

**Kansas Grain Sorghum Winter 2024 Joint Board Meetings**  
**Minutes**  
**American AgCredit**  
**Salina, KS**

Jan 25, 2024 10:00 AM CST

**Those present:**

**Staff:** Adam York, Maddy Meier

**Representing KGSPA:** Shane Ohlde, Brian Younker, Andy Hineman, Kent Winter, Kelsey Baker, Dan Riffel, Jim Harden

**Representing KGSC:** Kevin Kniebel, Max Tjaden, Kevin Harris, Clark Bibb, Nathan Larson, Brant Peterson, Evan Lesser, Blake Connelly, Matt Benoit (on Zoom), Brian Olson (K-State ex officio designee), Russell Plaschka (KDA ex officio designee)

**Guests:** Sarah Sexton-Bowser (CSIP), Raj Khosla (K-State Agronomy), Zach Simon (USCP), Norma Ritz-Johnson (on Zoom, USCP), Mark Nelson (Kansas Farm Bureau), Norman Hancock (Beck's Hybrids), Luke Ryan (Beck's Hybrids), Tyler Cramer (Bayer), Taylor Penick (Kientz & Penick, CPAs), Jace Hefner (on Zoom, USGC), Tim Lust (NSP/USCP), Craig Meeker (NSP), Kendall Hodgson (USCP).

The meeting was called to order by KGSPA President Kent Winter and KGSC Chairman Brant Peterson at 10:02 am.

Adam York introduced himself as the new Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association CEO and Administrator to the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission.

Those attending in person also introduced themselves.

Kent Winter presented the previous meeting meetings for calendar year 2023 for KGSPA, noting a technical correction needed in the minutes of the July 19-20, 2023 joint board meeting. (1) Dan moved to receive and file. (2) Shane Ohlde seconded. Motion passed.

Brant Peterson presented the previous meeting meetings for calendar year 2023 for KGSC. (1) Evan Lessor moved to receive and file. (2) Kevin Kniebel seconded. Motion passed.

Kelsey Baker presented the financial reports on behalf of both organizations. Adam provided insight on the passback check. Financial reports were approved. Incoming guests introduced themselves.

Kent Winter and Brant Peterson gave Executive Committee Updates. Brant gave an update on his experience with annual commodity testimonies required by state statute. Kent gave an update on association meetings with key state legislators and agencies.

Taylor Penick presented the 2023 KGSC audit (via Zoom).

Taylor then presented the 2023 KGSPA audit.

For KGSPA, (1) Kelsey Baker moved to approve the audit. (2) Shane Ohlde seconded. Motion passed

For KGSC, (1) Kevin Harris moved to approve the audit. (2) Nathan Larson seconded. Motion passed.

There was a 15-minute break. The meeting reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

Russ Plaschka gave an update on behalf of the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), including numbers on the ballots mailed across all commodity groups for state commodity commission elections, indicating March 1st, 2024 as the voting deadline. KDA Ag Marketing Team is fully staffed and working on agribusiness development grants. Russ also gave a plug on a possible partnership with an organization that utilizes potato starch. Steve Sherman is the contact for that.

Dr. Raj Kohsla gave an update on behalf of the K-State Agronomy Department, including: updates on the Agronomy Research and Innovation Center, groundbreaking will occur in Spring 2024; new and upcoming hires within the department across the state of Kansas; Research grant funding; agronomy undergrad enrollment trends from the past five years for undergrad and graduate students; successes of K-State's ag judging teams, there was applause.

Dr. Brian Olson gave an update on behalf of K-State Western Kansas REC, Water GMDs, testing ag performance solution grant, and new hire prospects.

Sarah Sexton-Bowser gave an update on behalf of CSIP and her work on the KGSC research committee and detailed technical support for KGSPA's Kansas Water Plan Partnership Initiative (KWPPPI) grant and scope.

Adam York discussed the 2021 Three-Year KGS Strategic Action Plan that was included in the board packet for review. Adam noted progress and action yet to be taken. Noted planning will begin for the next Three-Year KGS Strategic Action Plan later this year.

There was a break for lunch from 12:00 p.m to 12:50 p.m.

Sarah continued with the RFP Process and Approval agenda item and presented the KGSC Research Committee Report from Page 57 reported out by Commissioners Kevin Kniebel, Nathan Larson, Evan Lesser, and Brant Peterson.

(1) Kevin Kniebel made the motion to approve the Research Committee Report included in the board packet. (2) Kevin Harris seconded. Motion passed.

Brant introduced USCP Chairman Kendall Hodgson; Kent introduced NSP Chairman Craig Meeker; Adam introduced NSP CEO and USCP President Tim Lust.

Craig presented a legislative update on behalf of NSP.

Jace Hefner provided updates from the U.S. Grains Council (via Zoom) on swine sorghum-based diet trials; pet food trials in Colombia; recap on the U.S. Sorghum India Mission, Jowar and cultural stories.

Tim Lust gave a report on behalf of USCP; highlighting Kansas leaders on the board; international ventures; potential port of Catoosa partnership; sorghum in schools; other headlines; exports; expanding markets for consumer and pet food trends; Leadership Sorghum participants; Google ads; strategic plan.

There was a 15-minute break - reconvened at 2:05 p.m.

Adam presented the first-read of the latest by-law amendments for the association. He advised for there to not be a motion, but to be placed on hold for further consideration at a future meeting. The board reviewed. There was a discussion on some clarification items.

Norm Hancock, Area Team Leader, introduced the Beck's Hybrids Salina Facility to the group, along with Luke Ryan, and gave a presentation.

The joint boards discussed the need for an executive session. (1) Nathan Larson moved for KGSC to enter into a 20-minute executive session. (2) Kevin Harris seconded. KGSC moved into the executive session at 2:38 p.m. (1) Kelsey Baker moved for KGSPA to enter into a 20-minute executive session. (2) Dan Riffel seconded. KGSPA moved into executive session at 2:38 p.m.

At 2:58 p.m., for KGSPA, (1) Dan made a motion to extend the executive session for 10 minutes. (2) Brian Younker seconded. Motion passed.

At 2:58 p.m., for KGSC, (1) Kevin Harris made a motion to extend the executive session for 10 minutes. Nathan Larson seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Session ended at 3:08 p.m.

Following the Executive Session, (1) Blake Connelly made the motion for KGSC to adjourn. (2) Clark Bibb seconded. KGSC adjourned at 3:09 p.m.