

**Potatoes USA  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 5, 2026  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Recorded by: Chelsea Gray**

**Welcome**

Chairman Steve Elfering called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM MT and thanked everyone for joining.

**Antitrust Statement**

All attendees acknowledged and accepted the antitrust policy statement. A copy of the Antitrust Policy Statement was also provided to attendees before meetings on BoardEffect.

**Roll Call and Introductions**

Executive Committee members present online included Steve Elfering, Nathan Bender, Kathy Sponheim, Cliff Shaw, Jess Blatchford, Wendy Dykstra, David Masser, Travis Meacham, and Hunter Gibbs. Shelley Olsen, ex officio, was also present.

Steve Elfering acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Potatoes USA staff members Blair Richardson and Chelsea Gray were present online. Katie Cook from USDA-AMS was also present online.

**Minutes Approval**

A **MOTION** was made by Travis Meacham and was seconded to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting held on January 5, 2026. There was no discussion, and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

Copies of the meeting minutes were emailed to attendees before the meeting and made available for Executive Committee members to view via BoardEffect.

**USDA Update**

Katie Cook reported that nomination packages are still being delayed, and USDA is unsure if Potatoes USA appointments will be made before the Spring Meeting.

**CEO Report**

Blair Richardson shared a suggested plan of action should the new board members not receive their appointments before the Spring Meeting scheduled for March 9-11, 2026.

**Admin Report**

Chelsea Gray shared the schedule for the 2026 Spring Meeting, noting changes from the previous year.

**Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**Closed Session**

There was no need for closed session.

**New Business: Board Member Appointments**

The Executive Committee set Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, as a decision deadline for the potential new board members' attendance at the 2026 Spring Meeting. If appointments are not made by this date, all nominees will need to attend the meeting virtually, based on upcoming hotel room and flight booking deadlines. Any potato industry members who are not on the U.S. Potato Board at the time of the meeting may attend in person at their own expense.

A **MOTION** was made by Jess Blatchford and seconded, noting the following actions if appointments have not been made by Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>:

- Committee assignments will remain as they are until appointments are made
- Proceed with nominating the new chairperson and ex officio at the Spring Meeting
- New board member nominees attend the 2026 Spring Meeting virtually regardless of nomination status

**Adjourn**


Chairman Steve Elfering adjourned the meeting at 8:38 AM MT.

---

Approved by:

Signed by:  
  
558359CD8E6F40C...  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman

4/14/2026  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

DocuSigned by:  
  
7DC784A9938144E...  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretary/Treasurer

4/14/2026  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date