



Assessment Steering Committee

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. PT

Videoconference

Tom Bodtke, Chair, presiding

MINUTES

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Tom Bodtke on Tuesday, August 26 at 12:03 p.m. PT.

Committee Members Present: Tom Bodtke, Denny Vander Kooi, Andres Armstrong, Gunnar Avinelis, Brittany Lee, Jody McPherson, Brandon Raso, Luis Miguel Vegas and Bryan Sakuma, USHBC Chair

Committee Members Absent: Shelly Hartmann, Ellie Norris, Paul Sangha, Brandon Wade

USDA/AMS Representative: Sarah Richardson

Guests: Dan Barber, Miguel Bentin, and Teddy Koukoulis, NABC Chair

Staff Members Present: Kasey Cronquist, Amanda Griffin, Melinda Kern and Shaun Rundle

QUORUM PRESENT

Approval of Agenda

ACTION 2: Motion made to approve the agenda for Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairs Comments

Chair Tom Bodtke opened by sharing the passing of Brad Moorer and thanked everyone for outreach efforts regarding the assessment. USHBC Chair Bryan Sakuma echoed the gratitude of moving the needle in the right direction.

Region Check-In

Tom Bodtke invited each member to share an update from their region.

The committee shared overall regional sentiments and acknowledged that growers are generally supportive of an assessment increase. Some concerns were expressed about funding expenditure categories and ongoing federal tariffs. Committee members continue to meet and engage in conversation with growers.

Timeline and Next Steps

Bodtke asked Kasey Cronquist to share an overview of next steps and timeline, which includes finalizing a recommendation at the next meeting to be presented to the Council at the October Convention in Seattle. The Council would have time for questions and discussion with a vote at a later meeting in late October.

Items and Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 2nd at 9:30 a.m. PT.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. PT on Tuesday, August 26, 2025.