

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
Constitution Hall
Sixth Floor, VanDusen Conference Room
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933

MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2008

PRESENT:

James Byrum, Chairperson (via teleconference)
Ann Jousma-Miller, Vice Chairperson (via teleconference)
Don Coe, Commission of Agriculture (via teleconference)
Todd Regis, Commission of Agriculture
Don Koivisto, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

ABSENT:

Dale Norton, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Byrum called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture to order at 9:02 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2008, and called the roll with Commissioners Byrum, Coe, Regis, and Director Koivisto present. Commissioner Jousma-Miller joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED APPROVAL OF THE
MARCH 6, 2008, AGENDA. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER REGIS.
MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM

Mr. John Dilland, Michigan Milk Producers Association, thanked the Michigan Department of Agriculture for their support in the development of the Agriculture Processing Renaissance Zone application for the Ovid, Michigan facility. He noted milk production is an exciting industry in which to be involved and it will only continue to grow if we have processing facility capacity to accommodate the milk production. Michigan has moved from number nine to number seven in the nation in terms of milk production and anticipated continued growth will require additional processing capacity. He thanked the Commission of Agriculture for their consideration of this application.

AGRICULTURE PROCESSING RENAISSANCE ZONE DESIGNATION: Patricia Lockwood, Special Projects Director and Mike DiBernardo, Economic Development Specialist, Agriculture Development Division

Ms. Lockwood and Mr. DiBernardo presented the Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone (APRZ) Designation request by the Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) for the Ovid, Michigan facility. Mr. DiBernardo gave an overview of the project, noting the dairy industry provides a \$5.1 billion impact on Michigan's economy and Michigan's dairy industry is growing as a direct result of expansion and investment by Michigan dairy farmers.

He reported this application includes a proposed \$35 million expansion that will add approximately 2 million pounds of milk processing capacity per day and 10 new jobs. With slightly over 5 million pounds of daily processing capacity, the Ovid plant could process 25% of the state's current annual milk volume of 7.5 billion pounds. MMPA is also considering an additional investment of approximately \$18 million to add a new building and spray dryer for manufacturing milk powders.

Both the Village of Ovid and County of Clinton have passed resolutions approving the designation of an agricultural processing renaissance zone and the full 15-year tax abatement.

This is a viable project, with the MSU Product Center's study indicating it would produce a \$182 million total economic impact and create a total of 176 new jobs. It is recommended that the Commission of Agriculture approve the resolution for an Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone application as presented.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER REGIS MOVED TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING RENAISSANCE ZONE DESIGNATION WITH THE MICHIGAN MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION IN THE VILLAGE OF OVID, CLINTON COUNTY. COMMISSIONER COE SECONDED.

COMMISSIONER BRYUM CONDUCTED A ROLL-CALL VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Lockwood noted this is a collaborative effort between the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and the Michigan Department of Transportation. MDA appreciates the work completed by the Village of Ovid, Clinton County, and the Michigan Milk Producers.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller recognized Ms. Lockwood and the Agriculture Development Division staff for their efforts. This demonstrates just one more opportunity for agriculture to make a presence in Michigan and demonstrate support of such community opportunities.

Commissioner Regis reported that announcement of this designation will be completed at a future date to allow for Governor Granholm's participation in an event with the Michigan Milk Producers Association.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER REGIS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER JOUSMA-MILLER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Commission Resolution – Agriculture Processing Renaissance Zone Designation*