

Hard Spring Wheat Quality Council Minutes
February 18, 2015
Kansas City, MO

Technical Board Members Present:

Senay Simsek, NDSU Wheat Quality – Chair
Terry Selleck, Bay State Milling

10:10 A.M. Call to Order by Chair Simsek

Minutes

Jim Peterson reviewed the 2014 meeting minutes. A verbal review was given of the March meeting which focused on specific grow-out plans and budget issues regarding the 2014 planting season. In addition, a significant portion of the meeting was devoted to discussing a second check, as a potential replacement to the long-term check Glenn. Elgin-ND had been tested in the 2013 project, and the group decided to continue it as the second check for 2014 again.

Brian Walker moved to approve the minutes, Terry Selleck gave a 2nd. Minutes were approved.

Advisory Board

Simsek led discussion regarding the advisory board. The Advisory Board is composed of HRS wheat breeders, University and USDA researchers, and specific milling, baking and producer reps with and interest in the HRS testing program. Simsek noted that Linda Dykes, USDA Wheat Quality Lab, Fargo; Mark Newell, Monsanto HRS Breeder, and John Davies, Syngenta HRS Breeder will be added as members.

Board member and officer elections

Jim Peterson moved to elect Mory Rugg for a second term as the breeder position on the board, Bob Sombke gave the 2nd. The motion was approved unanimously.

Terry Selleck moved to elect Senay Simsek for the chair position for a 2nd year, Brian Walker gave the 2nd. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Review

Jim Peterson provided a financial update. The HRS Technical Committee has \$23,498 in a CD and \$4,528 in its checking account. These funds are separate from the annual allocation of \$16,000 from the Wheat Quality Council program for grow-out, milling and sample processing expenses. Ben Handcock suggested that the Technical Committee discuss combining the checking account funds into the WQC checking account to simplify book keeping. The funds would be recorded and kept separate, so they would still be available should the HRS Committee need them for projects. The Committee said they would add the issue to the upcoming March meeting in Fargo.

Hard Spring Wheat Budget

The annual budget breakdown for the 2014 and 2015 projects was presented. A total of \$16,000 is available. In 2014, \$7,200 was spent on grow-out and sample shipping expenses. The balance of \$8,800 was given to the USDA Wheat Quality Lab for sample processing, milling and report preparation. There was also a submission from NDSU Wheat Quality Lab for DON testing. This was in addition to the budgeted amount. Ben asked that any future DON testing expenses be submitted earlier if possible so they could be included in the overall budget. Ben also added his appreciation for the USDA Wheat Quality Lab for their excellent work the last two years on the project and for doing the project for about one-half the expense of the HRW Quality Lab. The HRW project does not have the level of grow-out expense as the HRS program, and this is one reason less funds are available for milling.

Grow-Out Locations

There was a review of the grow-out locations and the second check sample Elgin-ND. Some concern was expressed about the fact that Elgin-ND is notably lower than Glenn for gluten strength, although protein content and some baking qualities are closer. Current grow-out locations are Williston, Minot and Casselton, ND; Crookston, MN; and South Shore, SD.

Dale Williams gave an update on sample grow-out season. Dale explained that yield information is not replicated during these trials, and cautioned that the information presented may not be accurate. Minot and Williston did not provide any yield data. There was discussion about environmental impact on quantity and quality of the samples. Planting, growing, and harvest conditions were reviewed at the locations. It was pointed out that Minot reports "ideal conditions" at harvest, but there was difficulty in getting the samples at a reasonable time this year, and some quality impacts, such as high DON or subpar FN were noted. Dale acknowledged that entry #2 was supposed to be entered at all five locations this year, but it was not. The issue of protein level for entry #2 at Crookston was discussed. It was unusually lower than the other grow-out locations and below the norm expected for the line.

Dale also noted to the group that he will be retiring this year, and Gonzalo R. will be taking his place.

Milling and Sample Data

Linda Dykes presented an overview of sample processing at Fargo and reviewed changes to the book this year. Alyssa Hicks gave a presentation on the Miag milling process.

Quality Trends

Senay Simsek presented wheat variety trends in the HRS growing region, noting the downward trend of Glenn in share of acres and expansion of newer releases. Brian Walker brought up the question of moisture levels at harvest and if the 2014 crop was higher than normal. Commercial mills are seeing higher moisture content in some shipments.

Jim Peterson presented an update on the June 2014 meeting held in Omaha, NE to discuss updates to the HRS Wheat Quality Targets. The only significant change was to address the gluten strength decline in commercial HRS wheat crops in recent years. The group decided to increase the Traditional Strong target to 15-17 minutes from just 15, and drop the Mellow classification, which was only 10 minutes. It was also decided to drop the Extra Strong category since no releases had been near that level in recent years. The majority of recent releases have all been near the Mellow category. The only other change was to add a Mixograph target for breeders to use earlier in variety development testing.

Steve Wirsching, VP of the USW West Coast office in Portland added some further perspective on the importance of gluten strength of US HRS in the international market. The US has developed a reputation of having superior gluten strength to Canadian wheat in the Asian market specifically. It has given us premium prices and a traditional customer base. That advantage is rapidly diminishing with recent trends in commercial HRS production. Australian wheat is competing for the Asian noodle market and is less of a threat than the narrowing gap between US and Canadian HRS wheat.

Dr. Horsley, Chair, NDSU Plant Sciences gave an update on spring wheat quality research at NDSU. A new statistical genomicist has been hired to assist breeders in developing varieties efficiently. A new position for an analytical chemist has been opened. Dr. Horsley also spoke about the accelerated master's degree program, where top food science students can start working on their M.S degree at the same time as their B.S.

HRS Breeding Program Updates

Jim Anderson, Univ of MN wheat breeder; John Davies, Syngenta HRS wheat breeder; and Blake Cooper, LimaGrain HRS wheat breeder each presented an overview of their programs objectives for new HRS varieties, and efforts they take to ensure quality.

Adjournment

Terry Selleck moved to adjourn, Jim Peterson gave the 2nd. Meeting adjourned 12:05 pm.