

**MBC Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2020**

Those Present:

District #1 Kevin Noffsinger, Treasurer

District #2 Mark Reif

District #3 Greg Ackerman, Chairman

District #4 Clint Stoutenburg, Vice-Chairman

District #5 Allen Bischer

District #6 Ross Voelker

District #7 Jessica Rader

At Large Steve Ewald

Shipper Representative Neil French

Executive Secretary Joe Cramer

Those Absent:

Others Present:

Scott Bales, MSU Dry Bean Specialist

Chairman Ackerman welcomed everyone to our first in person meeting since March. He called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Cramer asked to have agenda item 6 – FSA Update – to the Public Comment section of the agenda. A motion was made by Noffsinger to approve the agenda with that change. Reif supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** FSA Director Joel Johnson attended the meeting virtually for the purpose of updated the Commission on the various programs currently offered by the Farm Service Agency. Commissioners had the opportunity to ask questions. Director Johnson encouraged growers to utilize their respective local offices. Chairman Ackerman thanked Director Johnson for joining the meeting, sharing the update and answering questions. Cramer expressed his gratitude for being so available.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from the May 13, 2020 Commission meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Voelker with support from Stoutenburg to approve the minutes as amended. ***Motion passed.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: Cramer presented MBC and PRAB YTD P&L reports including budget comparisons for September 2019 – June 15, 2020. Cramer highlighted some revenue and expense line items as compared to budget. A brief discussion followed. A motion was made by Stoutenburg to accept the report as presented. Ewald supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

Cramer then presented several budget amendments to the MBC FY 19-20 budget. There were no changes proposed to operational revenue. Five line item amendments proposed within the operational expenses netted no change to the operation.

Proposed pass through revenue and expenses did impact the budget significantly. Revenue amendments increased revenue by $58,650. This included an increase of $75,000 from the Ingredient Project and reductions in the Sustainability grant and USDBC reimbursements. Expense amendments increased expenses by $107,029.74. This included $125,000 for our Ingredient Project and $10,000 for Phase II of our Fertility Study. Reductions in the Phase I of the fertility grant, the sustainability grant and USDBC reimbursements netting in an increased loss of $48,379.74 for and net bottom line of $60,723.92. A lengthy discussion followed. French moved to accept the budget amendments as presented. Stoutenburg supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

Cramer also presented a second draft of budgets for FY 2020-2021. He will present a final draft at our August meeting.

**MDARD UPDATE – no report**

**MBS Update –** Neil French

* Ontario is 95% planted. There is some variability amongst the acreage but it appears to be very similar to Michigan’s crop condition at this point. Trade estimates a 7% increase in navy bean acreage and no increase in black bean acreage.
* Manitoba was planted on time and is in good condition.
* North Dakota’s crop is rated at 2% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 65% good and 7% excellent. Pinto acreage increased significantly. Black bean and navy bean acreage is expected to be up slightly.
* Minnesota is 1% poor, 15% fair, 74% good and 10% excellent.
* Michigan’s acreage is expected to be up from last year’s 185,000 acres. Most forecast an increase of at least 20%. Seed availability did limit a few growers.
* Cramer is working with MBS to schedule a joint meeting sometime in 2020.

**MAC Update**

* Cramer has been elected to the MAC Executive Committee.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Cramer shared the annual funding breakdown for the MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist Agreement for July 2020-June 2021. Total cost of the program is $122,400. The MBC portion is $61,200.
* MiBean Chats is something Cramer created during the COVID-19 shutdown to stay in touch with and in front of industry stakeholders. The short recordings seem to be well received. To date, videos have included Tim Courneya, NK Hurst’s Matt Huntley and Tony Snider, SOTW Agronomist Amy Sweeny, Michigan grower Greg Ackerman and NH grower Roger Carignan, Larry Sprague and Dr. James Kelly.
* COVID-19 has pushed the Mill Project installation date back to October 2020.
* The USDBC Summer Meeting will be virtual this year. This is a rare opportunity for all Commissioners to log on and see what a Council meeting is like. Cramer will provide an invitation to the entire Commission.
* Plans are being made for Research Plot Tours to be help September 1 – September 10th this year as opposed to our traditional late August start date.
* Ackerman and Cramer shared an updated directory and list of committee appointments.
  + District 2 Commission seat and the At Large Commission seat expire this year. Nominations will be held during plot tours.
  + Commissioners were also encouraged to voice their desire to hold office and/or particular committee appointments. Officers will be elected in August. The Chair will recommend committee appointments for Commissioner approval at the first meeting of the new fiscal year (October 2020).
* The Commission has been invited to speak at the Farmers for Trump Freedom Fest on July 26th at Zwerk Farms, Vassar, Michigan. It is our understanding that event planners intend to highlight what is good about agriculture, to share appreciation and express gratitude for the leadership and support the federal government has given the ag sector. Dry beans certainly have a great story to tell during some difficult times. Cramer will contact event organizers.

**DRY BEAN SPECIALIST REPORT**

* 2020 Dry Bean Research Trials Locations

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Research Area** | **Study** | **Location** | **Planting Date** |
| ***PRAB Dry Bean Variety Research + Other research*** |  |  |  |
|  | Sanilac Co. | Aldridge Farms | 6/5 |
|  | Huron Co. | Pawlowski Farms | 6/5 |
|  | Tuscola Co. | Bednarski Farms | 6/6 |
|  | Bay Co. | Schindler Farms | 6/7 |
|  | Montcalm Co. | Jaquay Farms | 6/15 |
|  | Dry land Kidney, Cran, and Yellow | SVREC | 6/16 |
| ***Fertility*** |  |  |  |
|  | N, P, K, S, Zn, and Mn Rate Response | SVREC | 6/4 |
|  | Answer Plot | Bach, MI | 6/9 |
|  | Nitrogen Strip Trial | Lutz Farms & Lakke Ewald | 6/9 |
| ***Disease Management*** |  |  |  |
|  | White Mold Fungicide Trials | Montcalm Research Center (MRC) | 6/12 |
|  | Anthracnose Fungicide Trials | MSU Campus | 6/19 |

* Research plots went in in good shape. Crusting was an issue with a large portion of this year’s crop in general. Growers utilized a rotary hoe more this year than most can remember.
* MSU will hold a Dry Bean Research Virtual Field Day on August 19th. Scott is working with Sugar and Organic Specialists to plan an effective, relevant program. Input is encouraged.
* Bales commented on the projected MSU budget shortfall.

**USDBC UPDATE**

* Executive Committee did cancel the summer meeting. Plans have been made to meet virtually over two days.
* The IPC continues to use virtual meetings to stay in touch and share information. This has proven very effective.
* The Innovation Committee has approved filling the Food Technology position by entering into a contract with Culinary Institute of America. (The Culinary Institute of America is an American private college and culinary school specializing in culinary, baking, and pastry arts education. The school's primary campus is located in Hyde Park, New York, with branch campuses in St. Helena and Napa, California, San Antonio, Texas, and Singapore.) An introductory call is scheduled for 2:00 pm est Friday.
* Planning continues for BeanCon21.
* Cramer will represent the USDBC on the Global Pulse Confederation.

With no further business, Chairman Ackerman adjourned the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully,

**Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary