**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**October 5, 2021**

**Bay City, Michigan**

Those Present:

District #1 Kevin Noffsinger, Chair

District #2 Ted Bauer, Treasurer

District #3 Greg Ackerman

District #4

District #5 Allen Bischer

District #6 Ross Voelker

District #7 Jessica Rader

At Large Steve Ewald, Vice-Chair

Shipper Representative Neil French

Executive Secretary Joe Cramer

Those Absent:

District #1

District #2

District #3

District #4 Clint Stoutenburg

District #5

District #6

District #7

At Large

Shipper Representative

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist

Erica Gremel District 3 Nominee

Chairman Noffsinger called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. Kevin thanked the group for meeting on such short notice. He introduced District 3 nominee Erica Gremel and thanked her for attending.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** With no additions, a motion was made by French to approve the agenda as presented. Voelker supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from the August 17, 2021 Commission meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Bischer with support from Rader to approve the minutes as presented. ***Motion passed.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: Cramer presented unaudited MBC and PRAB FY 2020-2021 P&L reports including budget comparisons. Cramer highlighted revenue and expense line items as compared to budget. A brief discussion followed. A motion was made by Voelker to accept the report as presented. French supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**MDARD UPDATE**

* Cramer noted that the MBC currently has two SCBG applications pending approval this month.
* Cramer explained the MDARD 2021 Dry Bean Stocks Report and shared the same report from the North Dakota Public Service Commission.
* Commission Ewald updated Commissioners on the Farm Produce Insurance Authority noting two open issues currently (Chelsea Grain and Pipeline Foods). There was some discussion as to how the FPIA provides coverage for out of state failures. Cramer and Ewald will follow up.

**MBS UPDATE – Neil French, Shipper Representative**

* MEXICO – trade into Mexico is slow, flat. Current pinto bean prices have met resistance. Black bean prices have limited new business. Navy bean and black beans continue to ship.
* EU – Canada continues to be strong in the EU as a result of the retaliatory tariffs still in place.
* USA – contracted beans are shipping but not as strong as a year ago when started harvest almost empty. 2020 crop inventory seems deep enough to get canners through the end of the year.
* Harvest
  + roughly 95% complete. Remainder seems to be in the eastern part of the Thumb, northern Michigan and some re-planted acreage in the colored bean region of the state.
  + Grower selling was very heavy given good yields and posted board prices. French noted that he had very few growers that chose to store.
  + French noted that landlords with “share” type rent agreements sold their share as well garnering over $400 per acre in several cases.
* French gave special recognition to grower Dennis Hadaway. During a recent visit with representatives from Bush Bros. Hadaway thanks Bush Bros. for all they do for the Michigan Industry.
* It was noted that yields in general were good but not everyone enjoyed such success. Acreage in the colored bean production region was hit hard by water damage early in the growing season and never recovered. Ackerman pointed out the importance of this region to the state. We aren’t just a black, navy and small red state and that adds value for all of us. We need successful colored bean growers in Michigan.

**DRY BEAN SPECIALIST REPORT – Scott Bales**

* Bales noted that harvest went very well. He was able to get everything harvested with minimal disruption noting somewhat unusual consistency across the plots.
* Attendance at the last August – early September field day and plot tours seem higher than usual.
* Bales share preliminary research data briefly discussing a couple of varieties that seemed to stand out - or didn’t. A short discussion followed.
* Cramer and Ackerman complimented Bales on his attention to detail throughout the growing season and at each plot tour.
* Cramer and Bales are planning 3 rather than 4 Dry Bean Production and Outlook meetings for the week of December 6th noting how hard it is for researchers to commit to several presentation on consecutive days.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Grapp Lerash doesn’t intend to continue to do audits that require them to be audited by the federal government so Cramer will begin the process of identifying firms that may offer this service.
* Cramer updated the group on nominations for Commissioner seats
  + District 3 - Greg Ackerman and Erica Gremel
  + District 4 – Clint Stoutenburg
  + District 5 – Allen Bischer and Clint Hagen
  + Shipper Representative – Neil French and Caleb Sundblad
* Bean flour samples from Enagon are available upon request.
* Cramer is wrapping up the Communications project with the cooperators.
* Plans for a more consumer facing website are underway
* The 2022 Dry Bean & Sugar Beet Symposium will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City on February 22, 2022. Plans for a joint program are being developed

**USDBC UPDATE**

* The Executive Committee is reviewing the travel ban put in place in August for Q4 and Q1 of 2022.
* IPC trade teams for 2022 are named and plans are moving forward
* The Innovation Committee is preparing for the World of Flavors event next month.
* The Food Aid Committee has nothing new to report
* GPC meets this Friday in Germany ahead of ANUGA

**FY 2020-2021 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

* Chairman Noffsinger recommended a few changes in the committee assignments for this fiscal year.
  + PRAB – Ewald, Rader, Bauer, Ackerman with Bischer and Noffsinger as alternates
  + SVREC Advisory Board: Cramer, Bischer, Voelker and Stoutenburg
  + USDBC – Stoutenburg and Ackerman
* French moved to accept the Chairman’s recommendation. Rader supported the motion. A brief discussion followed. ***Motion passed.***

**(**Committee assignments are posted under the About Us tab on the website)

**OTHER**

Chairman Noffsinger thanked everyone for their time. With no further business, he adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully,

**Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary