

**Potatoes USA  
Spring Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
The Hilton Inverness, Denver, Colorado  
Recorded by: Chelsea Gray**

**Welcome**

Chairman Steve Elfering called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 included Steve Elfering, Nathan Bender, Kathy Sponheim, Cliff Shaw, Jess Blatchford, Wendy Dykstra, David Masser, Travis Meacham, Trever Belnap, and Hunter Gibbs. Shelley Olsen, ex officio, was also present.

Steve Elfering acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Potatoes USA staff members Blair Richardson, Chelsea Gray, Kim Breshears, Megan Mulcahy, Monica Heath, Marisa Stein, Kayla Vogel, Tim Rendall, John Lundeen, Riley Peterson, Annelise McAuliffe Soares, Martin von Ruden, Nick Bartelme, and RJ Harvey were present. Katie Cook from USDA-AMS was also present.

**Minutes Approval**

A **MOTION** was made by Jess Blatchford and was seconded to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 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.

**Regional Reports**

The Executive Committee members shared reports from their regions related to the current potato crop.

**CEO Report**

Blair Richardson shared his recent and upcoming travel schedule. A **MOTION** was made by Travis Meacham and seconded to approve Blair's travel schedule as presented. There was no discussion, and the motion passed.

Mr. Richardson announced a general suspension, effective until further notice, on any Potatoes USA staff or board travel to Mexico or the Middle East, given recent geopolitical events.

Mr. Richardson shared an update on the Seed to Table project and potential office expansion. The RFP for the feasibility study will be sent out by the end of March. The staff plan to report back the findings of the feasibility study by the 2027 Spring Meeting.

The Executive Committee discussed exports of potato seed to countries and regions with market potential for other potato exports, such as fresh or processed potatoes. The group agreed to discuss the topic with the full board during the Spring Meeting on Wednesday.

### **Program Reports**

The following staff members provided reports to the Executive Committee:

Tim Rendall and John Lundeen- Production Research  
Monica Heath- Finance and Policy  
Riley Peterson- Nutrition and Health  
Kim Breshears- Market Development  
Kayla Vogel- Market Development, Consumer  
Nick Bartelme- Market Development, Retail  
Marisa Stein- Market Development, Foodservice  
Meg Mulcahy- Communications  
RJ Harvey-Culinary

No action was taken during the reports.

### **Administrative Update**

Chelsea Gray shared upcoming meeting dates, including the Colorado Grower Outreach Trip and Executive Committee meeting from June 15-18, and the 2026 Summer Meeting from July 20-22 in Detroit, Michigan.

### **USDA Update**

Katie Cook reported that the 2026-2027 board member nominations are still with the Secretary and have not yet been approved.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Closed Session**

At 11:05 AM a **MOTION** was made by Travis Meacham and seconded to go into closed session. The motion passed, and the Executive Committee went into a closed session. At 11:36 AM the committee returned to open session. No action was taken during the closed session.

### **Adjourn**

Chairman Steve Elfering adjourned the meeting at 11:36 AM MT.

Approved by:

Signed by:  
*David Masser*  
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Chairman

4/29/2026  
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Date

DocuSigned by:  
*Wendy Dykstra*  
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Secretary/Treasurer

5/6/2026  
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Date