

MINUTES

NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS (PORK ACT) DELEGATE BODY

March 6-7, 2024 • Chicago, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER

President Bob Ruth called the Annual meeting at 10:00 a.m. central on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 in Chicago, Illinois. Following the National Anthem, Board Members, delegates, importers, staff and friends from the industry were welcomed and introduced. President Ruth also reviewed the AntiTrust Statement.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bob Ruth expressed his pleasure and honor to serve on the board of directors for the past three years and as President. He 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

Al Wulfekuhle, 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, out of the 154 registered Delegates, 138 have been certified for this year's meeting. 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 82,461.5 shares are possible. We have 82,325.1 shares registered, from 38 states, plus importers. This is more than 50 percent, and thus a majority of shares are present.

SWEARING-IN

President Ruth introduced USDA representative Sarah Aswegan, 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 Ruth 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; Gene Noem, Iowa and Al Wulfekuhle, Iowa)
- Tellers (Headed by Stephen Herring)
- Parliamentarian (Carole Albright)
- Recorders (Denise Hinxman)
- National Pork Board Recording Secretary (Al Wulfekuhle)
- Assistant Recording Secretary (Alex Wibholm)

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 Ruth 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 Ruth 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: Al Wulfekuhle, 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 five advisements this year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Heather Hill, Nominating committee chair, was called upon to review the nominating process. She discussed the qualifications necessary to serve and how the Committee solicits, screens, interviews, evaluates, and recommends candidates for the National Pork Board, and the seats on the Nominating committee. She introduced the following members of the Nominating Committee: Joel DeRouchey, Kansas; Steve Brier, Missouri; Marcus Belshe, Missouri; Lukas Fricke, Nebraska.

Hill noted the committee recognizes diversity as 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.

Heather opened the floor for additional nominations. There were no additional nominations offered from the floor and nominations closed.

PORK BOARD CANDIDATES

Heather Hill introduced the candidates for Pork Board in alphabetical order: Pat Bane, Illinois; Heidi Flory, Pennsylvania; Jesse Heimer, Missouri; Dr. Seth Krantz, Tennessee; Kevin Rasmussen, Iowa; John Rauser, Montana; Dale Stevermer, Minnesota; Ryan Storm, South Dakota; Cathy Vaughan, Oklahoma. Dr. Roberto Eizmendi, Texas, has withdrawn his candidacy due to new career commitments. Heather thanked the state associations for supporting and encouraging these producer leaders during their run for the Board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

President Ruth introduced one candidate for the Nominating committee. The candidate includes Dr. Dustin Boler, Illinois. Ruth opened the floor for nominations and reminded the delegates the candidates will serve a two-year term. President Ruth thanked the Board and Nominating candidates for coming forward to serve our industry.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chad Groves, treasurer, provided the Checkoff financial update. Groves reported based on market forecasts at the time of budget adoption in September 2023, the Board approved a conservative 2024 budget of \$75 million in revenue and \$94.2 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. Chad 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.

The Board adopted a 2024 budget with a conservative estimate of \$73 million for Checkoff revenue and \$2 million in additional short-term investment revenue. In the event Checkoff revenue is higher than budgeted, we will work to responsibly deploy those additional dollars against projects to add value to the industry. In December 2023, working capital balance was \$53.6 million based on the organizations current, short-term assets and liabilities. The Board designated \$27.3 million to promote pork and help build demand, conduct research and educate consumers and producers. President Ruth 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

Al Wulfekuhle, 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.

Al 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 - 2024: - Market Demand**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board should invest time and Checkoff funds to move pork products through the retail channel as quickly as possible. This would include additional programs and activate with channel partners. National Pork Board will invest checkoff resources to initiate innovation and development of new pork products for consumers as quickly as possible. This program should enhance current programs in place.

- **A2: 2024: - Animal Welfare**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board is asked to encourage packers to include producer owner representatives and livestock hauler representatives in the process of setting any new delivery policy at plants. Packers should provide adequate parking and holding pens for scheduled loads to be unloaded in a timely manner and packers increase communication if a plant emergency occurs.

- **A3: 2024: - Nutrition**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board is asked to further develop and test new food frequency questionnaires and dietary evaluation tools that clearly isolate pork, to better understand impacts of pork on nutrition and health outcomes. The updates should be reported back to the NPB Board of Directors, the proper task force and delegates at the 2025 IPPA Annual Meeting.

- **A4: 2024: - Management Oversight**

Submitted by: Indiana Pork, Ohio Pork Council and Minnesota Pork Board

MOTION: The National Pork Board fully supports the recommendations of the State Pork Industry Task Force, approved November 28, 2023, and begins implementation of the checkoff related aspects of recommendations 1-4 listed below.

- **A5: 2024: - Swine Health**

Submitted by: Minnesota Pork Board

MOTION: The National Pork Board in collaboration with the National Pork Producers Council, shall continue to work towards establishing a clear, concise, and properly designed Foreign Animal Disease indemnity program that addresses current gaps in federal programs for Foreign Animal Disease responses.

FLOOR ADVISEMENT

President Ruth 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.

He reminded the delegates an update on the 2023 advisements is available in the advisement manual for review.

Delegates from Pennsylvania and Montana asked to be included in support of Advisement A4.

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. Bill discussed examples of things changing in our world we should pay attention to including global changes, pork production changes and what Checkoff is doing about it. He also discussed the need for unity in the pork industry to succeed going forward. He reported through good times and bad, it's important we stay the course and remain unified in our vision of building trust and adding value to our products. Bill also provided instruction to the Delegates to rank the industry priorities with review at World Pork Expo.

ADJOURNMENT

President Ruth adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

RECONVENE

President Ruth called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

RESOLUTIONS/ ADVISEMENTS DEBATE

President Ruth asked any sponsors if they wanted to withdraw and or join a resolution or advisement at this time. No one responded.

Al Wulfekuhle introduced the following advisements/resolutions. He also provided a name correction for the sponsor of the advisement A1-2024 as the name of the sponsor is Minnesota Pork Board instead of Minnesota Pork. The following resolutions were introduced:

- **A1 - 2024: - Market Demand – MOTION PASSED**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board should invest time and Checkoff funds to move pork products through the retail channel as quickly as possible. This would include additional programs and activate with channel partners. National Pork Board will invest checkoff resources to initiate innovation and development of new pork products for consumers as quickly as possible. This program should enhance current programs in place.

- **A2: 2024: - Animal Welfare – MOTION PASSED**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board is asked to encourage packers to include producer owner representatives and livestock hauler representatives in the process of setting any new delivery policy at plants. Packers should provide adequate parking and holding pens for scheduled loads to be unloaded in a timely manner and packers increase communication if a plant emergency occurs.

- **A3: 2024: - Nutrition – MOTION PASSED**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board is asked to further develop and test new food frequency questionnaires and dietary evaluation tools that clearly isolate pork, to better understand impacts of pork on nutrition and health outcomes. The updates should be reported back to the NPB Board of Directors, the proper task force and delegates at the 2025 IPPA Annual Meeting.

- **A4: 2024: - Management Oversight – MOTION PASSED**

Submitted by: Indiana Pork, Ohio Pork Council, Minnesota Pork Board, Pennsylvania Pork Producers and Montana pork Producers Council

MOTION: The National Pork Board fully supports the recommendations of the State Pork Industry Task Force, approved November 28, 2023, and begins implementation of the checkoff related aspects of recommendations 1-4 listed below.

• **A5: 2024: - Swine Health – MOTION PASSED**

Submitted by: Minnesota Pork Board

MOTION: The National Pork Board in collaboration with interested parties will work towards establishing a clear, concise, and properly designed Foreign Animal Disease indemnity program that addresses current gaps in federal programs for Foreign Animal Disease responses.

A Delegate from Ohio made a motion to strike “National Pork Producers Council” and add interested parties after in collaboration and also with continues. The motion was seconded by Pennsylvania Pork Council. Motion Carried.

PORK BOARD BALLOT

Our Bylaws and the Pork Act require that nominations to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture be by a majority vote of shares cast by members present and voting. Results of the ballot, with 81,400.3 shares voted and 40,700.15 shares required for a majority.

	<u>Shares</u>
Jesse Heimer, Missouri	69,280.42
Dale Stevermer, Minnesota	54,684.69
Pat Bane, Illinois	51,995.51
Kevin Rasmussen, Iowa	49,588.43
Cathy Vaughan, Oklahoma	46,026.23
Dr. Seth Krantz, Tennessee	45,277.83

**PORK BOARD
2ⁿ BALLOT**

A second ballot was held to rank the remaining candidates. Total of delegate shares present and voted 71,800.4 with 35,900.2 shares necessary for a majority. Results of the second Pork Board ballot:

	<u>Shares</u>
Heidi Flory, Pennsylvania	55,087.03
John Rauser, Montana	47,491.03
Ryan Storm, South Dakota	41,022.73

President Ruth called for a voice vote. Motion Carried.

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Elections were held for Pork Board Nominating Committee. Dr. Dustin Boler, IL will serve a two-year term on the committee. **President Ruth called for a voice vote. Motion Carried**

**BOARD MEMBERS
RECOGNITION**

Tribute was paid to Bob Ruth, Pennsylvania, who is retiring from the Board along with outgoing Board Members. Those Board Members include Pat Bane, Illinois; Rich Deaton, Ohio; Denise Mason, North Carolina; Dale Stevermer, Minnesota and Heather Hill, Indiana. Bob explained Heather is rolling off the Board as ex-officio as immediate past president and Dale and Pat finished their first term.

**COURTESY
RESOLUTIONS**

Ben Barkovich, delegate from Pennsylvania, paid tribute with a courtesy resolution to Bob Ruth thanking him for his work in the industry as president and board member of the National Pork Board.

**ALLOCATION OF
DELEGATES**

A motion was made by a delegate from Iowa for the allocation of 173 delegates for the 2025 delegate meeting. Motion was seconded by a delegate from Minnesota. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 9:40 a.m. central by a producer from Iowa. A motion was seconded by a producer from Nebraska. Motion Carried.