**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**March 13, 2024**

**MSU SVREC, 3775 South Reese Road, Frankenmuth, Michigan**

**&**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5676977790?pwd=QlVpL1ZMOEJaY1J4eHg1NDRvU0Zrdz09&omn=81358617914>

Those Present:

District #1 Kevin Noffsinger, Chair

District #2 Ted Bauer, Treasurer

District #3 Greg Ackerman

District #4 Clint Stoutenburg

District #5

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

District #3

District #4

District #5 Allen Bischer

District #6

District #7

At Large

Shipper Representative

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist

Denise Studders MDARD

Dr. Mark Uebersax Michigan State University

Chuck Lippstreu Michigan Agri-Business Association

Kevin Ackerman Ackerman Marketing, Inc.

Chairman Noffsinger welcomed the guests and called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Cramer asked to add Dr. Mark Uebersax to the agenda to introduce the group on a research proposal. Ewald moved to approve the agenda including the addition. Rader supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from the December 15, 2023, meeting and the February 13, 2024, meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Ackerman with support from Stoutenburg to approve the minutes as presented. ***Motion passed.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: The financial report included a current balance sheet, credit card and check registry and expenses compared to the FY 23-24 budget for both the Commission and for PRAB. Cramer went through the highlights of each.

Following discussion, French moved to accept the reports for the December 2023 through February 2024 period. Rader supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**MDARD UPDATE – Denise Studders discussed:**

* the re-organization of the Department
* Rural Development grant process
* SCBG process
* Value Added grant process.
* FPIC

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

* Seed supply appears adequate. Shipments are underway.
* Some canners have started to be variety specific.
* Cooperative Elevator recently announced that they will not be receiving 2024 crop navy beans.
* French encouraged growers to be sure to have a home or homes for their 2024 crop.
* French shared his gratitude for the service provided by Bucholtz Transport.
* The steady shipments continue to create much needed space for new crop.

**MSU DRY BEAN RESEARCH SPECIALIST – Scott Bales**

* The new plot sprayer has been delivered. Plans are in place to conduct 3 white mold trials.
* Commissioners discussed strip till practices.
* Commissioners discussed the positives and negatives of the annual roundtable. Cramer and Bales will consider the discussion when making plans for 2025.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – Joe Cramer**

* Cramer updated the group on the status of the 2015 Dry Bean Revenue Insurance lawsuit.
* Cramer updated the group in the process of much needed changes to the current formula calculating dry bean revenue insurance premiums.
* Commissioners studied historic acreage, yield, and production charts for black, pinto, and navy beans for Michigan, Minnesota, and North Dakota.
* Cramer reviewed last month’s Pod to Process Seminar and explained plans for 2025’s event.
* Cramer discussed the Beans at Brody concept and plans.

**US DRY BEAN COUNCIL**

* Recently elected USDBC president Courtney Schuler has named her Executive Committee which includes Schuler (NDBC), Martin Squires (CDBA), Neil Dickens (IBDA), Dave Weber (NDBC), John Berthold (NCBDA), Joe Mauch (NHBGA). Immediate Past President Clint Stoutenburg (MBC) will continue to serve as an ex officio member.
* Cramer has been named to serve on the newly established search committee to begin the process of identifying a shot list of Executive Director candidates.
* Commissioner Volker gave a summary of his recent trade mission to the UK. He made it a point to address the sharp decline in navy bean production in the USA (and specifically Michigan) given the lack of end user support to plant and discouraging harvest time policies. Volker is hopeful that this trend could change once supply/demand ratios are corrected.
* Commissioner Ewald gave a brief summary of a recent Washington DC Fly In.
* Northarvest Bean Growers and the North Central Bean Dealers will host the 2024 USDBC Worldwide Trade Mission the week of September 9th in Fargo.
* Cramer will participate in the IFT Show this July in Chicago
* Cramer is considering the Winter fancy Food Show for early 2025.

With no further business, Chairman Noffsinger adjourned the meeting at 3:24 pm

Respectfully,

  **Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary