

**IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Idaho Barley Commission Research Review Board Meeting**

**Thursday, February 20, 2025, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Hampton Inn – Boise Room**  
495 South Capital Blvd, Boise, ID 82702

**Friday, February 21, 2025, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Idaho Barley Commission Office Conference Room**  
314 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Boise, ID 83702

**Thursday, February 20**

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Allen Young called the IBC Research Review Meeting to Order 8:04 am at the Hampton Inn in Boise.

**IBC Attendees included:**

**Allen Young**, Chairman and District III Commissioner  
**Lucas Spratling**, Vice Chairman and District II Commissioner  
**Josh Jones**, District I Commissioner  
**JC Olson**, Industry Representative  
**Laura Wilder**, Executive Director  
**Wren Hernandez**, Office Manager  
**Sydney Anderson**, Communications and Program Manager

**Guests Attending:**

**Dr. Juliet Marshall**, University of Idaho, Associate Director of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station and Endowed Research Professor, Cereals Pathology and Agronomy  
**Dr. Jared Spackman**, University of Idaho Assistant Professor, Extension Specialist, IBC Endowed Barley Agronomist  
**Margaret Kraus**, University of Oregon, Assistant Professor, Wheat and Barley Breeder  
**Guy Allen**, Senior Economist, International Grains Program, Kansas State University (Via Zoom)  
**Amaya Aguirre-Landa**, Idaho Grain Producers Association, Executive Director  
**Justin Place**, Idaho Grain Producers Association, Executive Board  
**Larry Hollifield**, Idaho Grain Producers Association Executive Board  
**Jeff Hood**, Idaho Grain Producers Association Executive Board  
**Sara Nichols**, Union Pacific Railroad, Marketing & Sales Manager, Bulk Products (Via Zoom)  
**Leslie Biehl**, Union Pacific Railroad, Marketing & Sales Food & Beverage Marketing Director (Via Zoom)

**Approval of Agenda:**

JC Olson moved to approve agenda as posted. Josh Jones seconded. Motion passed.

**Industry Updates:**

Laura Wilder, Executive Director reported that Idaho barley production in total bushels was down 8 percent at 55,590,000 bushels in 2024 compared to 60,480,000 for 2023 according to USDA NASS data. 2024 Idaho planted barley acres were 530,000, and harvested acres were 510,000. Average Idaho yield was 109 bushels per acre in 2024 compared to 112 in 2023. 2024 U.S. production was down 23 percent compared to 2023 at 186,127,000 total bushels. Early estimates anticipate Idaho malt barley contracting could be down 10-20 percent for 2025 due to stocks on hand and flat to decreasing beer sales. In addition, industry reports indicate Great Western Malting is slowing production at their Vancouver, WA malt facility, impacting north Idaho barley acres. She also reported that both Heineken and Constellation Brands from Mexico may be interested in increased contracted acres in 2026. Josh Jones added that McKay Seed Company is ramping up their food barley program in north Idaho again. JC Olson has been speaking with Guy Allen, Kansas State University Senior Economist International Grains Program, to possibly work with IBC to evaluate potential new markets. Olson also has been in contact with Sara Nichols, Union Pacific Railroad Marketing & Sales Manager, and Leslie Biehl, Union Pacific Railroad Marketing & Sales Food & Beverage to work with on rail transportation to help make Idaho barley more competitive, especially for sales into Mexico.

**World Barley Outlook and Barley Market Reporting Proposal:**

Guy Allen, Senior Economist for the International Grains Program at Kansas State University Guy Allen presented examples of the data that he can collect and analyze on global barley markets for IBC that would and would not be beneficial for Idaho Barley. The cost of this specialized Global Barley Market Report would be \$4800 on an annual basis.

**Idaho Grain Producers Association Report and Updates:**

IGPA Executive Director Amaya Aguirre-Landa reported that IGPA held district meetings in December and a membership drive in January. She discussed the expected biggest topics for the 2025 Idaho legislative session will be immigration and labor, and a new bill for E-verify. In addition, she said there will be a proposed amendment for the Idaho Right to Farm Act, providing protection for farmers. Aguirre-Landa also reported on hill visits in Washington DC while attending the February National Barley Growers Association (NBGA) meeting. She noted that Senator Crapo was the only congressman to meet with the group in person. All other Idaho office visits were with congressional staffers. She added that IGPA took 3 BILOTS to Washington DC for the NBGA meeting.

**Discussion on Future of Convention:**

Aguirre-Landa outlined plans for the 2025 joint convention with Oregon Grain Producers Association in Sun Valley in November which will be held in place of the previous Tri-State Convention with Idaho, Oregon and Washington because Washington wanted to keep the convention in Coeur d' Alene and was not willing to attend a convention in Southern Idaho. The 2025 Idaho-Oregon Convention was originally planned to be held in Pendleton, OR, but the facility's construction will not be completed in time. The facility there may be ready for the 2027 Convention. Washington agreed to host the 2026 convention but does not have a facility reserved yet. IGPA is handling the convention planning and logistics in coordination with Oregon.

**Discussion on planning for potential changes to IBC statute:**

In following up on the earlier recommendation by the IBC board on investigating opening the IBC statute to raise the cap on the Idaho barley assessment rate to allow for future needs, Wilder asked IGPA for recommendations on next steps to start the conversation and begin the statute process. Larry Hollifield suggested we should take some time to educate Idaho barley farmers about what IBC does to help growers and how responsible IBC is with the assessment dollars received with the goal to take this to the legislature in 2027. Hollifield recommended creating a historical timeline of increases to the Idaho barley assessment and IBC opening their books to show the need for raising the assessment cap. It was also suggested to invite Idaho Farm Bureau CEO Zak Miller into this discussion once a goal and an anticipated timeline were laid out.

**University of Idaho CALS/Research Update:**

Dr. Juliet Marshall, Associate Director of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station and Endowed Research Professor, Cereals Pathology and Agronomy reported on updates and highlights for the UI College for Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). She noted that Dr. Mark McGuire, previous Director of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station had left that position and is back to a primarily teaching only role in the College of Animal, Veterinary and Food Sciences on campus. Dr. Matt Howell has been hired in the interim position but will most likely be named to the full-time position. She added that UI reached Carnegie R1 status February 2025. The R1 designation is a symbol of top-tier research excellence, recognizing institutions that have made significant contributions to knowledge through their research and development activities. The R1 designation has implications for an institutions reputation and recruitment potential, funding opportunities, and the quality of its academic programs, especially in research-intensive fields. She also reported that the J.R. Simplot Company donated \$5 million to endow the CALS Dean's position and this gift is expected to help attract top candidates for the impending vacancy as current CALS Dean Michael Parella retire in June.

**Rail Discussion with Union Pacific Railroad:**

Sara Nichols, Marketing & Sales Manager, Bulk Products and Leslie Biehl, Marketing & Sales Food & Beverage Marketing Director for Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Nebraska joined the meeting via Zoom at the invitation of IBC Industry Representative JC Olson. Nicols and Biehl covered an introduction to Union Pacific Railroad and how Class 1 railroads operate, as well as what factors impact rail rates including rail rates and service to Mexico. UP is currently the only railroad that has access to all Mexico gateways. Olson will continue the discussion with Nichols and Biehl to get more information on pricing and potential avenues to help Idaho export barley to Mexico at more competitive rates.

**Research Review Proposals and Reports FY2026:**

Laura Wilder led the review of all research proposals and reports submitted to IBC for funding. (See full list on attached approved research budget.)

The meeting was recessed for the day at 4:58 pm.

**Reconvene Meeting:**

The meeting was reconvened at 8:00 am on February 21 at the Idaho Barley Commission office conference room in Boise.

**IBC Meeting and Program Reports:**

**National Barley Growers Association Meeting:**

Josh Jones reported on NBGA organizational update work, including an overhaul of the NBGA By-Laws. He also discussed NBGA work toward an industry sustainability statement, including continued involvement with the Farm to Market platform. He noted that he had put his name forward to run for NBGA Vice President at the summer meeting in June in Golden, CO.

**U.S. Grain Council International Marketing Conference:**

Laura Wilder reported on the recent U.S. Grains Council International Marketing Conference in Austin, TX and USGC barley program highlights. She noted that USGC is making headway on a barley sustainability profile in coordination with NBGA. In addition, USGC continues to build confidence in U.S. barley with Heineken in Mexico with the goal to see increased U.S. contracting for 2026. Also, USGC is looking at potential barley markets in SE Asia and continues working with Mexico Craft Brewers toward more U.S. malt purchases. She also discussed USGC plans to present an organization name change at the summer meeting to U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council (USGBC). The proposed name change would help the organization maintain relevance and expand its vision.

**National Barley Improvement Committee:**

Lucas Spratling reported on the upcoming March NBIC meeting and educational efforts in Washington DC in support of federal funding for barley related research. He explained that NBIC's priority asks are to establish and begin to fund towards an \$8 million goal for the Resilient Barley Initiative which strengthens research capacity and collaboration to address increased resiliency of the barley crop through improved genetics and management; and hopefully a funding increase for FY25 to reach \$5.3 million annually for the Barley Pest Initiative which addresses over twenty major insect, viral, bacterial, and fungal threats to the production of high-quality barley.

**Cereal Schools:**

Sydney Anderson reported that there was great attendance at the northern Idaho Cereal Schools. She also reported on the University of Idaho's first combined Cereal School for eastern Idaho in Fort Hall. Tickets sold out and there had to be space added. There was great attendance, with 304 participants and 20 vendors. The one day event structure will continue next year.

**Barley Yield Contest Results and 2025 Plans:**

Anderson reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Idaho Barley Yield Contest was a success. The winners were announced at the eastern Idaho Cereal School in Fort Hall and enjoyed being recognized in front of their peers. The winners were presented with plaques, hats and their prize winnings. The top prize in each division was a trip for two to the 2025 Commodity Classic in Denver, Colorado. Two of the three winners were unable to go, so they were given a check for \$2,500 each. \$28,000 in sponsorships was received for

this inaugural year. After all expenses, there is approximately \$10,000 in a reserve fund for next year. Olson suggested that a malt category could be added in the future.

### **IBC Financial and Administrative Reports and Approvals:**

#### **Calendar/Travel Authorizations:**

JC Olson moved to approve the IBC calendar with travel authorizations as presented. Lucas Spratling seconded the motion. Motion passed. (See attached calendar.)

#### **Review Current Financial Reports:**

Lucas Spratling moved to approve all financial reports as presented. Josh Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **Review Other Funding Requests:**

The board then reviewed other funding proposals submitted:

- RMI 2025 Brewing & Distilling North America Supply Chain Summit June 18-19 Denver, CO. No action was taken on sponsorship but IBC will participate through attendance.
- Idaho Botanical Garden Shade City Brewfest. No action was taken on sponsorship. It was noted that this is not a good fit with the strategic plan.
- City of Caldwell and Indian Creek various events. No action was taken.
- Lemhi County Ag Days. No action was taken on sponsorship but may participate with materials.
- East Idaho Cereal Conference 2026

Lucas Spratling moved to approve the requested increase for event support to \$3,500 for the East Idaho Cereal Conference 2026. Josh Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **Review FY2024-25 Budget YTD and make any adjustments:**

Josh Jones moved to approve deducting \$9000 from Gongshe Hu for Barley Breeder due to Gongshe not needing the full amount budgeted. Lucas Spratling seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Josh Jones moved to approve \$2500 for Guy Allen to start on a World Barley Outlook and Barley Market Reporting. Lucas Spratling seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **FY2026 Research Funding:**

Research Budget was discussed and set. Josh Jones moved to approve the FY2026 Research Budget as discussed. Lucas Spratling seconded the motion. Motion passed. (See attached FY2025-2026 IBC Research Budget)

#### **Review June 2-4 Budget Meeting Details and Set Fall Board Meeting**

June 3-4 Budget Meeting-Boise

November 17-20 2025 Idaho and Oregon Grain Growers Convention-Sun Valley

#### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

Lucas Spratling moved to approve November 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Josh Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

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**Allen Young, Chairman**

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**Date**

**IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 20-21, 2025**

**MOTIONS and BOARD ACTION**

1. JC Olson moved to approve Agenda as posted. Josh Jones seconded. Motion passed
2. JC Olson moved to approve the IBC calendar with travel authorizations as presented. Lucas Spratling seconded the motion. Motion passed. (See attached calendar.)
3. Lucas Spratling moved to approve all financial reports as presented. Josh Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.
4. Josh Jones moved to approve deducting \$9000 from Gongshe Hu for Barley Breeder due to Gongshe not needing the full amount budgeted. Lucas Spratling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. Josh Jones moved to approve \$2500 for Guy Allen to start on a World Barley Outlook and Barley Market Reporting. Lucas Spratling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
6. Josh Jones moved to approve the FY2026 Research Budget as discussed. Lucas Spratling seconded the motion. Motion passed.  
(See attached FY2025-2026 IBC Research Budget)
7. Lucas Spratling moved to approve November 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Josh Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**IBC Calendar of Meetings and Events**

- March 2-5**                    **National Barley Improvement Committee – Washington DC**  
(Lucas, JC, Laura)  
*Approved at October 1, 2024 IBC Special Meeting*
- June 2-4**                    **IBC Annual Budget Meeting – Boise** (All board and staff)  
Details TBD  
June 2 – Travel to Boise and Board Dinner  
June 3 – Full Day Meeting and Board Dinner  
June 4 – ½ Day Meeting and Travel Home
- June 17-19**                **National Barley Growers Association Summer Meeting – Golden, CO**  
*In coordination with June 18 AMBA Meeting and RMI Meeting*  
(Josh, Laura) *Approved 2/21/25*
- June 18-19**                **RMI 2025 Regional Congress – Denver, CO**  
*Brewing & Distilling Supply Chain Congress – connecting leaders across*  
*Malt, Barley, Hops, Cans, and Bottling for a Comprehensive Regional*  
*Dialogue – NEW U.S. Event – Currently held biannually in Europe*  
(Laura, Josh) *Approved 2/21/25*
- July TBD**                    **UI Research Field Days and Grower Days**
- July 15-17**                **North American Barley Researchers Workshop – Pullman, WA**  
(Josh) *Approved 2/21/25*
- July 30 – August 1**        **US Grains Council Annual Board of Delegates Meeting – Grand**  
Rapids, MI (Allen, JC, Laura) *Approved 2/21/25*
- 2026**
- February 11-13**            **US Grains Council International Marketing Conference and**  
**Membership Meeting – Panama City, Panama**  
(Allen, JC, Laura) *Approved 2/21/25*
- 2027**
- February 11-13**            **US Grains Council International Marketing Conference and**  
**Membership Meeting – Panama City, Panama**
- July 30 – August 1**        **US Grains Council Annual Board of Delegates Meeting – Grand**  
Rapids, MI