**MBC Meeting Minutes**

**August 19, 2025**

**MSU Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, Frankenmuth, Michigan**

Those Present:

District #1 Kevin Noffsinger

District #2 Ted Bauer, Vice-Chair

District #3 Chris Creguer

District #4

District #5

District #6 Chase Voelker, Treasurer

District #7 Jessica Rader

At Large Steve Ewald, Chair

Shipper Representative Neil French

Executive Secretary Joe Cramer

Those Absent

District #1

District #2

District #3

District #4 Mark Shaw

District #5 Allen Bischer

District #6

District #7

At Large

Shipper Representative

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU-MBC Dry Bean Specialist

Jeff Haarer MDARD

Kevin Cole MDARD

Chairman Ewald called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Following roll call, Ewald declared a quorum was present and welcomed everyone.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** French moved to approve the agenda as presented. Rader supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from May 15, 2025 Commission meeting were handed out. Following review, Creguer moved to accept the minutes as presented. Bauer supported. ***Motion passed.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: Cramer went over the Monthly Assessment Report, FY Balance Sheet through July 31st, check registry including credit card expenses and the FY Profit and Loss Report as compared to Budget including PRAB. Following discussion, a motion to accept the reports as presented was made by Bauer and supported by Creguer. ***Motion passed.d***

Cramer then proposed budget amendments for FY 2024-2025 focused on grant revenue and expenses. Noffsinger moved to accept the amended budget as presented. Creguer supported. ***Motion passed.***

**MDARD UPDATE** – Jeff Haarer

* MDARD currently oversees 15 commodity organizations. They plan to add a 16th organization in the near future.
* MDARD is planning to offer board training classes starting in November.
* MDARD auditors have completed some oversight audits. MBC is slated for late fall. Auditors will be contacting Cramer soon to schedule.
* Haarer congratulated Ewald for being appointed to another term on FPIA and thanked him for serving.
* SCBG applications have been forwarded to USDA for questions.
* Haarer gave a status update on the many grant opportunities they offer.
* Haarer explained the difference between a 232 group and an 8A group.
* French urged growers to use caution when delivering to companies that don’t offer payment upon delivery. Haarer added that grower need to have a written agreement when knowingly delivering beans with an understanding that “I’ll pay you when I get paid” arrangement. Growers have no protection when all they have is a scale ticket.

**MBS Report** – Neil French

* Domestic and export shipments continue to be steady. Inventory on August 31, 2025 may not be as high as some in the trade expect.
* New sales are slow.
* Navy bean shipments to Mexico were more than usual.
* Mexico is taking only what they need.
* French feels the crop in Michigan is slightly below average.
* Be sure to communicate the variety you have when delivering so as to avoid contamination and potentially disqualifying larger quantities from premium programs.
* Bin run seed is/will be a bigger factor as values decrease.

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

* Research plots are in good condition overall.
* Bales expects an average crop. Potential was sacrificed due to wet periods, dry periods, hot periods, etc.
* Plot tours will take place next week. Details are in place.
* Bales feels adequately staffed for harvest this year.
* PRAB meeting on Monday at the Research Farm

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

* Cramer, Ewald, Bauer, and Voelker met with USA Pulses last week in an effort to understand their recent re-branding and learn more about their plan to double consumption.
* Cramer will watch for opportunities that fit our goals/budget and make recommendations as opportunities present themselves.
* There are many paths for groups like the MBC to support their effort including a foundation that allows earmarks including domestic promotion and education.
* Commissioners added their observations as well.

**USDBC UPDATE – Ewald, Bauer, Cramer**

* Prior to the USDBC Summer meeting, Northarvest Growers association informed Council leadership that they didn’t intend to continue their membership in 2026. This changed the focus and tone of the meeting since NHBGA is the largest contributor to the USDBC. Since then, the North Central Bean Dealers notified the USDBC that they also will not be paying dues in 2026.
* Cramer, Ewald, and Bauer shared their observations and opinions as to the future of the Council as did other Commissioners concluding:
  + Change is inevitable as the Council enters their usual fall budget period.
  + The MBC is anxious to see the plan/budget.
  + The MBC is committed to being as engaged in planning as needed.

**FY 2025-2026**

* **BUDGET – See attached.**
  + Cramer presented a budget proposal for next year that includes revenue based on 260,000 acres producing 22 cwt per acre.

* **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
  + Cramer opened the floor for nominations for chairman. Noffsinger took the liberty of nominating Ewald for chair, Bauer for vice chair and Voelker for Treasurer. Cramer asked for other nominations. When there were none, Noffsinger moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate. Bauer supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***
  + Noffsinger then moved to name Cramer executive secretary. Voelker supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***
* **ANNUAL APPROVALS – FY 2025-2026**
* Creguer moved that we approve PNC Bank, Raymond James, Frankenmuth Credit Union, and Huntington Bank as Depositories, name the officers as signatories and set the meeting per diem at $75 per meeting. Rader supported. ***Motion passed.***
* Cramer presented a meeting calendar for the upcoming year. Rader moved to adopt the calendar as presented. Creguer supported. ***Motion passed.***

**OTHER**

* Cramer noted he is engaged with a few of the many gubernatorial candidates.

With no further business, Ewald adjourned the meeting at 3:19 PM.

Respectfully,

**Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary