**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**October 16, 2023**

**MSU Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center, Frankenmuth, Michigan**

Those Present:

District #1 Kevin Noffsinger, Chair

District #2 Ted Bauer, Treasurer

District #3 Greg Ackerman

District #4 Clint Stoutenburg

District #5 Allen Bischer

District #6 Chase 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

District #5

District #6

District #7

At Large

Shipper Representative

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist

Chairman Noffsinger called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. Kevin thanked the group for being flexible and making time for the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** With no changes, a motion was made by Bischer to approve the agenda as presented. Ewald supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from the August 1, 2023, Commission meeting were presented and reviewed. A spelling error was pointed out on page 2, paragraph 1 which Cramer will correct. A motion was made by Ackerman with support from French to approve the minutes with noted correction. ***Motion passed.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: The financial report included a current balance sheet, credit card and check registry and expenses compared to the amended FY 22-23 budget for both the Commission and for PRAB. Cramer went through the highlights of each. It should be noted that revenue exceeded the budget and expenses were well within budget.

Following discussion:

* Bauer moved to approve the bills paid. Voelker supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***
* French moved to accept the financial reports as presented. Bischer supported. ***Motion passed.***

Cramer also explained that during the USDBC Worldwide Trade Mission, with the knowledge of the officers, credit card expenses temporarily exceeded the high balance limit established in the credit card policy. Cramer noted that the limit in place currently is within the allowance established in the policy. After discussion, Bischer moved to acknowledge and approve the temporary increase. French supported. ***Motion passed.***

**MDARD UPDATE**

* Cramer let Commissioners know that he is waiting to sign the recently approved SCBG Agreement.

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

* SEED – harvest is app. 90% complete. Testing to follow.
* HARVEST – Michigan is nearly wrapped up. Possibly as little as 2 or 3% locally. The yields ranged widely but quality was much better than expected. Most expected damage beans to surround drown out areas in fields however, generally speaking, that wasn’t the case.
* SHIPMENTS are steady, which is important as processors filled available space and will be challenged to work through inventory in time for 2024 harvest.
* 2024 - Neil stressed that tying acreage to a contract/delivery point has become an industry standard.

* MSU DRY BEAN BREEDING PROGRAM – MBS Trustees met on September 6th to discuss the Commission’s request to join them in financially supporting the MSU Dry Bean Breeding Program as they seek to fill the breeder position. French let Commissioners know that the Trustees agreed to help with a $15,000 contribution over three years. This brings the combined Industry total to $115,000 over 3 years. Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the support. Trustees have since met with Dr. Brian Horgan for additional knowledge of the program and feel confident in the investment.

**DRY BEAN SPECIALIST REPORT – Scott Bales**

* SEARCH COMMITTEE – Bales, who serves on the MSU Dry Bean Breeder search committee, explained that a strong pool of candidate applications have been received and are being reviewed. The plan would be to have a breeder in place by planting season.
* Bales shared the 2023 Dry Bean Performance Trial yield results. Commissioners discussed the possible factors affecting the yield ranges within the various plot locations, classes, and varieties. Everyone is impressed with the high end of the range with one black bean entry yielding 4,780 pounds per acre!
* Commissioners discussed the advantages of moving plot tour dates from late August to immediately after Labor Day. Most likely the later dates will be tried next year.
* Commissioners discussed the long or extended growing season experienced given the seemingly early planting season. They considered the impact of poor or spotty emergence, excess rainfall, cool temperatures, fungicide treatments, rain late in the growing season, wildfire smoke, etc.
* Other issues such as the impact of white mold and anthracnose, white mold and anthracnose post-harvest management, and planting beans after beans were discussed.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Joe Cramer**

* 2015 NAVY BEAN LAWSUIT – Attorney Tallman sent letters to participating growers looking for input as he attempts to present a complete, detailed invoice to USDA-RMA.
* DRY BEAN REVENUE INSURANCE UPDATE – Senate Ag Committee members have requested a meeting with Director Brian Frieden, Regional Office, Springfield to discuss, propose and recommend changes to the current Revenue Insurance Product being offered.
* MDARD DIRECTOR AND GOVERNOR VISIT – Cramer thanked LaRaCha Farms for hosting MDARD Director Tim Boring and Governor Gretchen Whitmer on October 2nd in the field of small red beans located at the corner of M-46 an M-83. The group agreed that anytime we have an opportunity to tell our story we must make the most of it. And, we should be partnering with other commodity groups, Farm Bureau, etc. to jointly reach non-farm consumers that really have no idea (and may not care) where their food comes from.
* MEXICO CITY – rather than call on customers in Mexico City, Cramer is considering visiting enroute to the USDBC Winter Meeting and BeanCon24.
* BURNETTE FOODS – Cramer is organizing a tour of Burnette Foods for Commissioner on Monday, November 27, 2023.
* COSTA RICA – Cramer is considering a trade mission to Costa Rica in 2024.
* NOMINATIONS – Ted Bauer was nominated for another term representing District 2. Steve Ewald and Mark Shaw were nominated for the At Large seat. Shaw has since declined the nomination.

**USDBC UPDATE**

* Executive Committee – USDBC President Clint Stoutenburg explained the USDBC executive committee’s recommendation to join the Coalition for the Advancement of Pulses (CAP) at a $100,000 level. Stoutenburg and Cramer highlighted the coalition’s goal, the dues formula, the budget process and, if approved, the impact on the MBC budget. After discussing, commissioners felt strongly that this is a good, one-time investment.
* Cramer thanked commissioners for participating in and hosting various segments of last month’s USDBC Worldwide Trade Mission. The event was successful. Cramer hopes to host again in three years.
* BeanCon24 will take place February 1-3, 2024, in Cancun, Mexico. The draft agenda looks strong and exciting. Commissioners will look for ways to participate.
* USDBC Representatives are planning a DC trip in late 2024 to call on Food Aid agencies.
* commitment to no report.

**FY 2023-2024 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

* Chairman Noffsinger recommended no changes in the committee assignments for this fiscal year. Assignments include:
  + PRAB – Ewald, Rader, Bauer, Ackerman with Bischer and Noffsinger as alternates
  + SVREC Advisory Board: Cramer, Bischer, Voelker and Stoutenburg
  + USDBC – Stoutenburg and Ackerman

Chairman Noffsinger noted that we need to consider exposing commissioners to the USDBC as Stoutenburg and Ackerman consider their time with the Commission when their terms expire at the end of 2024. Discussion followed. Ackerman invited commissioners to voice their desire to get more involved. Noffsinger and Cramer will consider making recommendations for 2024.

Stoutenburg moved to accept the Chairman’s recommendation. French supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

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

Chairman Noffsinger thanked everyone again for their time and flexibility. With no further business, he adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully,

**Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary