

MINUTES– QUARTERLY MEETING of the NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE

**Tuesday September 12, 2023
9:00 a.m. Central Time
Location of Meeting
NE College of Technical Agriculture
ED Center Room 129
404 E. 7th St.
Curtis, NE 69025**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order By Duane Gangwish at 9:06 am

The public meetings notice was read by Duane Gangwish.

Roll Call

Duane Gangwish	Present
Chris Gentry	Not Present
Tanya Storer	Present
Marie Farr	Present
Steve Stroup	Not Present

Others in attendance

John Widdowson
Tom Hughson
Becki Vineyard
Dean Anderson
Danna Schwenk
CJ Fell
Dalen Wood
Melody Benjamin
Kayla Jesse

Remote Attendees

Spike Jordan
Mark Fahleson
Rick Leaver
Shawn Hanks
Clint Verner

• **Adoption of Agenda**

Tanya Storer moved to approve the agenda with the flexibility to fit Tanner Hughes in between 10:30 and 11:00.

Mari Farr seconded the motion

No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes

Tanya Storer Yes
Mari Farr Yes

Motion Passes

Current Business

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman per NE Statute 54-191

Tanya Storer moved to re-elect Duane Gangwish as Chairman and Chris Gentry as Vice Chairman.

Mari Far seconded the motion

No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Mari Farr Yes

Motion Passes

2. Approval of June 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Dean Anderson stated that after the minutes were sent to the committee a spelling error of Mista White's name was discovered and that he would correct that on the final document.

Tanya Storer moved to approve the June 6th meeting minutes as presented with the correction of Mista White's name spelling.

Mari Farr seconded the motion.

No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Mari Farr Yes

Motion Passes

3. Consideration and Acceptance of Financial Statements

Financial Reports

Becki Vineyard presented the financial report Highlighting the close of the last budget year and the status of this year.

Tanya Storer moved to accept the financial statements.

Mari Farr seconded the motion.

No discussion

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Tanya Storer	Yes
Mari Farr	Yes

Motion Passes

Annual Report

A copy of the annual report was distributed to the committee members with no action taken.

4. Nebraska Brand Committee Policy, Rules and Regulations Review and Updates

Job description discussion

Becki Vineyard asked the Committee to review the current job description of the Executive Director position and to consider changes to accurately reflect the current role and essential functions. Tanya Storer stated that she did not think it was prudent to change the description at this time, as applicants had already applied based on the current description.

No action was taken.

5. Legislative Update

John Widdowson presented that while there was some talk of legislation that could affect the Brand Committee, there was nothing solid at this point. Duane Gangwish suggested that we have a more in-depth discussion at the next meeting and for staff to present anything they would like to be presented to the Legislature for consideration.

No action was taken

6. Staff Updates

Ratification of Personnel changes

Becki Vineyard presented the personnel changes.

Mari Farr moved to ratify the personnel changes.

Tanya Storer seconded the motion

No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes
Tanya Storer Yes
Mari Farr Yes

Motion Passes

Dalen Wood introduced himself at this point and gave a brief background of his work and personal history.

7. Estray Reports

Dean Anderson presented the estray cases to be sent to the permanent school fund.

Tanya Storer moved to approve sending the cases to the permanent school fund
Mari Farr seconded the motion
No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes
Tanya Storer Yes
Mari Farr Yes

Motion Passes

8. RFL Report

Dean Anderson presented on the move to all July renewals. Tom Hughson presented on the changes to the program based on the Supreme Court ruling and his meetings with Adams Land and Cattle to ensure a smooth transition to the changes. Duane Gangwish asked that staff create and distribute a more detailed explanation of point of origin and when cattle did and did not need inspected.

9. Strategic Plan review

No action taken

10. Fee Schedule Review and Discussion

John Widdowson suggested that the Committee review and consider the current fees at the next meeting.

No action was taken

The Committee was in recess from 10:10 to 10:30 a.m.

11. Tanner Hughes from Tyler Tech

Tanner Hughes joined via WebEx to present the recent changes to Tyler Technologies Nebraska and his role in the company. He also spoke of new and upcoming projects, specifically the e-inspection program and improved reporting. He also discussed the possibility of negotiating a new contract.

12. Technology Report

Danna Schwenk expanded on her written report

13. Chief Investigators report

Investigator reports

Tom Hughson expanded on his and the other Investigators reports with C.J. Fell and Dalen Wood also giving a brief synopsis of their reports.

Supervisor reports

Tom Hughson expanded on the supervisor reports.

14. Executive Director Report

John Widdowson stated that he had nothing to report.

15. Public Comment

Melody Benjamin of Nebraska Cattlemen stated that communication is better but still needs improvement, and to please let them help us promote things that the Committee is doing and information that needs to get out to producers. She also stated that some state legislators have expressed concern about the number of missing cattle that have been shared on social media and asked that we better explain the process and that these are not stolen cattle.

Spike Jordan asked if we had answered the question of who the owner of our software for brand inspection was. Danna Schwenk stated that it was owned by Committee and was not being sold to any other states at this time.

16. Executive Session

Mari Farr moved to go into executive session to protect the public interest and to receive legal advice related to potential or anticipated litigation, legislative, personnel matters, review of special projects and negotiation strategies.

Tanya Storer seconded the motion
No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes
Tanya Storer Yes
Mari Farr Yes

Motion Passes
Moved into executive session at 12:15 p.m.

The Committee returned to open session at 1:14 p.m.

Tanya Storer moved to come out of executive session.
Mari Farr seconded the motion.

No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes
Tanya Storer Yes
Mari Farr Yes

Motion Passes

17. Adjournment

Tanya Storer moved to adjourn the meeting.
Mari Farr seconded the motion.

No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes
Tanya Storer Yes
Mari Farr Yes

Motion Passes

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.