

--DRAFT PENDING SUB-COMMITTEE APPROVAL--

**WISCONSIN DAIRY TASK FORCE 2.0
SUB-COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO CAPITAL
MINUTES**

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March 8, 2019

The Access to Capital sub-committee of the Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0 met on Friday, March 8, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference, based at DATCP, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53708 in Room 456.

Call to Order

Chair Bradley Guse called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members Present

Members present included: Paul Scharfman, Bradley Guse, Darin Von Ruden, Don Hamm, and Jon Accola. Dairy Task Force 2.0 Chair Mark Stephenson and DATCP staff Ashley Andre also attended.

Minutes

Approve minutes of last meeting

Chair Guse asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Darin Von Ruden made a motion. Jon Accola seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Consider recommendations

Chair Guse gave an overview of our work today; to review and vote on four recommendations. He began by introducing recommendation #18, the need to clarify requirements to beginning farmer programs through the USDA Farm Service Agency and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. He noted that since our last discussion, he added processor start-ups as well.

Mr. Accola pointed out the recommendation was broad and wondered how it would move forward. The group discussed some of the differences in how the FSA programs would need to change on the federal side and how WHEDA changes would need to happen in the state.

Paul Scharfman made a motion to move the recommendation forward. Mr. Von Ruden seconded. The group approved the motion.

Chair Guse introduced recommendation #19, access to capital for emerging technology. The recommended solution includes a proposal for the Nutrient Environmental Technology Program. He noted that it should also be available for processors.

Chair Guse noted that this might fit in well with the Governor's 'Year of Clean Drinking Water' or the Speaker's Water Quality Task Force. There is also a connection to regulatory certainty.

Mr. Accola suggested that the group might consider changing the name to help people better understand what it is. Mr. Guse agreed that that might be something to address when this recommendation is presented at the full meeting.

Mr. Accola made a motion to move recommendation #19 forward as written. Mr. Hamm seconded. The group approved.

Mr. Accola introduced recommendation #20, supporting creation of a Farm Savings Account. He questioned if we should move the recommendation since it may be low priority compared to other recommendations and may not solve any immediate issues.

Mr. Guse added that it may be helpful on the long term with market volatility and is still worth pursuing. Chair Stephenson noted that this would need to be created on the federal side. This recommendation would show others that there is some support on the countryside for this type of idea. It does not harm to recommend it.

Mr. Hamm noted that it might take a long time to create so even if we recommend it now, it may not be put in place for years. Mr. Von Ruden moved to forward this recommendation forward to the full Task Force. Mr. Hamm seconded. The group approved.

Chair Guse introduced recommendation #53, supporting the Access to Better Credit Act proposed by the Wisconsin Bankers Association. Mr. Accola added that it would be helpful to put numbers to it about what the benefit would be to producers, but it is hard to do. Chair Guse shared his concern for if banks would tighten the reins and quit ag lending.

Mr. Accola asked if a statement could be added about how this will help level the playing field between institutions. Mr. Guse suggested this addition to the end of the problem statement, "In addition, this levels the playing field between lending institutions in the ag space."

Mr. Accola noted that would be helpful. Ashley Andre will make that change.

Mr. Hamm made a motion to move the recommendation forward with the change noted. Mr. Accola seconded. The motion passed.

Identify next steps

Chair Guse asked for any other discussion or recommendations. He thanked the group for their work and shared his appreciation for their collaboration and time.

Adjournment

The sub-committee adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Minutes drafted by Ashley Andre.