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Description automatically generated**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**February 13, 2024**

**(This was a virtual meeting over ZOOM)**

Those Present:

District #1 Kevin Noffsinger, Chair

District #2

District #3 Greg Ackerman

District #4

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 Ted Bauer, Treasurer

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

Chairman Noffsinger called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Cramer asked to add d) Roundtable Invitations under the PRAB agenda item. French moved to approve the agenda including the addition. Bischer supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Production Research Advisory Board**

1. Resignations (Armbruster and DeVuyst)
2. Relevance - discussion
3. Recommendations and Appointments
4. Roundtable Invitations

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1. **Funding Request – MFB Connecting Communities (Luke Ewald)**

Good evening, Joe.

Here is a brief overview of the Michigan Farm Bureau Connecting Communities project that we've been working on in Tuscola County.

MFB Connecting Communities is a non-competitive grant program that awards funding to county Farm Bureau offices for initiatives that connect their local communities with agriculture in fun, educational ways.

Tuscola County FB was awarded $1,000 for a project that aims to place pantry-sized portions of locally grown dry beans, along with promotional and educational material, on store shelves around the county. We've secured shelf space at our first partner business, Thumb Meat Market of Caro, and are currently searching for a processor who can supply packaged beans for sale directly to household consumers. The funding we've received will help to produce aesthetic displays and quality, eye-catching promotional materials that will engage local consumers with food grown in their own backyards.

On behalf of Tuscola County Farm Bureau, I invite the Michigan Bean Commission to match the $1,000 we've received from MFB, allowing us to expand our initiative to reach more store shelves, and thus connect more consumers with the Michigan dry bean industry.

Please reach out with any questions. I look forward to discussing this project with you soon!

Thanks, Joe.