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The Idaho Potato Commission met at the Eagle, ID office, on March 27, 2024. This meeting was also held by video conference.

Paul Saito, Chairman

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bryan Wada  
Eric Jemmett  
Brett Jensen  
Daren Bitter  
Mark Darrington  
Mike Telford  
Jamey Higham, President/CEO  
Sam Eaton, VP Legal/Government Affairs  
Travis Blacker, VP Industry Relations  
Alan Kahn, VP Foodservice  
Jamie Bowen, Marketing Director  
Dusti Zimmerman, Legal/Finance Assistant  
Jeweldean Hull, Managing Director

**EXCUSED MEMBERS:** Brian Jones

**VISITORS:** Laura Martin, Doug Jones

**VIDEO CONFERENCE:** Kim Brēshears, Shawn Boyle, Jessica Stampe, Cammron Hammond

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m., with Chairman Saito presiding. He welcomed everyone and went over the anti-trust agreement.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bitter made a motion to approve the January 23, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Darrington seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



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**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Higham discussed receipts and expenditures for the February financials. For the month of February, Fresh revenue is at \$357k, up \$15k compared to last year. Processed is at \$625k, down \$418k. Total for the month of February is \$982k, down \$402k compared to last year. Year-to-date for Fresh is up \$1.8 mil compared to last year and Processed is up \$1.4 mil. compared to the previous year. Total Year-to-date for Fresh and Processed is up \$3.2 mil. Expenditures for the month of February are \$862k vs \$1.2 mil budget. Currently the reserve is \$3.1 mil. Chairman Saito asked for a motion to approve the February financials as presented if there were no further questions.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Darrington made a motion to approve the February financials. Commissioner Jemmett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE:** Chairman Saito called upon Mr. Eaton, who presented the following: A) Sponsorships/Donation Bill; B) Pesticide Bill will not go through; C) Commissioner Training; D) Open Meeting Law 74-201; E) Reimbursement & Travel Policy for IPC Commissioners and Staff.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Higham reported the following: A) April 24 IPC Meeting Cancelled; B) Legislative Dinner Recap & Discussion; C) Washington Potato Summit Feedback; D) June IPC Meeting TBD; F) Website Update; G) Old Business: Russet Burbank Follow up with Mike Telford; New Business: BIPT is on way to Hawaii.

**RESEARCH & EDUCATION:** Commissioner Jemmett turned time over to Mr. Blacker who reported on the Research and Education Budget proposal and motion.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jemmett made a motion to approve the \$649,217 Consortium Funds and \$233,629 of Idaho Only Projects with a total R&E Budget of \$882,846. Commissioner Bitter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**LIASON REPORTS:**

**POTATOES USA:** Commissioner Bitter turned time over to Kim Breshears who reported on the following: A) Shelly Olsen, new Chairperson; B) Board appointments have not been made; C) Committee Structure is new; D) "Dirty Dozen" Potatoes were not on the top 10 list, but #22 and have been off over 10 years now; E) Exports are up in Mexico; F) Japan update with "Fresh Table Stock" as first potatoes they have to conduct an audit on; G) Consumer Attitudes, 8<sup>th</sup> year potatoes are America's Favorite Vegetable.

**IACI:** Commissioner Saito turned the time over to John Eaton who reported on the



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following: A) Legislative Session ended in Idaho & appropriation of bills; B) Tax Cut Bill & School Funding Bill; D) Income Tax, Corporate Tax updates; E) Pesticide Bill and Round up lawsuits.

**SIPCO:** Commissioner Darrington turned time over to Patxi who reported on the following: A) Contracts negotiated in early December with Lamb Weston, McCain, and Simplot; B) 3 Approved contacts with processors after reviewing and negotiating with growers; C) Auto grader technology and presentation March 6 at the Burley Inn that went over new grading abilities.

**Other Items:**

**Washington Potato Summit Leaf Program:** Commissioner Telford went over leadership program and the need for younger generations given the anti-Ag sentiment in the state is increasing.

**Doug Jones:** Political problem with Ag support and very little Ag representation in the legislative.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.**