

Washington Grain Commlnion (WGC}

Assets		
Checklng USB	802,605.29	
Petty Cash	155.84	
W • USB Savings	227,163.29	
B - IJSB Savings	61,183.66	
W - Robert W Baird MMKT	29,692.94	
W - Robert W Baird Investments	17,688,500.27	
B . Robert W Baird MMKr	354.63	
8 - Robert W Baird Investments	198,839.49	
Assessments Receivable	310,597.68	
Total Assets:		19,319,093.09
Llabllltles		
Accounts Payable	41,509.66	
Fed WIH Payable	8,576.63	
FICA Payable	30,511.49	
IDWrthholdJng Payable	568.00	
Def Comp Payable	5,970.81	
Medical Ins Payable	-313.51	
PERS Payable	11,184.95	
WA caresFr.nd	2,634.10	
LT Dlsablity Prem Payable	15.76	
PFML	2,866.83	
L&I Premium Payable	2,235.54	
Uneerned Assessments Revenoe	310,597.68	
Total Liabilltles:		416,357.94
Equity		
Retained Earnings-Current Year	880,778.98	
Fund Batance (Un slgned)	8,801,612.17	
Reserved Fund Balance (Committed)	6,400,000.00	
Marketlng ResetVed Fund Balance (Commitled)	1,500,000.00	
WSU-WRF Reserved Fund Balance (Committed)	1,320,344.00	
Total Equity:		18,902,735.15
Total UablllHes & Equity:		19,319,093.09

Balance Sheet
As of 4/30/2026

	Washington Grain Commission (WGC)	
Assets		
Checking USB	862,147.68	
PeltyCesh	155.84	
W - USB Savings	227,180.09	
a - use Savings	61,188.18	
W - Robert W I'!alrd MMKT	304,008.90	
W - Roben W Belrd Investments	17,420,878.'18	
B - Robert w Baro MMKT	35523	
B- Robert W Baird Inveslmenls	199,249.62	
Assessmenls .Roceivable	310,597.68	
Total Assets:		19,385,761.70
UabllIUes		
Accounts Payable	41,509.66	
Feel W/H Payable	8,576.63	
FICA Payable	30,511.49	
Def Comp Payable	5,970.81	
Medlcal Ins Payable	-2,326.51	
PERS PaY?ible	11,184.95	
WACeresRmd	2,634.10	
LT Disability Prem Payable	-110.85	
PFML	2,866.83	
L&I Premium Payable	2,235.54	
Unearned Assessments Revenue	310,597.68	
Total Llabllltlff:		413,650.33
Equity		
Retained Earnings-Current Year	950,155.20	
Fund Balance (Unasspd)	8,801,612.17	
Reserved Fund Belonce (Commttled)	6,400,000,00	
Matl<eli'lg ReseM!d F111d Balanc,e (Commlltod)	1,500,000.00	
WSU-WRF Reseived Fund Balance (Commhted)	1,320,344.00	
Total Equity:		18,972, 111,37
Total Liabilities & **Equity:**		19,385,761.70

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the March and April 2026 financials as presented.

6. Assessment Collections/ Investments -

CEO explained why the income shown on balance sheet differs from the assessment collection tracking document: Most assessments are received via ACH and the paperwork often arrives later from grain handlers. Then it must be processed by WGC. There is a time difference and the assessment collection tracking will lag. The CEO then showed Investment Reports, explaining that total WGC assets are $18.8 million dollars for wheat and that some money that is invested in CDs and FNs is not "reserves". WGC general reserves are $6.4 million, that was increased last year based on 5-year average of actual expenditure. WGC has a $1.5 million reserve fund for marketing needs. WGC has $1.16 million allocated for the remaining commitment made last year to contribute $330,086 per year toward the Washington Research Foundation grant's matching funds. Half of this year's commitment has already been paid. CEO presented Cash Holdings documents and verbally shared the numbers as shown. Reiterated that all investments are not designated "Reserves". Cash in the bank plus maturing investments provides $2.5 million to cover $2.3 million expected expenses. Investments with rotating maturity

dates are used as a strategy to earn interest and maximize money for programs, but they are not all "reserves". With $7.9 million in designated reserves, we have $7.8 million of wheat funding available for FY26/27. This is the 3rd year in a row where expenses will exceed total income. We expect to spend $7.6 million this year and finish with approximately $6 million in revenue. That deficit was anticipated when the budget was set last spring.

There was robust discussion on the idea of lowering the wheat assessment for one year. Recognized that growers are hurting. Last time assessments were increased was before the wheat and barley commissions combined. Concern it would become the expectation anytime prices are low. The RCW was discussed and whether the current situation meets the threshold for a temporary reduction, likely not. Comment that it would be short sided to reduce the assessment income and recommendation to leave it as is. It has taken years to build reserves, and we aren't at a point to use them in emergencies. Grain is the only commission being asked to reduce, so we should stay the course, not lavish spending, but to consider budget and maybe tighten. Brought up boosting marketing reserve eventually. In addition to grower recommendations to reduce, there have been grower discussions adamant about not reducing assessment levels. Agreed it was an important discussion. No motion was made and the discussion concluded.

7. **FY 2025/26 Budget Adjustment Authority-**
Budget explained that individual budgets are approved as well as overall budget. This is authority to move between categories as needed but not go over final budget.

Motion to provide authority to the CEO to adjust between the WGC budget categories for FY 2025/26 at the end of June, if necessary, with the total budget amount of $7,287,379 to remain the same.

8. **Commission Operations-**

a. **Strategic Initiatives Update-**
Several recent efforts show strong alignment with the strategic plan. In aquaculture, three initiatives created high impact by expanding market intelligence and opening pathways to more diverse markets. The Korean noodle exchange supported market development by addressing customer needs, focusing on higher value uses, securing an MOU, and sending product samples. The research advisory committee improved alignment and accountability, while work with six new growers helped identify needs, tailor proposals, and strengthen communication between growers and researchers. In addition, crop and quality monitoring provided timely information for customers, market planning, and education, helping improve creativity, coordination, and return on investment for growers.

b. b. Staffing Update- Jake has stepped out of Market Development role, posting is up for the new employee. Considering options now, have done a few interviews. Plan to have someone by September. Question on who is leading trade teams, Casey said by

committee, mostly her. Stephanie agreed to organize club exchange. Salary range $72,000 beginning rate.

c. Public Records Request (action item)- CEO explained that we are working with attorneys to respond to 25 individual records requests, first response due June 30th. AAG agrees that we should hire a service to assist in organization and review of documents. Conversation on how much time each staff member should allocate to this issue. ho. Clarification was requested on why we need to hire a service if we have a public records officer. It was explained that the public records officer is only a portion of the employee's job duties and this would be more than a full-time assignment. In addition, hiring a service reduces the risk and liability of the commission.

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the document service and legal fees for up to $100,000 in FY25/26 and $200,000 in FY26/27.

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed to approve allocating up to 20% of Parker's time, 10% of Casey's and 10% of Stephanie's time to be spent on records requests.

District Reports-

- Mike Carstensen (District 1: Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens) cold weather affected wheat, has come back and somewhat thin. Good crop, a lot more canola. Need rain. Factors- moisture and late frost there is a lot of angst on cost 1 spring for rust-new strain variety does not matter.
- Ben Barstow (District 2: Whitman) - - ww looks good except for the flats too wet to get out and stream on very wet in the Palouse spring crops coming up everything looks great- could use some rain.
- Brit Ausman (District 3: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla) fall good, spring decent, need a drink real bad.
- Ben Adams (District 4: Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan) -spraying for rust in Adams and Douglas county we need rain.
- Nicole Berg (District 5: Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Yakima) - conditions are the same as everyone else's reports. Commissioner Berg read a prepared statement that is included as Appendix A.
- Art Schultheis (District 1 Barley: Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Whitman, Yakima) - Not sure there is any barley in District 1 as of May 1st, 4 inches above for moisture welcome warmer temps ww looks fabulous worried about frost forecast spring crops canola, and garb beans all over the place, east is still wet wonderful to pay the fertilizer bill and fuel expensive.
- Kevin Klein (District 7 Barley: Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens) spring planted and sprayed with herbicide, looking good. Winter wheat has struggled, no rain but things are growing rust has been a big issue, rest of the us is dismal, so we should feel fortunate crop report always come back, one freeze and quality

Industry and WSDA Reports

- Ty Jessup {Wheat Industry Rep) - headlining El Nino- prediction biggest one in the world-1877 the impact of wheat in the southern hemisphere- Brazil Australia drought potential also can affect rice production. Market has rallied in the last two days. Boosted prices and demand where we are going to go- zero demand pull gains more traction. Reduces acreage and fertilizer- competing for demand, then with better prices we are not competitive in the summer and early fall windows- concerning with some life in the market best price since June 2024
- Tony Benefiet {Wheat Industry Rep) -export a whirlwind all buyers are frozen high commodity prices, no one wants to be first to buy. Korea and Thailand stepped up- Thailand bought from the black sea-cheaper. Traditional buyers come on schedule Vietnam not eager to buy wheat first. Don't know how long they can wait, find a way to stretch the inventory. Australia prices are up, south America taking away corn demand. Kansas crop looks horrible-feed imported polish cargos of wheat. Waiting for China to buy- wheat is not being discussed throwing that caution in- corn soybeans and tech, Did not counter with a bid.

  Scott Steinbacher {Washington State Dept. of Agriculture) - Nothing to add

Grower Services

1. **Legislative Monitoring-** Mark Strueli and Diana Carlin reported-

Several proposals in the state legislature, including farmworker union and environmental crime bills, which failed this session but are expected to return. A pesticide ban measure was delayed rather than defeated. At the same time, there were some positive developments, including removal of lubricants from CCA and $15 million for dredging in the transportation budget. Broader advocacy efforts remain focused on protecting agricultural viability, increasing participation in the Department of Agriculture viability survey, shaping the state farm bill, and preparing for Washington Ag Day.

Discussion on millionaire's tax and salmon buffer policy. The tax is facing multiple challenges, including a referendum effort and a separate constitutional case that may ultimately reach the state Supreme Court, where several openings this year could shape the broader legal landscape through 2028. Buffer discussions, with agriculture supporting salmon recovery but opposing the loss of productive farmland through mandatory setbacks. Although agriculture remains engaged in the process, there has been little movement from the tribal caucus, hoping to avoid a Supreme Court battle as a preliminary report is expected in June.

Water policy continues to be driven by climate pressures, rising stream temperatures, and a fourth consecutive drought declaration. Current discussions emphasize the limits of buffer-based approaches alone and the need for additional funding to support voluntary compliance and practical solutions. At the same time, agency coordination remains uneven, with differing interpretations and narrow mission focus slowing progress. Washington

2. **WAWG Update-**

Discussed NAWG's new task force and related policy and regulatory issues affecting growers, including RFK-related concerns, MAHA's push for an early policy win, insurance and reimbursement considerations, and crop-share repayment options for producers adopting alternative methods. Members focused especially on crop failures, ongoing advocacy to preserve key positions, MAHA's interest in action ahead of a Supreme Court ruling, and efforts to educate MAHA and the EPA with science-based research. The discussion also covered regenerative agriculture research, chemical-free product information, cautious communications regarding desiccation, challenges for legumes, and several national programs expected to move forward.
Concerns about CRP, noting that this has been an especially difficult year and that many participants do not currently qualify, requiring appeals to the state committee. Nicole, serving as national chair, has established a subcommittee. Members also observed that the new executive director has limited background on the issue, but progress has been made through review of national figures, payment limitation spreadsheets, and follow-up since the last CRP meeting in February. Efforts continue at both the state and national levels.

Important Dates- Members were also reminded that Wheat College is scheduled for June 2. Members were advised that, on August 18, staffers from across the United States will visit Lower Granite as part of the fourth annual event. WAWG earnings are due June 9.

The board received a presentation on Rainmaker, a cloud-seeding initiative using drones capable of flights exceeding one hour and equipped with de-icing capabilities. Projects in Oregon and Utah reportedly provide verification that measurable results can be achieved. Rainmaker recently presented to wheat growers and has identified favorable eastern Washington weather conditions, particularly the availability of supercooled liquid. The proposed pilot project is intended to prove the concept by increasing rainfall from existing weather systems, rather than creating rainfall where none would otherwise occur. The organization is seeking a letter of support and currently operates in California. The planned intervention period would run from October through April. Rainmakers estimate that typical operations could increase precipitation by 10 to 15 percent, with more intensive operations potentially reaching 27 percent. The concept was introduced to the WAWG board yesterday, and no formal funding request is being made at this time.

Adam from Working Rivers provided an update on recent outreach and media efforts. Current reach includes approximately 15.5 million views, 33,000 watch hours, and 40,000 Facebook watch hours, with the River Highway content identified as a particular highlight. The group remains on pace for its 2026 series.

3. **NW Riverpartners-**

Clark Mather spoke to affordable electricity, noted frustration with the disconnect between government decisionmakers and dam supporters, and highlighted data showing more than 2 million fish passing in 2024 and significantly higher salmon counts at Lower Granite Dam. The board also reviewed outreach efforts for the Our Power Is Water campaign, including video, airport, audio, digital, and out-of-home advertising, which generated strong visibility and engagement through millions of impressions, ad clicks, and social reactions.

Research:

1. **WSU Report-**

Hu Ibert thanked the commission for their continued support of WSU and gave a staffing update. Hulbert talked about the four open positions in the department and shared hiring updates and stakeholder engagement opportunities.

Dr. Sieg Snapp, agronomist, took over as Associate Dean for Research. Dr. Snapp worked in Barley and studied at WSU, spending most of her career at Michigan State. Dr. Snapp addressed the commission, sharing that she is passionate about the slow health initiative and improving crops. She commended the proactive approach of growers and the grain commission and reiterated that she is here to support the research and to bring the best science.

Hulbert shared that the university budget is facing more cuts. The future cuts are expected to be more significant.

The ARS building is close to being finished. The move-in date is currently sometime in September, with a ribbon-cutting in October.

Dr. Pumphrey and Dr. Garland-Campbell addressed the board and thanked them for their donation, which was used to secure a safe towing rig. They gave an update on the Variety Testing Program, stating good synergy among the breeders and sharing with the board that they are hiring for a Variety Testing Lead.

The 2025 data is available online, and Alison Thompson is handling the data this year.

2. **WSU/ARS Committee Reports-**

Jim Moyer addressed the board. Moyer stated that it is critical to build relations with investigators, making sure that the priorities of the growers come first. With limited funding available, Moyer stated that it will be important to collaborate on future grants. Securing the limited funding going forward will be a competitive task.

Moyer reiterated to the board that the research committee has been a good, productive committee. He stated that good conversations are taking place with the grower in mind.

3. **Field Days-**

The 2026 field day schedule is live. Some areas will not be suitable for field days this year, but that does not mean that field days won't be in these areas in the coming years when growing conditions change.

Communications and Education

1. **WSCIA**

Aarron Jeschke addressed the board to request funding for seed clarification work. This is a predominantly self-funded operation. The $180K requested would fund further software development. The key improvement to software would be better security for staff and users, increased data integrity, a virtual field map, improved documentation, and better integrations.

There was also a request made for $50,000 to improve the seed services software and equipment. The investment was presented as a long-term strategy aimed at increasing trackability.

2. **Industry Relation Update:**

Mike Miller gave an industry relations update. Miller stated that the President's budget is essentially DOA, and the USDA is looking at new and creative ways to do grants. Miller stated that he is receiving information from APLU through updates. In the trade world, China remains interested in seeing what the talking point is on TRQ.

3. **Dean's Update**

Dean Kosla addressed the board. Kosla is the new dean of Connors College at WSU. The dean shared the history of WSU as a land-grant university and shared the college's current budget constraints. The dean expressed his commitment to continue to grow the college even as the budget recedes. Dean Kosla requested that part of the endowment surplus be released to fund salaries, which would allow the college to hire critical employees during budget cuts.

Market Development

1. **U.S Wheat Associates**

Mike Carstensen and Nicole Berg gave a report on their anniversary trip to Taiwan and Japan. Carstensen and Berg stated that the goodwill felt on the trip was in abundance. On the trip, awards were given in both countries, and the commissioners were able to get facetime with the millers.

The future of wheat was discussed in both countries. Notably, millers in Japan stated that they intend to make wheat snacks for all of Asia.

Nicole Berg reported on her meeting with the sustainability group. A firm has been hired and will be conducting interviews. At the summer meeting in Fargo, there will be a face-to-face. Berg encouraged more conversations about the good work we do surrounding soil management and generational farms. How are we sharing our sustainability story?

CEO Chumrau gave an update on the upcoming trade team schedule, stating that fewer trade teams will be coming through Washington in 2026. Chumrau emphasized the

WGC's desire to expand the number of growers involved in trade teams, stating the importance of grower-buyer interactions. CEO also briefed the board on additional USDA restrictions that will potentially keep foreign visitors from being allowed in the WWLQ.

2. **Barley Update**

Art Schultheis gave an update on barley, sharing that there is very little barley planted this year. Schultheis and CEO Chumrau will attend the National Barley Growers meeting in Great Falls this year.

3. **Wheat Marketing Center**

Brit Ausman shared an update on the WMC with the board. Since November, there have been 9 completed tours of the WMC, 7 Japanese trade team visits, several SE Asia crop quality seminars, and six research projects. The WMC is currently staffed normally. The audit went well, and a new website has been rolled out. There are roughly 400 Kin updates planned for the building.

Executive Session

Personnel (RCW 42.30.llO(l)g)

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the public meeting at 3:30 p.m. and convene executive session at 3:40pm for one hour and ten minutes.

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the Executive Session at 4:50 p.m. and to reconvene the public meeting at 4:55 p.m., and to then adjourn the public meeting at 4:57 p.m. until Thursday, May 14, at 8:30 a.m

Other Topics

1. **Budget Review**- The board reviewed an additional proposal from Sean Finnie regarding equipment for club wheat within a white wheat blend and related machine calibration support. Members questioned whether commission funds could be used for items associated with a private company. In light of current funding priorities, limited available funding, and concerns regarding communication and timing, the board declined to fund the proposal.

2. **Market Development** budget was reviewed in detail, including a line-by-line discussion of the budget and related proposals. Discussion centered on domestic market development and whether a separate entity would be required to advance that work. Members considered potential partnerships with Grain and NAWG, but concluded that neither organization currently appears positioned to assume the effort as envisioned.

Members discussed whether Pacific Northwest resources would be better directed toward a dedicated domestic marketing position rather than continued investment in a

structure that may not be producing the desired return. Concerns were raised regarding management decisions, accountability, and whether additional funding would generate meaningful progress without clearer performance expectations.

Based on return-on-investment concerns, a recommendation was made to reduce the membership funding level of Wheat Foods Council by 50 percent. The expectation of clearer justification and explanation for future support is desired

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed to reduce WGC membership in Wheat Foods Council to a half member and reduce funding by 50%.

Members discussed trade opportunities in Latin America and expressed support for a more proactive approach. Nicole suggested authorizing two trips, and the board noted that sufficient funds appear to be available within Special Projects to cover the additional travel, if approved.

The board noted that food aid efforts are generally addressed through NAWG and U.S. Wheat, particularly in connection with lobbying and related advocacy activities.

Research

The board revisited research items previously discussed with Jim Moyer. Members agreed that the language should be broadened from wheat variety terminology to grain terminology to better align with barley evaluation. Funding for the Washington Research Foundation was identified within Special Projects, and discussion of support involving WSU focused on clarifying the intended audience and purpose. The proposal received board support.

Education

Members expressed support for Riverfest.

The Washington Grown sponsorship was discussed with reference to episode-based support, available funding, and the need for clearer communication regarding deliverables. Members noted that Japanese translations have been added and that additional translated content may still be forthcoming.

Grower Services

Discussed the work involving Center for Sustainability and Working Rivers and Adam and expressed support for the mission of the proposal. The discussion also referenced differing perspectives involving RiverPartners and Center for Sustainability and Working Rivers. Funding of $40,000 for one year was included in the budget proposal.

Under the WAWG budget proposal, members questioned if the $31,000 allocated for Natural Resources would materially advance CRP-related work. An additional $10,000 was proposed, bringing the total to $41,000 for WAWG.

The board discussed why WAWG does not fully absorb NAWG-related costs and why the Commission pays half of the Washington dues. Members noted that commission support appears to provide NAWG with greater flexibility.

A motion was moved, seconded, and passed to pass the full NAWG membership to WAWG, including increasing WAWG funding for 50% of the NAWG dues.

The proposed variety survey from WSCIA was discussed, including whether it should be retained and if the information could be obtained elsewhere. WSCIA was also discussed, with concerns raised regarding limited deliverables and dissatisfaction with results to date.

Members requested more consistent communication from Washington Genetics, noting that an update was received in July, but that little follow-up occurred thereafter.

Office Operations

Administrative expenses increased due to attorney fees. Professional development was identified as a potential area for reduction. Salary-related costs were lower due to separation and leave time, and the final figure discussed was 8.2 million.

Members also discussed differing views regarding the use of wheat funds for barley-related work. Nicole noted that the issue should remain part of a broader discussion next year.

At 12:03 p.m., the board approved the budget sections and then approved the budget in its entirety.

Motion to approve the Market Development portion of the budget at $1,409,187 was made, passed, and seconded.

Motion to approve the Research portion of the budget at $2,480,590 was made, passed, and seconded.

Motion to approve the Education/Information portion of the budget at $1,049,875 was made, passed, and seconded.

Motion to approve the Grower Services portion of the budget at $1,530,468 was made, passed, and seconded.

Motion to approve the Professional Services & Support portion of the budget at $982,000 was made, passed, and seconded.

Motion to approve the Office Operations portion of the budget at $653,700 was made, passed, and seconded.

Motion to approve the Policy Development portion of the budget at $112,000 was made, passed, and seconded.

CEO will pursue a more formal agreement and work with Jim regarding the endowment. Members also discussed implementing a Friday update process to be reviewed by the officers while three positions remain open. In addition, the board agreed that agreements should be reviewed annually to allow timely revisions, as needed.

A motion related to these follow-up actions was made, seconded and passed.

Calendar & Travel Authority

1. Approve Travel Authority:

May 13-14	WGC Annual Meeting	Spokane	Commissioners/ Staff
June 11	Lind Field Day	Lind, WA	Commissioners/ Staff
June 15-17	NBGA Summer Meeting	Great Falls, MT	Schultheis/ Chumrau / Horlacher
June 19-25	MS-ISAC Annual Meeting	Orlando, FL	Parker/NCS Staff
June 23-25	USW Summer Board Meeting	Fargo, ND	Carstensen/ Berg/ Adams/ Staff
July 28-31	Latin America Buyers Conference	Santa Fe, NM	Barstow/ Casey
August 18	Congressional Dam Tour		Staff/ Commissioners
Sept 23-24	WGC Board Meeting	Spokane, WA	Commissioners/ Staff
Nov 30-Dec. 2	WA-OR WG Convention	Kennewick, WA	Commissioners/Staff
Blanket Travel			
Request	WGC Board Meetings		WGC Staff/ Commissioners
	Grower meetings in Washington		WGC Staff/ Commissioners
	WAWG board meetings		WGC Staff/ Commissioners
	Wheat Marketing Center Meetings		Ausman/ Adams
	U.S. Wheat Board Meetings		Carstensen/ Berg/ Adams/Staff

	Washington Wheat Foundation Meetings	Berg
	Field Days	WGC Staff/ Commissioners
	Trade Teams in Washington/Idaho/Oregon	WGC Staff/ Commissioners
	WSU Land Legacy	Barstow
	WSU Othello Farm	Adams
	WSU Wheat Advisory Committee	Chair, Vice Chair
	WSU Varietal Release Committee	Barstow/ Jessup/ Berg
	WSU Variety Testing Committee	Ausman/ Klein/ Schultheis
	WSU Grain Royalty Committee	Berg

Motion to approve and authorize retroactive, blanket and future travel was moved, seconded, and passed

Date/Place Next Meeting

Chair Kevin Klein designated September 15-16, 2026, as the date of the next regular meeting of the commission to be held at the Washington Grain Commission office in Spokane.

Adjourn

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the public meeting at 12:33 p.m.

Minutes Approval Signature

Upon passage of minutes by board at subsequent meeting

[redacted]

Kevin Klein, Chair [redacted] Date

Appendix A

Statement by Commissioner Berg:

I am placing this statement on the record to address, directly and without ambiguity, the characterizations currently being made about me within this organization. I will be brief, and I will be precise.

I have no involvement in any public records request that has been referenced by my fellow commissioners. I find that implication not only false, but telling. As a sitting commissioner, I have direct and legitimate means to raise concerns - and I have used them. The suggestion that I would route a governance concern through an external channel, rather than raise it here, reflects either a fundamental misunderstanding of how I operate, or a deliberate effort to misrepresent it.

I was also advised - privately, at the WAWG convention, in a pull-aside that produced no minutes and no record - to ask fewer questions. Those questions were not personal curiosity. They were asked on behalf of the growers in my district, who elected me specifically to ask them. Silencing a commissioner is silencing the constituents she represents. I complied with that request. I should not have.

What has since become apparent is that those questions were inconvenient - not irrelevant. There are individuals operating within and alongside this commission whose interests are not aligned with the growers this agency exists to serve, and for whom scrutiny poses a specific problem. The effort to quiet me was orchestrated behind the scenes, delivered through the Chairman in a private setting, and it is not an isolated incident. It is a pattern. And some of the interests behind that pattern are represented in this room today.

I want to be clear about what this commission is. The Washington Grain Commission is a state agency under RCW 15.115. We are public officials. Our records are public records. Our conduct is governed by ethics obligations, open public meetings law, and accountability standards that do not bend to internal culture, staff preferences, or the interests of contractors. Those standards exist precisely for moments like this one.

Commissioners serve growers. We do not serve contractors. We do not serve staff. We do not serve one another's undisclosed interests. Any arrangement that subordinates a commissioner's duty to growers - to the preferences of individuals with stakes in the outcome - is a corruption of this agency's purpose.

I have acted in good faith. I will continue to. But good faith is not silence, and professionalism is not deference to conduct that falls below the legal and ethical standards we are obligated to meet.

I am already being discussed. I prefer to be discussed accurately and honestly.