**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**September 27, 2022**

**DoubleTree River Front Hotel & Conference Center, 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

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 Ross Voelker

District #7

At Large

Shipper Representative

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist

Sasha Eliason MDARD

Chairman Noffsinger called the meeting to order at 11:06 am. Kevin thanked the group for being flexible and meeting on such short notice.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Cramer asked to scratch Item C under the ED report which will be covered during Bales Research Director’s report. A motion was made by Ewald to approve the agenda including the amendment. Rader supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from the August 4, 2022, Commission meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Bischer with support from French to approve the minutes as presented. ***Motion passed.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: Cramer included a current balance sheet in the meeting packet. He went on to explain the need to amend the previously amended FY 2021-2022 Budget. Following a brief explanation including input from Nietzke & Faupel, a motion was made by Ewald to move $40,000 from Travel to Fixed Asset -Vehicle Purchase/Sale for the purchase of a 2022 GMC Sierra pickup. Bischer supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

Cramer went on to highlight FY 2021-2022 P&L reports for both the MBC and for the PRAB including budget comparisons. A brief discussion followed. A motion was made by French to accept the report as presented. Ewald supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**MDARD UPDATE – Sasha Eliason**

* Eliason reported that Rural Development Grant applications are due by October 19th. $1.8 million in grant awards will be announced in February 2023.
* Cramer noted that both MBC SCBG applications were approved. $100,000 was approved for a production focused grant and $119,600 to increase bean consumption. He is expecting to receive agreements in October.
* MDARD is expected to issue the annual Stocks on Hand Report at 10:00 am tomorrow.
* Ewald offered a brief update on the Farm Produce Insurance Authority who has been managing through the bankruptcy of Pipeline Foods. He is also now part of a sub-committee that will study the need to increase the $10,000,000 ceiling currently in place.
* Ewald encouraged growers to communicate anything they may view as a red flag in their dealings. Growers that deliver to licensed grain dealers are, generally speaking, covered by the program. It was noted that sales to other farmers are most likely not included in this insurance program.

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

* SHIPMENTS – have picked up in the past couple of weeks after a month or so of slower than expected shipments.
* SEED – harvest is app. 50% complete. Seed quality and quantity should not be a problem in 2023
* DELIVERY/MARKETING – as more and more dealers manage market risk, storage space, etc. by implementing policies that limit/manage deliveries and marketing options, French encouraged growers to engage in the various programs dealers do offer in the future.
* BEAN QUEEN PROGRAM – French expressed his concern with the future of the program suggesting that more dollars and more support are needed to maintain the program. Cramer and French will try to learn more about the program and possibly make a recommendation in the future for the Commission to consider. The MBC currently invests $3,000 annually in the program.
* DRY BEAN REVENUE INSURANCE - An email was sent to dealers yesterday reminding them of the importance of sharing navy, black and small red market values with USDA-AMS especially during the Sept-Dec Dry Bean Revenue Insurance Price Discovery Period established by USDA-RMA. The success or failure of this product is based on data collected during this period.
* 2015 DRY BEAN REVENUE INSURANCE LAWSUIT UPDATE – Ackerman noted that Attorney John Tallman had sent a letter dated September 1st to USDA asking if they plan to comply with the remand order and whether there is interest in resolving the claims.

**DRY BEAN SPECIALIST REPORT – Scott Bales**

* HARVEST UPDATE
  + Bales has harvested seven of the twelve research plots. Bay County and Montcalm are the biggest plots remaining.
  + Bales shared a handout with preliminary data from the plots harvested.
  + 2022 Dry Bean research Plot Tours went well. Best attendance in recent memory. Direct mailings seem to have helped.
* “MICHIGAN QUALITY”
  + Overall, the 2022 dry bean crop has excellent quality (especially small red beans) except for Adams black beans. This was discussed at length. MCIA will review this variety again this winter.
  + Cramer then talked about the responsibility the Commission has to make sure that Michigan continues to be known as the most reliable, consistent producer of the highest quality dry beans in the world.
  + Commissioners are committed to producing, sharing, and communicating research data intended to help growers choose high performing genetics that are also high performing for the end user.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* MIBEAN DRY BEAN HARVEST SHOWCASE – this event was a collaboration between MDARD, MBS and the MBC. Participation could always be greater, but we had high quality buyers participate. The partners consider it a good return on investment and will consider expanding the program next year.
* MIBEAN POD TO PLATE FOOD INFLUENCER TOUR – this event was funded by a SCBG and included big help from Shari Steinbach. Food influencers including bloggers, dietitians, and nutritionists participated. We also had P-nuff Crunch Snacks, 8-Track Foods, and students from the Muskegon Area Tech Center Culinary Program. The event included presentations from Bales and Dr. Uebersax. Chef Amanda created incredible bean focused dishes for the entire event. A survey will be sent to participants for evaluation. Special thanks for Zwerk farms and Star of the West-Reese for hosting two of the stops for the group.
* MBC FIELD TRIP - plans are coming together for the November 28-29 trip to NK Hurst and Morgan Foods. The two nominees from District 6 will be invited.
* 2023 DRY BEAN REGIONAL PRODUCTION & OUTLOOK MEETINGS - Cramer and Bales are planning three sessions for the week of December 12th.
* CANNING EVALUATION – February 1, 2023, at the SVREC
* 2023 DRY BEAN & SUGAR BEET SYMPOSIUM – February 21, 2023, at the DoubleTree, Bay City
* NOMINATIONS - Cramer updated the group on nominations for Commissioner seats
  + District 1 – Kevin Noffsinger
  + District 6 – Chase Voelker and Mike Richmond
  + District 7 – Jessica Rader

**USDBC UPDATE**

* Executive Committee – no report.
* IPC trade teams are in place for the balance of 2022 and 2023. Everyone from Michigan that applied received an appointment. Activities between 2022 harvest and 2023 planting include Cramer, Stoutenburg, Bauer, Ackerman, Bischer, Ewald, and Voelker from the Commission and, Chandonnet and Stawowy from the Shippers.
* Innovation Committee – USDBC is in the process of securing a booth for IPC in July 2023.
* The Food Aid Committee is setting up meetings with USAID and WFP. Progress is being made!
* GPC is holding the first North American Pulse Congress. Cramer will attend representing USDBC. Stoutenburg, Ackerman and Voelker will attend representing MBC.

**FY 2020-2021 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

Ackerman moved to accept the Chairman’s recommendation. Rader supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

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

**OTHER -** Ackerman complimented Bales for doing such a good job throughout the year. This was evident at the research plot tours again this year. He reminded Bales to be sure to let us know if there is anything that we can do to make his job easier or more enjoyable. French and Cramer also complimented Bales for the job he does for the Commission and for the Industry.

Chairman Noffsinger thanked everyone again for their time and flexibility. With no further business, he adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully,

**Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary