

MINUTES

NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS (PORK ACT) DELEGATE BODY

March 7-8, 2019 • Orlando, Florida

CALL TO ORDER President Steve Rommereim called the Annual Meeting of the National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2019 in Orlando, Florida. Following the National Anthem, Board Members, delegates, importers, staff and friends of the industry were welcomed and introduced.

REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY David Newman, Vice President of the National Pork Board, presented the Recording Secretary report. He reported some states did not submit names and thus 159 producers plus 4 importers were appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Out of the 163 appointed delegates, 132 have been certified. This constitutes a majority of delegates and thus a quorum of members is present. The Bylaws also require that a quorum of members must represent a majority of the shares. For the 2019 annual meeting, a total of 74,042 shares are possible. Thus far, 68,173.3 shares are registered from 39 states, plus importers. This is more than 50% and thus a majority of shares is also present.

SWEARING-IN President Rommereim introduced USDA representative Craig Shackelford, Ag Marketing Specialist, to perform the swearing-in procedure on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture. Delegates promised to carry out their duties and responsibilities as members of the Pork Act Delegate Body and represent all pork producers in an unbiased manner and in accordance with the Act and Order.

STANDING RULES PROCEDURES, AGENDA APPROVAL President Rommereim sought the consensus of the delegates to approve the following items:

Agenda: An agenda was included in the delegate manual prior to the meeting and contained information about the business items for discussion, delegate appointments, shares, and voting numbers.

Appointments: The list of proposed appointments for the meeting was pointed out in the materials. The appointments include:

- Credentials/Elections Committee (Derrick Sleezer, IA, Chair; Dale Norton, MI; Conley Nelson, IA)
- Tellers (Headed by Bill Winkelman)
- Parliamentarian (Jim Slaughter)
- Recorders (Deanna Boenau)
- National Pork Board Recording Secretary (David Newman)
- Assistant Recording Secretary (John Johnson)

Adoption of Rules: The standing rules and annual meeting procedures were explained in the manual. The standing rules are comprehensive in that they cover all aspects of business, the elections, and authority of the Elections/Credentials Committee. Delegates were reminded that a two-minute time limit will be imposed during debate and the rules of debate were stated.

President Rommereim asked for approval of the agenda, rules and appointments. Seeing no objections, the agenda, rules, and appointments were approved by consensus of the Delegate Body.

Delegate List: The Delegates were asked to review the list of delegate names, voting numbers and share allocations and reminded that their Pork Act voting number is valid only for this meeting.

Duties of the Delegate Body: President Rommereim reminded delegates of the three duties imposed on them by the Pork Act, including: to nominate candidates for the National Pork Board; to recommend the Pork Checkoff assessment rate; and, to determine the return to state share of the Pork Checkoff.

Advisements: David Newman, Vice President, noted the Pork Act Delegate Body also serves as a forum for delegates and states to share recommendations and concerns regarding the conduct and implementation of checkoff related programs. While not an official duty of the Delegate Body, the Pork Board does consider these advisory "resolutions" to be important to the long-term success of the Checkoff program and any "resolution" that is not directly related to the official duties outlined above, is called an "advisement." Newman reported having four advisements this year.

CEO REPORT

Bill Even, CEO, provided a CEO report for the Delegate Body. He discussed how the industry is growing and how NPB is refining our digital strategy approach to marketing communications. Bill also reviewed the three keys to increasing pork sales and establishing vision for an industry-wide secure pork supply.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Terry O'Neel, Nominating Committee Chair, was called upon to review the nominating process. He introduced the following members of the Nominating Committee: Adam Dohrman, Missouri; JoDee Haala, Minnesota; Bryn Jensson, Iowa; William Knapke, Ohio; Jason Manbeck, Pennsylvania; Gene Nemecheck, North Carolina. He discussed the qualifications necessary to serve and how the Committee solicits, screens, interviews, evaluates, and recommends candidates for the National Pork Board, and also for seats on the Pork Board Nominating Committee. O'Neel also noted the Committee recognizes diversity is an important factor and strives to make sure that various sizes of operations, marketing strategies, gender, ethnicity and other distinguishing factors are represented in our slate of candidates.

O'Neel opened the floor for additional nominations for Pork Board. There were no additional nominations offered from the floor and nominations closed.

PORK BOARD CANDIDATES

O'Neel introduced the candidates for Pork Board in alphabetical order:

Pat Albright, Michigan; Bill Kessler, Missouri; Larry Liepold, Minnesota; Bill Luckey, Nebraska; Gene Noem, Iowa; Russ Nugent, Arkansas; Alicia Pedemonti, New Hampshire; Michael Skahill, Virginia; Dave Struthers, Iowa; Stephen Williamson, North Carolina. Each candidate provided a two-minute introduction.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mike Skahill, Treasurer, provided the Checkoff financial update. Skahill commented in 2018, the Checkoff revenue was \$72.9 million, down less than 1 percent from the \$73.2 million that was budgeted. He explained the wide fluctuations in revenue and the growing industry make planning and budgeting a challenge. Providing a historical update, he explained revenue increased from \$76.4 million in 2017 to \$77.1 million in 2018. Mike explained while we see a decrease in revenue, we experienced an increase in other income relating to outside science and technology funding sources. Return to State funding decreased in 2018 by \$300,000 while National Spending increased by \$3.8M in 2018 compared with 2017. Even though total revenue for 2018 increased from 2017, the Board maintained its budgeted spending level and prioritized immediate risk and opportunities as needed. This resulted in an increase to reserves.

President Rommereim commented as part of Pork Forum, the Checkoff rate is evaluated. He asked Delegates if there are any questions, concerns, suggestions regarding the Checkoff rates. No one commented.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

O'Neel, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the Nominating Committee candidates in alphabetical order: Adam Dohrman, Missouri; JoDee Haala, Minnesota; Jason Manbeck, Pennsylvania. Archer reminded the delegates the candidates will serve a two-year term. President Rommereim thanked the candidates for coming forth to serve our industry.

RESOLUTIONS/ ADVISEMENTS REPORT

Dr. David Newman, Resolutions and Advisements Committee Chair, introduced members of the Committee who were present, including: Deborah Balance, North Carolina; William Knapke, Ohio; Conley Nelson, Iowa; Dale Norton, Michigan. Newman thanked each member for his or her service to the committee. The purpose of the committee is to review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the Pork Act delegate body regarding resolutions and advisements submitted by state pork associations and others related to the Pork Checkoff. Since none of the issues that came forward addressed the three areas of responsibility for delegates, all are considered advisements.

The following advisement was introduced:

• **IR #1: Industry Relations**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association and North Carolina Pork Council

MOTION: The National Pork Board is advised to execute a joint process with the National Pork Producers Council to identify the pork industry funding needs, as well as to provide recommendations on how to meet those needs. A report back to delegates should be provided at the Pork Forum meetings in 2020.

• **ST #1: Science & Technology**

Submitted by: Minnesota Pork Board

MOTION: The National Pork Board should take steps to engage U.S. pig farmers and allied industry partners to develop a science based plan to safely introduce essential feed and feed ingredients, as well as other products, from countries or high risk in an effort to reduce the risk of Foreign Animal Diseases entry into the U.S.

• **ST #2: Science & Technology**

Submitted by: Minnesota Pork Board

MOTION: The National Pork Board should work cooperatively with necessary associations and appropriate government agencies to convene and ongoing dialogue with Canadian and Mexican governments, and their swine health organizations to develop and implement practices that would protect the North American Swine Herd from the entry of a Foreign Animal Disease.

• **ST #3: Science & Technology**

Submitted by: Minnesota Pork Board

MOTION: The Minnesota Pork Board supports and encourages the Board of Directors of the National Pork Board within its scope of authority and responsibilities to provide the resources necessary to focus communication, education, funding and research activities by all NPB staff, committees of the NPB, governmental agencies, other industry organizations, all vendors to the USA swine industry and all producers to keep the U.S. national Swine herd free of all FADs including and specifically targeting ASF.

**FLOOR
ADVISEMENT**

Rommereim called for any other Floor Advisements or Resolutions. He explained new advisements or resolutions from the floor require a 2/3 vote to be introduced and a 3/4 vote to pass. None was brought forth.

Rommereim reminded the delegates an update on the 2018 advisements is available in the delegate manual for review.

**LEADERSHIP
RECOGNITION**

Alicia Pedemonti, Board Member, recognized 18 producers who took part in Pork Leadership Institute.

- Peter Benjamin Barcovtch, Pennsylvania
- Anthony Barrera, Arizona
- David Bullerman, Minnesota
- Jared Black, Ohio
- Pavel Danila, North Dakota
- Chad Herring, North Carolina
- Kristy Johnson, Illinois
- Alicia Keller, New York
- James Kimbrough, Jr., Mississippi
- Rod Leman, Iowa
- Connor Livingston, Nebraska
- Shane Odegaard, South Dakota
- Dave Reedy, Missouri
- Brady Reicks, Iowa
- Christine Snowden, Illinois
- Tyler Te Grotenhis, Minnesota
- Ruben Vanquez, Utah
- Geri Wohltman, Illinois

Pedemonti also recognized and introduced the Chair and Vice Chair for the program committees. She also expressed appreciation for the 180+ producers who serve on these committees. Alicia stated these producers are critical to our success and we greatly appreciate their continued assistance.

**OPERATION
MAINSTREET
RECOGNITION**

Scott Phillips, Board Member from Missouri, recognized the many producers for their active role in the Operation Main Street Program as the program arranged more than 10,000 presentations in 43 states with media coverage reaching more than 35 million people. He explained producers have been working since 2004 to build consumer trust, and along the way, have addressed the industry's biggest challenges by sharing their expertise with various audiences, including food chain partners, food councils, wholesale retailers, veterinary medical students and companion animal veterinarians. Scott encouraged anyone who has not been through the OMS training to contact the National Pork Board for the training scheduled during World Pork Expo in June.

**AMERICA'S PIG
FARMER
OF THE YEAR**

Gary Asay, Board Member, introduced Patrick Bane, a producer from Illinois, as the 2019 America's Pig Farmer of the Year. Patrick explained the America's Pig Farmer program is built on the success of the Environmental Stewards Program, a 20-year running program. He explained America's Pig Farmer of the Year is a great way for a farmer such as himself to share the We Care ethical principles and talk about how safe pork is with the public. Pat encouraged other producers to step forward and apply for the program so their story can be shared as well.

**AMERICA'S PIG
FARMER
OF TOMORROW**

Patrick Bane introduced Bailee Arnold, North Carolina; Ben Luebbering, Missouri; and Ben Whitener, Iowa as award winners of the Pig Farmers of Tomorrow. Each shared their enthusiasm of the program and encouraged others to apply or talk to others about applying for this opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT President Rommereim adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

RECONVENE President Rommereim called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m. on Friday, March 8, 2019.

VOTING Derrick Sleezer, Elections Chair, explained the electronic voting system to delegates. He reviewed the official voting procedures and conducted test balloting with the delegates to familiarize with the system.

PORK BOARD ELECTIONS Elections were held for Pork Board. Candidates on the first ballot included:

- Pat Albright, Michigan
- Bill Kessler – Missouri
- Larry Liepold – Minnesota
- Bill Luckey – Nebraska
- Gene Noem – Iowa
- Russ Nugent –Arkansas
- Alicia Pedemonti – New Hampshire
- Michael Skahill – Virginia
- Dave Struthers – Iowa
- Stephen Williamson – North Carolina

	Shares
Gene Noem	53,230
Alicia Pedemonti	47,692
Mike Skahill	42,806
Bill Luckey	41,468
Russ Nugent	38,319
Larry Liepold	32,109

PORK BOARD A second ballot was held to rank the remaining four candidates. Results of the second Pork Board ballot:

	Shares
Stephen Williamson	46,057
Dave Struthers	45,400
Bill Kessler	42,397
Pat Albright	32,142

RESOLUTIONS/ ADVISEMENTS DEBATE David Newman introduced the following advisements/resolutions:

- **IR 1 Industry Relations – Iowa Pork Producers Association & North Carolina Pork Council – PASSED**

The National Pork Board is advised to execute a joint process with National Pork Producers Council to identify the pork industry funding needs, as well as to provide recommendations on how to meet those needs. A report back to delegates should be provided at the Pork Forum meetings in 2020.

Delegates from Oklahoma Pork Council and Ohio Pork Council asked to be included in the motion. Delegate Leon Sheets, Iowa, asked for the motion to be amended to withdrawal "A report back to delegates should be provided at the Pork Forum meetings in 2020." The line "The plan shall be developed by December 1, 2019 to be distributed to the potential delegates prior to the 2020 Pork Forum and be available for state annual meetings" would be added. Meg Freking seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The National Pork Board is advised to execute a joint process with National Pork Producers Council to identify the pork industry funding needs, as well as to provide recommendations on how to meet those needs. The plan shall be developed by December 1, 2019 to be distributed to the potential delegates prior to the 2020 Pork Forum and be available for state annual meetings. Motion Carried.

- **ST 1 Science & Technology – Minnesota Pork Board, Montana Pork - PASS**

A representative from Montana Pork Association asked to be included in the motion.

The National Pork Board should take steps to engage U.S. pig farmers and allied industry partners to develop a science based plan to safely introduce essential feed and feed ingredients, as well as other products, from countries of high risk in an effort to reduce the risk of Foreign Animal Diseases entry into the U.S. Motion Carried.

• **ST 2 Science & Technology – Minnesota Pork Board, Montana Pork – PASS**

A representative from Montana Pork Association asked to be included in the motion.

The National Pork Board should work cooperatively with necessary associations and appropriate government agencies to convene an ongoing dialogue with Canadian and Mexican governments, and their swine health organizations to develop and implement practices that would protect the North American Swine Herd from the entry of a Foreign Animal Disease. Motion Carried.

• **ST 3 Science & Technology – Minnesota Pork Board – PASS**

The Minnesota Pork Board supports and encourages the Board of Directors of the National Pork Board within its scope of authority and responsibilities to provide the resources necessary to focus communication, education, funding, and research activities by all NPB staff, committees of the NPB, governmental agencies, other industry organizations, all vendors to the USA swine industry and all producers to keep the U.S. national swine herd free of all FADs including and specifically targeting ASF. Motion Carried.

**BOARD MEMBERS
RECOGNITION**

Tribute was paid to Jan Archer, North Carolina; Terry O’Neel, Nebraska; who are retiring from the Board; Gene Noem, Iowa; Alicia Pedemonti, New Hampshire; Mike Skahill, Virginia; who concluded their first term; and Steve Rommereim, outgoing president, South Dakota, who will serve as immediate past president.

A video was shown highlighting the work that Steve Rommereim has completed as President of the National Pork Board.

**COURTESY
RESOLUTIONS**

Dave Uttecht, South Dakota Pork Producers Association, paid tribute with a courtesy resolution to Steve Rommereim, thanking him for his work in the industry as a producer and as President of the National Pork Board.

**ALLOCATION OF
DELEGATES**

A motion was made by Iowa – need name – Sheets Second for the allocation of 173 delegates for the 2019 delegate meeting. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned Friday, March 8, 2019, at 11:45 a.m.