

# MINUTES

## NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS (PORK ACT) DELEGATE BODY

March 9-10, 2023 • Orlando, Florida

### CALL TO ORDER

President Heather Hill called the Annual meeting at 1:31 p.m. eastern on Thursday, March 9 in Orlando, Florida. Following the National Anthem, Board Members, delegates, importers, staff and friends of the industry were welcomed and introduced. President Hill also reviewed the AntiTrust Statement as well.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Heather Hill expressed her pleasure to serve on the board of directors for the past six years and honor to be President for the past nine months. She commented National Pork Board has executed the priorities and judiciously invested Checkoff dollars. The priorities for the National Pork Board include African Swine Fever, Sustainability, International Marketing, Real Pork and Human Nutrition.

### REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY

Bob Ruth, Vice President of the National Pork Board, presented the Recording Secretary report. The Bylaws say a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. For this annual meeting, USDA appointed 152 Pork Act Delegates from 40 states. The delegate count breaks out to include 147 U.S. pork producers and 5 importers. With 4 resignations, there are 148 recognized delegates for this meeting. Out of the 155 appointed delegates, 141 have been certified. This constitutes a majority of delegates and thus a quorum of members is present. The Bylaws also require the quorum of members to represent a majority of the shares. For this annual meeting, a total of 106,656 shares are possible. We have 104,731.5 shares registered, from 39 states, plus importers. This is more than 50 percent, and thus a majority of shares is present.

### SWEARING-IN

President Hill introduced USDA representative Maribel Reyna, 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 Hill 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 (Jan Archer, North Carolina; Alayne Johnson, Indiana; Derrick Sleezer, Iowa and Bob Ruth, Pennsylvania)
- Tellers (Headed by Stephen Herring)
- Parliamentarian (Carole Albright)
- Recorders (Deanna Boenau)
- National Pork Board Recording Secretary (Bob Ruth)
- Assistant Recording Secretary (Jerry Flint)

**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 Hill 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 Hill 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:** Bob Ruth, 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”. It reported having two advisements this year.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Gene Noem, Nominating Committee Chair, was called upon to review the nominating process. He introduced the following members of the Nominating Committee: Gaye Crowther, North Carolina; Gary Asay, Illinois; Conley Nelson, Iowa; Joel DeRouchey, Kansas; Joe Dykhuis, Michigan; Lukas Fricke, Nebraska. 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.

Noem 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.

Noem opened the floor for additional nominations for either Pork Board. There were no additional nominations offered from the floor and nominations closed.

## **PORK BOARD CANDIDATES**

Gene Noem introduced the candidates for Pork Board in alphabetical order: John Csukker, Nebraska; Dr. Seth Krantz, Tennessee; Don Laut, Jr., Missouri; Wynn Mayfield, Oregon; Dr. Gordon Spronk, Minnesota; Logan Thornton, Idaho; Daniel Tubbs, Alabama; Santiago Vasquez, North Carolina; Morgan Wonderly, California; Al Wulfekuhle, Iowa.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES**

President Hill introduced three candidates for the Nominating Committee. Those candidates include Marcus Belshe, Missouri; Heidi Flory, Pennsylvania; and Cathy Vaughan, Oklahoma. Hill opened the floor for nominations and reminded the delegates the candidates will serve a two-year term. President Hill thanked the candidates for coming forward to serve our industry.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Al Wulfekuhle, Treasurer, provided the Checkoff financial update. Wulfekuhle reported based on market forecasts at the time of budget adoption in September 2021, the Board approved a conservative 2022 budget of \$85.5 million in revenue and \$68 million in expenditures. He reported the National Pork Board evaluates its long-term financial position to provide consistent spending from year to year, despite fluctuations in revenue. Al reported the Board focuses on managing projects and programs to avoid market shifts that could impact our effectiveness. The Board also focuses on projects that can be completed and have a positive return on our investment in the industry.

He explained Checkoff revenue increased from 104.7 million in 2021 to 109.4 million in 2022. The Board adopted a 2023 budget with a conservative Checkoff revenue estimate of \$76 million and \$.5 million in additional short-term investment revenue. National spending increased \$14.1 million in 2022 compared with 2021. National spending represents projects deployed at the Pork Board over the course of a year, delivering real results to build confidence in our Checkoff results. In December 2022, working capital balance was \$63.4 million. After strategic planning and Board approval, \$37.6 million was designed for future projects not included in this budget. These designated funds will allow NPB to expand its 2023 budget to strategically execute the mission to promote U.S. pork, research to advance the industry and educate consumers and producers. President Hill reported as a legal part of the Act & Order, the Delegates recommend the Checkoff Assessment rate and the return to state percentage. No one came forward with any recommendations.

## RESOLUTIONS/ADVISEMENTS REPORT

Bob Ruth, Resolutions and AdviseMENTS Committee Chair, introduced members of the Committee who were present, including: Jan Archer; North Carolina; Derrick Sleezer, Iowa; and Alayne Johnson, Indiana.

Bob 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 resolutions were introduced:

### •A1 - 2023: - Management Oversight

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association and Minnesota Pork Board

MOTION: The National Pork Board should encourage pork producers to enroll in U.S. SHIP to utilize the AgView and Secure Pork Supply to comply with U.S. SHIP biosecurity and traceability standards.

### •A2: 2023 Management Oversight

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

**MOTION:** The National Pork Board is encouraged to develop and test new food frequency questionnaires and dietary evaluation tools that clearly isolate pork from red meat categories, to better understand impacts of pork on nutrition and health outcomes. The updates should be reported back to the proper task force and delegates at the 2024 Pork Forum.

## FLOOR ADVISEMENT

President Hill called for any floor resolutions or adviseMENTS. No further adviseMENTS or resolutions were brought forth from the floor. It was explained new adviseMENTS or resolutions from the floor require a 2/3 vote to be introduced and a 3/4 vote to pass.

She reminded the delegates an update on the 2022 adviseMENTS is available in the adviseMENT manual for review.

## **CEO REPORT**

Bill Even, CEO, provided a CEO report sharing stories from his family history and strong agriculture roots. He reminded the Delegates the importance and strong ties in family, faith and farming. He also discussed the State Pork Association Task Force reminding the Delegates at last years meeting, the Task Force was formed. He explained the intent is to enhance industry unity by aligning the states with proactive strategies that address the high-risk areas, better allocate our industry resources, and lead to more coordination amongst the states and with your national organizations. The Task Force will come to next year's meeting with their recommendation for review. He reminded the Delegates the Task Force is not about the money but how we go from good to better.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Hill adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

## **RECONVENE**

President Hill called the meeting to order at 10:54 a.m. on Friday, March 10, 2023

## **RESOLUTIONS/ ADVISEMENTS DEBATE**

President Hill asked any sponsor from yesterday if they wanted to withdraw and or join a resolution or advisement at this time. No one responded.

Bob Ruth introduced the following advisements/resolutions. He also provided a name correction for the sponsor of the advisement A1-2023 as the name of the sponsor is Minnesota Pork Board instead of Minnesota Pork

The following resolutions were introduced and approved:

### **•A1 - 2023: - Management Oversight – APPROVED**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association and Minnesota Pork Board

**MOTION:** The National Pork Board should encourage pork producers to enroll in U.S. SHIP to utilize the AgView and Secure Pork Supply to comply with U.S. SHIP biosecurity and traceability standards.

**A motion was made by an Iowa Delegate and seconded by a Minnesota Delegate. Motion Carried**

### **•A2: 2023 Management Oversight - APPROVED**

Submitted by: **Iowa Pork Producers Association**

**MOTION:** The National Pork Board is encouraged to develop and test new food frequency questionnaires and dietary evaluation tools that clearly isolate pork from red meat categories, to better understand impacts of pork on nutrition and health outcomes. The updates should be reported back to the proper task force and delegates at the 2024 Pork Forum.

**A motion was made by an Iowa Delegate made motion and Minnesota Delegate seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

## PORK BOARD BALLOT

Elections were held for the National Pork Board. Candidates on the ballot included: John Csukker, Nebraska; Dr. Seth Krantz, Tennessee; Don Laut, Jr., Missouri; Wynn Mayfield, Oregon; Dr. Gordon Spronk, Minnesota; Logan Thornton, Idaho; Daniel Tubbs, Alabama; Santiago Vasquez, North Carolina; Morgan Wonderly, California; Al Wulfekuhle, Iowa.

Results of the ballot, with 101,640.0 shares voted and 50,820.0 shares required for a majority.

	<u>Shares</u>
<b>Al Wulfekuhle, Iowa</b>	<b>86,760.61</b>
<b>Dr. Gordon Spronk, Minnesota</b>	<b>77,523.35</b>
<b>Morgan Wonderly, California</b>	<b>68,930.92</b>
<b>Santiago Vazquez, North Carolina</b>	<b>63,511.12</b>
<b>Stewart Leeth, Virginia</b>	<b>60,946.98</b>
<b>Dr. Seth Krantz, Tennessee</b>	<b>57,491.28</b>

## PORK BOARD 2<sup>nd</sup> BALLOT

A second ballot was held to rank the remaining four candidates. Total of delegate shares present and voted 80,244.1 with 40,122.05 shares necessary for a majority. Results of the second Pork Board ballot:

	<u>Shares</u>
<b>Don Laut, Jr., Missouri</b>	<b>62,063.34</b>
<b>Logan Thornton, Idaho</b>	<b>57,069.68</b>
<b>John Csukker, Nebraska</b>	<b>53,280.68</b>
<b>Daniel Tubbs, Alabama</b>	<b>43,279.06</b>

**President Hill called for a voice vote. Motion Carried.**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Elections were held for Pork Board Nominating Committee. Marcus Belshe, Missouri; Heidi Flory, Pennsylvania; Cathy Vaughan, Oklahoma. Heidi Flory and Cathy Vaughan will each serve a two-year term. Results of the Pork Board ballot:

	<u>Shares</u>
<b>Heidi Flory, Pennsylvania</b>	<b>78,814.17</b>
<b>Cathy Vaughan, Oklahoma</b>	<b>63,846.53</b>
<b>Marcus Belshe, Missouri</b>	<b>58,749.30</b>

Total of delegate shares present and voted 99,407 shares being voted and a majority of over 49,703.50 shares being required.

**President Hill called for a voice vote. Motion Carried**

## BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNITION

Tribute was paid to Heather Hill, Indiana, who is retiring from the Board along with outgoing Board Members. Those include Gene Noem, Iowa, as Past President; Heather Hill, Indiana; Deb Ballance, North Carolina; Scott Phillips, Missouri who concluded their seconded 3-year terms; Al Wulfekuhle, Iowa for his first 3-year term and Daniel Tubbs, Alabama for his one-year term. Heather Hill, outgoing president, Indiana, who will serve as immediate past president.

## COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Nick Tharp, paid tribute with a courtesy resolution to Heather Hill thanking her for her work in the industry as a producer and as President of the National Pork Board.

## ALLOCATION OF DELEGATES

A motion was made by a delegate from Iowa for the allocation of 172 delegates for the 2023 delegate meeting. Motion was seconded by a delegate from Iowa. Motion Carried.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned Friday, March 10, 2023, at 11:19 a.m. eastern.