**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**June 12, 2023**

**MSU SVREC, 3775 South Reese Road, 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

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 Jessica Rader

At Large

Shipper Representative

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist

Sasha Eliason MDARD

Chairman Noffsinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Cramer asked to add Michigan Bean Queen Program. Chairman Noffsinger added it under Other. A motion was made by French to approve the agenda including the addition. Bischer supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from the March 8, 2023 Commission meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Ackerman with support from French to approve the minutes as presented. ***Motion passed.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: Cramer presented year-to-date financials including the balance sheet, check registry and P&L statement with budget comparisons. He also spent some time discussing the funds currently held at Raymond James and highlighted the revenue and expenses as compared to the budget. French made a motion to accept the reports and approve the bills paid as presented. Bauer supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

Cramer presented an amended FY 22-23 budget for Commissioners to consider. The proposal included a $90,505 increase in revenue. This is mostly the result of better-than-expected assessment income and the addition of the revenue from the 2023 Dry Bean & Sugar Beet Symposium. Expenses increased by $53,372 entirely the result of a $106,576 increase in grant expenses. The net effect is a $37,133 positive impact on the bottom line or a reduction in our budgeted loss for a net -$47,758.78. In the PRAB account, revenue decreased by $7,000 and expenses decreased by $27,287 for a positive impact on the bottom line of $20,287.00. After some discussion, a motion was made by Ackerman with support from French. ***Motion passed.***

**MDARD UPDATE – Sasha Eliason**

* SCBG applications have been evaluated. Applicants have been approved, have been forwarded to USDA for further evaluation. Applicants have been notified. Cramer asked for feedback for the MBC SCBG application that was not forwarded. Sasha will follow up.

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

* French shared dry bean planting progress percentages as compared to last year and to the 5-year average for Minn Dak. Progress is well ahead of last year but compared to the 5-year average.
* He believes Michigan is app. 70% - 80% planted which some growers that are waiting for rain to start. What is planted seems to be off to a decent start.
* French noted that shippers continue to have steady shipments.
* The annual acreage estimating meeting is scheduled for July 23rd.

**DRY BEAN SPECIALIST REPORT – Scott Bales**

* Bales reported that he planted the first research plot on May 24th. Most were planted between May 29th – June 3rd finishing on the 9th. Plots look good but, like everything, need rain.
* Bales has roughly 6,000 research plots planted again this year.
* Given the lack of moisture, weed control options are concerning. Rain will help. Chemistry options are limited.
* Moving the Tuscola County plot to the SVREC will continue to be a big help logistically.
* Bales mentioned that the dry bean breeding program’s new planter that the Commission helped fund is working nicely.

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

* Attorney John Tallman has submitted a FOIA request to try to learn and understand the status of the award for navy bean growers involved in the lawsuit filed against USDA in 2016 following the 2015 harvest.
* Ackerman told the group about his experience testifying at the May 2nd Farm Bill Sub-committee hearing in Washington DC.
* During his trip to DC, Ackerman learned that there may be an opportunity to improve the dry bean revenue insurance policy offered to dry bean growers across the US. Currently, only a small percentage of dry bean growers purchase the product. Further study suggests that Michigan dry bean growers receive 74 cents per dollar spent as compared to cotton growers that receive more that $4.00 per dollar spent. Cramer continues to work with other regional dry bean groups and Senator Stabenow’s capable staff to improve, enhance and expand the current program. Ackerman complimented Senator Stabenow’s staff for their knowledge, help and support.
* Dry bean flour projects continue to move forward. Zoe’s Breakfast Muffin, Navy Bean Pasta at Eataliana, Dr. Cichy’s pasta, milling at Enagon and GFT R&D in Grand Rapids are examples.
* Cramer and Bales recently interacted with the bean focused Cochran Fellowship hosted by MSU from May 28th through June 11th. Cramer thanked the shippers that attended the luncheon. Following lunch, the participants visited ADM-Reese where Neil French explained the documentation, food safety and grading associated with every grower and every delivery. Cramer also expressed his thanks to Everbest Organics and Zwerk Farms for opening their businesses to the group as well. Both were very educational, and participants were very appreciative.
* Cramer briefed the group on an anti-dumping case involving cans.
* District 2 (Bauer) and the At Large (Ewald) commission seats expire this year. Cramer intends to hold nominations for the At Large seat at the MSU Field Day scheduled for August 23rd and for the District 2 seat at the Central Region plot at Spartan Acres on August 29th.

**USDBC UPDATE**

* USDBC President Stoutenburg highlighted changes the Executive Committee has been asked to consider. Discussion will take place at the summer meeting in early August.
* IPC is putting together the 2024 trade mission application.
* The Innovation Committee participation in IFT this July is coming together. This year’s booth will feature many companies that have innovative bean focused products to offer.
* The Food Aid Committee is working to share market information that will hopefully help purchasing. They are also watching legislation aimed at replacing product with cash.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Dr. Brian Horgan is putting together the startup package for the MSU Dry Bean Breeding Program. He plans to ask the Commission to help fund the position. Cramer plans to have him attend the next Commission meeting to discuss.
* Cramer briefed Commissioner on the upcoming social media campaign. Discussion followed.
* Chairman Noffsinger will develop a management evaluation tool over the next several months.

**OTHER**

* French led a discussion about the Michigan Bean Queen Program including applications, float, scholarships, events, etc. Commissioners are committed to the program. Cramer and French will continue to discuss improvements with the program coordinators.

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

Respectfully,

**Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary