**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**August 1, 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 Jessica Rader

At Large Steve Ewald, Vice-Chair

Shipper Representative

Executive Secretary Joe Cramer

Those Absent:

District #1

District #2

District #3

District #4

District #5

District #6

District #7

At Large

Shipper Representative Neil French

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist (Virtual)

Denise Studders MDARD

Dr. Brian Horgan MSU

Dr. Tim Boring MDARD Director (Virtual)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Stoutenburg to approve the agenda as presented. Rader supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MDARD UPDATE:** Director Dr. Tim Boring offered an overview of the priorities he’s set for the department. Resiliency and diversity within Michigan agriculture are top of the list. Specialty crops are good for Michigan, but acreage is on a downward trend. The Department of Ag intends to be a leader and spokesperson for specialty crops including dry beans. Questions and discussion followed. Chairman Noffsinger thanked the Director for his comments and his time. The Director welcomes open and on-going communication.

MDARD Auditor Denise Studders explained her role within MDARD. She explained the Farm Produce Insurance Authority including answering Commissioner’s questions. She also explained the department’s audit of licensed grain dealers and commodity groups. Commissioners welcomed this discussion and appreciate the protections these programs offer.

She added that Value Added Grant awardees will be announced this week. The Farm Innovation Grant application period will be opened later this month.

**MSU DRY BEAN BREEDING PROGRAM:** Dr. Brian Horgan shared the timeline for filling the dry bean breeder position following the resignation of Dr. Francisco Gomez. His goal is to hire the best dry bean breeder in the USA. The position has been approved and the search committee has been named. (Scott Bales is on the committee.) tentatively, the position will be opened soon and closed sometime in September. Hopefully, the new hire will be up and running by June 2024. Dr. Horgan explained how the position is funded and the importance of an investment from industry. His ask is that Commissioners consider supporting one post doc at a cost of $50,000 annually for at least three years. Questions followed. Horgan thanked the group for their support and Noffsinger thanked Horgan for joining the meeting today.

Commissioners discussed the proposal after Dr. Horgan left the meeting. Commissioners are supportive but have a strong desire to include the Shippers in the industry support given the shared benefits. To that end, Bischer moved to commit $100,000 over three years (starting September 1, 2024) to support the MSU Dry Bean Breeding Program. Bauer supported. ***Motion passed.*** (Cramer will seek another $50,000 over 3 years from the broader Michigan Industry.)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from the June 12, 2023, Commission meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Bischer with support from Rader 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. Ackerman made a motion to accept the reports and approve the bills paid as presented. Bauer supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**FY 2023-2024 Budget** - Cramer presented MBC and PRAB FY 23-24 budgets for Commissioners to consider. The proposal assumes that we will harvest 210,000 acres, averaging twenty-two bags per acre. Assessment revenue is expected to be at least $462,000. When added to interest income, 2024 Bean & Beet Day revenue, and grant revenue, total income was set at $673,050. Before discussing the expense side of the ledger, Commissioner’s reviewed the current Management Contract with JM Cramer, Inc. After a lengthy discussion, Ewald made a motion to set the annual contract at $235,000 or $0.051 cents per cwt – whichever is greater (calculated off the previous year’s assessment) plus $30,000 intended to cover health care, retirement, etc. Bauer supported. ***Motion passed.*** Expenses including the management contract, promotion, dues, grants, etc. total 726,503.29. This leaves a -$53,423.29 deficit which will come from fund balance. The PRAB budget has income and expenses balanced at $93,500. Bischer moved to approve both budgets as discussed. Rader supported. ***Motion passed.***

**MBS UPDATE –** no report

**DRY BEAN SPECIALIST REPORT – Scott Bales**

* With the use of Dr. Chilver’s high tech sprayer, Bales is currently spraying white mold trials in Montcalm County. This year’s white mold research is the most expensive ever and conditions are conducive for producing white mold.
* Research plot tour dates are set starting with the MSU Field Day on August 23rd and running through the end of the month. Participants can earn 3 RUP credits at each plot.

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

* IFT – Cramer gave a quick overview of the mid July ITF Show in Chicago. Delegates will recommend having a booth at next year’s show and recommend expanding it to two booths.
* Activities: Cramer is considering a Mexico City event, a domestic customer activity, a Costa Rica event, and a DC event yet in 2023. Some discussion followed. More details to follow.
* Cramer demonstrated the new MBC website that recently went live. [www.michiganbean.com](http://www.michiganbean.com)

**USDBC UPDATE**

* USDBC President Stoutenburg noted that the USDBC Summer meeting will take place later this week. Stoutenburg, Ackerman and Cramer will attend. Cramer is working on the annual 2024 IPC Trade Team assignments. Stoutenburg, Ackerman and Voelker have applied.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman Noffsinger designated Cramer to open the floor for nominations for chairman. Noffsinger was nominated. Cramer closed nominations. Ackerman moved to elect Noffsinger. Stoutenburg supported. ***Motion passed.***

Noffsinger resumed control and opened nominations for vice chair. Ewald was nominated. With no additional nominations, Noffsinger closed nominations. Bischer moved to elect Ewald. Ackerman supported. ***Motion passed.***

Noffsinger opened nominations for treasurer. Bauer was nominated. With no additional nominations, Noffsinger closed nominations. Stoutenburg moved to elect Bauer. Rader supported. ***Motion passed.***

Noffsinger opened nominations for executive secretary. Cramer was nominated. With no additional nominations, Noffsinger closed nominations. Bauer moved to elect Cramer. Ewald supported. ***Motion passed.***

**ANNUAL APPROVALS – FY 2023-2024**

* Depositories - Stoutenburg moved that we approve PNC Bank, Frankenmuth Credit Union, Huntington Bank, NorthStar Bank, and Isabella Bank. Bauer supported. ***Motion passed.***
* Signatories – Ackerman moved that the Officers be the signatories. Stoutenburg supported. ***Motion passed.***
* Meeting Per Diem – Bauer moved that we set the meeting per diem at $75. Stoutenburg supported. ***Motion passed.***
* Cramer presented a meeting calendar for the upcoming year. Stoutenburg moved to adopt the calendar as presented. Voelker supported. ***Motion passed.***

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

Respectfully,

**Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary