**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**December 12, 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 Clint Stoutenburg

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

District #5

District #6

District #7

At Large

Shipper Representative

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist

Brian Hazzard Nietzke & Faupel, PC

Kylie Braun Nietzke & Faupel, PC

Chairman Noffsinger called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairman Noffsingerasked to add MSU Dry Bean Specialist Position under Other, item b. 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 September 27, 2022, Commission meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Bischer with support from Ewald to approve the minutes as presented. ***Motion passed.***

**ANNUAL AUDIT PRESENTATION:** Cramer introducedKylie Braun and Brian Hazzard from Neitzke & Faupel, PC who were present to report the findings and results of their audit of FY 2021-2022. Commissioners heard and discussed the audit report and findings as well as a few recommendations. (See attached.) The audit will be forwarded to MDARD for their review.

**AUDITOR’S RECOMMENDATIONS:**

* Monthly check registry - going forward, Cramer will include the check registry and credit card expenses for the period since the last report for Commissioner’s to review and approve.
* Cramer will find out the pros and cons of a surety bond and make a recommendation at the next meeting.
* An amended version of the MBC Credit Card Policy was presented and discussed. Voelker moved to increase the credit limit from $10,000 to $20,000 and to name Cramer and MSU Dry Bean Specialist Scott Bales as card holders. French supported. ***Motion passed***.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: Cramer included a current balance sheet, P&L, and budget comparison in the meeting packet. Cramer reviewed the reports. A brief discussion followed. Stoutenburg moved to accept the reports as presented. Bischer supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

Cramer presented the checks including credit card activity for September – November for Commissioner approval. Following some explanation and a few questions, Stoutenburg moved to approve the expenses for the period. Ewald supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**MDARD UPDATE -** Cramer included the cover page from both MBC SCBG agreements. Cramer also noted that he was optimistic that Governor Whitmer would make appointments by the end of this month.

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

* SEED – availability appears to be good. Prices have increased slightly.
* SHIPMENTS – container availability has improved in recent weeks.
* CONTRACTING – offers have been minimal. Growers look at contract values for direction and risk management. French shared his concern that the lack of contracts will negatively impact acres.

**DRY BEAN SPECIALIST REPORT – Scott Bales**

* Bales mailed Research Reports to each grower that we have on file. This practice appears to be well received. Commissioners discussed the results including comparing 1- and 3-year averages between classes. Commissioner’s complimented Bales on his work.
* Bales 2022-2023 outreach schedule has ramped up. In addition to MBC Regional research meetings and the annual Dry Bean & Sugar Beet Symposium, Bales will make presentations in person and virtually, in Columbia, Ontario and New York in addition to numerous other Michigan programs.
* Bales is working with Dr. Chilvers to secure funding through Project Greeen to do additional screening for varietal tolerance to bacterial diseases.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Adams Black Beans – Michigan Crop Improvement Association does not plan to sell any Adams Foundation seed in 2023. It is their opinion this will bring an end to the Adams variety.
* Cramer updated the group briefly on some of the activities being funded by the Communications Grant.
* The 2023 Canning Evaluation Seminar will be held on February 1, 2023. Plans are being made to expand the presentation.
* MBC Field Trip to Morgan Foods and NK Hurst had to be cancelled.
* The 2023 Dry Bean & Sugar Beet Symposium is beginning to take shape. Planners will be meeting next Monday.
* The annual Research Roundtable Meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2023. In an effort for continuous improvement, Cramer asked for input on the format. Commissioners offered a few thoughts and opinions. Cramer will work with Bales to get organized.
* Cramer let the group know that SVRC Farm Manager is retiring March 1, 2023. Cramer has been asked to represent the SVREC Advisory Committee on the search committee.

**USDBC UPDATE**

* USDBC President Stoutenburg gave an overview of the GPC North America Bean Congress held in Mexico earlier this month. Michigan was well represented at the event. Buyers from several countries attended.
* IPC trade teams are in place for the balance of 2022 and 2023. Cramer will email participants to get firm dates in place.
* Plans are being made to attend BeanCon23 in Columbia.

**OTHER**

* Commissioners discussed the many contributions Scott Bales has made to our industry. Commissioners are anxious to make sure Bales is well equipped with good equipment, sufficient support staff and financially satisfied. After a very positive discussion including a better understanding of MSU’s efforts to “catch up” after a few years of freezes and minimal increases, Ackerman moved to award Bales with a $10,000 bonus again this year. French supported. Following discussion, the ***motion passed***.
* Chairman Noffsinger and Cramer explained the history of the Chairman’s Choice Christmas Award. For 2022, Chairman Noffsinger has chosen Hidden Harvest to receive this year’s award. Cramer will handle the award.

With no further business, Chairman Noffsinger adjourned the meeting at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully,

  **Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary