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WASHINGTON TURFGRASS
SEED COMMISSION

MINUTES
WA TURFGRASS SEED COMMISSION MEETING
Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2025
Spokane Convention Center, Spokane WA / Zoom

Call to Order: Chairman Jeff Tee called the meeting to order at 8:10am. Those in attendance were Jeff Tee, Jory Iverson, Jared Stevens, Michael Rainis, and Paul Marienau. Also in attendance was Administrator Shane Johnson; researchers Michael Neff, Ian Burke and Ruying Wang; and grower Derek Green.

WA Grown Presentation: Kara Rowe gave a presentation on the activities of the WA Grown program. They are asking for commodity groups to financially support this program in order to keep it going into the future.

Research Reports and Proposals: Research reports and proposals were given by Michael Neff, Ian Burke and Ruying Wang.

Review Board Roster: Shane noted that the Commission currently has one open position (Position 2 District 1) that was left unfilled after the last nomination period. Paul Marienau moved, and Jeff Tee seconded the motion to appoint Derek Green to the Commission in Position 2 District 1. The motion passed unanimously. Shane will work with Derek and the State to get him the proper paperwork that will need to be filled out.

Election of Officers: Shane noted that the current Officers of the Commission are Chair - Jeff Tee, with the Treasurer position open. Shane opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Paul Marienau moved and Jared Stevens seconded the motion to elect Jeff Tee as Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Jeff Tee then opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer. Paul Marienau moved and Jared Stevens seconded the motion to elect Michael Rainis as Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that the check signers for the Commission are Chair, Jeff Tee, Treasurer Michael Rainis, and Administrator Shane Johnson.

Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2024, Commission Meeting: With no discussion, Jory Iverson moved, and Paul Marienau seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Interim Financial Report of Commission: Shane Johnson reviewed the Commission's current financial statements through January 31, 2025. Income to date totals \$82,487.92. Expenses to date total \$104,592.01 giving the Commission a net loss of -\$22,104.09. The current balance sheet shows total cash assets of \$207,257.26. Shane Johnson then reviewed the bank fees and checks that had been written since December 1, 2024, Commission meeting. Jeff Tee moved, and Paul Marienau seconded the motion to approve the financial statements, bank fees and checks as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Final Approval of Research Funding:

The 2025 research projects were reviewed, and funding decisions were made.

- a. Michael M. Neff, Washington State University – Vernalization genes, flowering and Variety Development in Kentucky Bluegrass
- b. Ian Burke, Washington State University – Weed Management in Turfgrass for Seed

- c. Ruying Wang, Oregon State University – Exploring allelopathic potential of Kentucky bluegrass plant extract for annual bluegrass control

The group reviewed each proposal while also looking at the commissions budget and forecasted income for 2025. After some discussion Paul Marienau moved and Michael Rainis seconded the motion to approve each project at the following levels – Neff’s for \$25,000; Burke’s for \$15,000; and Wang’s for \$10,000. The motion passed unanimously. Shane will reach out to the researchers to notify them of the Commissions decision.

The Commission committed \$50,000 in total funding for 2025.

2024-2025 Annual Budget: Shane presented the 2025-2026 proposed budget. After some discussion, the following amendments were made and approved by the Commissioners:

- Paul Marienau moved and Jared Stevens seconded the motion to increase Education and Outreach by \$10,000 (from \$35,000 to \$45,000) with \$5,000 committed to support the WA Grown campaign. The motion passed unanimously.
- Michael Rainis moved and Paul Marienau to increase the contribution to the Washington Turfgrass Seed Association by \$5,000 (from \$10,000 to \$15,000). The motion passed unanimously.
- It was also noted that the Commissioners had approved \$50,000 in research for FY 2025, this is a reduction of \$10,684 from what was originally in the proposed budget that was presented by Shane Johnson.

Paul Marienau moved, and Michael Rainis seconded the motion to approve the proposed budget with the amendments stated above. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

WSU Seed Farm Advisory Committee: Michael Neff gave an update on the activities at the WSU Seed Farm as part of his research presentation.

WA Turfgrass Seed Association: Travis Meacham gave a report on the activities of the WA Turfgrass Seed Association (WTSA). He then invited all in attendance to attend the WTSA following the conclusion of the Commission meeting.

WSDA Report: Paula Moore was not in attendance, so no WSDA report was given.

Next Commission Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at the WSU Seed Farm. This will be the Commissions Annual meeting and Field Day.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Submitted by:

_____ Shane Johnson, Executive Director

Attested to by:

_____ Commissioner

WASHINGTON TURFGRASS SEED COMMISSION
2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Income			
Assessments	Estimated 2024-25	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget
Barenbrug	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Columbia River Seed	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Dye Seed Ranch	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Fusion Seed Company	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Great Basin Seeds	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Himark Seeds	\$ 1,017.50	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000.00
Integrated Seed Growers	\$ 4,130.73	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
North Basin Seed Growers	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
Seeds, Inc.	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
The Scotts Company	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Turf Merchants	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total Assessment Income	\$ 157,648.23	\$ 168,050.00	\$ 158,000.00
Other			
Interest	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Total Other	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Total Income	\$ 157,898.23	\$ 168,300.00	\$ 158,250.00
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Bank Service Charges	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Education & Outreach	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Meeting & Travel	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Market and Promotion	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Miscellaneous (Plaque)	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Membership/Sponsorship	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Nomination Meeting Notice	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Office Supplies	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 250.00
Postage	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
Printing, Copies, Mailings	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00
Research	\$ 50,684.00	\$ 50,684.00	\$ 50,000.00
WSU Research Farm	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
State of Washington	\$ 3,519.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,800.00
Commission Dissolution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Website Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 188,853.00	\$ 180,634.00	\$ 196,600.00
Net Income	\$ (30,954.77)	\$ (12,334.00)	\$ (38,350.00)
	Reserve Fund as of May 31, 2024	1.27	\$ 229,361.55
	Estimated Income 2024-25		\$ 157,898.23
	Estimated Cash Assets		\$ 387,259.78
	Estimated 2024-25 Expenses		\$ 188,853.00
	Estimated Reserve Fund on May 31, 2025	1.01	\$ 198,406.78
	Estimated Income 2025-26		\$ 158,250.00
	Estimated Cash Assets		\$ 356,656.78
	Estimated 2025-26 Expenses		\$ 196,600.00
	Estimated Reserve Fund on May 31, 2026	0.81	\$ 160,056.78
Resolution Breakdown		\$ Amount	Percent of Total
Research	\$ 65,000.00	44.8%	
Education & Outreach	\$ 45,000.00	31.0%	
Marketing	\$ 35,000.00	24.1%	
Total	\$ 145,000.00	100%	