

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

AgroLiquid
3055 West M-21
St. Johns, Michigan

MEETING MINUTES January 22, 2020

PRESENT:

Brian Pridgeon, Vice Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dru Montri, Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Patricia Bergdahl, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Charlie Meintz, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Tim Boring, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Gary McDowell, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice Chairperson Pridgeon called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 9:04 a.m. on January 22, 2020. He introduced new Commissioner Tim Boring, who shared information on his background. Commissioner Montri called the roll with Commissioners Bergdahl, Boring, Meintz, Montri, and Pridgeon, and Director McDowell present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR JANUARY 22, 2020. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEINTZ. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 6, 2019, MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is March 25, 2020, to be held in the Lansing area.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL

Commissioners shared information relative to agriculture in their respective areas, as well as details around recent industry meetings they attended. Commissioner Montri noted the issues of technology in agriculture, climate change, and water quality and control are being continually highlighted across the agriculture industry and is interested in how the Commission and the department can remain engaged in those areas.

Commissioners Bergdahl, Boring, Meintz, Montri, and Pridgeon traveled to attend today's meeting. There was no other travel submitted for approval.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEINTZ. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Commissioner Pridgeon advised the Commission is needing to fill its positions of Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair for 2020.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER PRIDGEON AS CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2020. COMMISSIONER MEINTZ SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER PRIDGEON MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER MONTRI AS VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2020. COMMISSIONER BORING SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER MEINTZ AS SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2020. COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director McDowell shared details of internal meetings in which he recently participated and advised the department will be hosting several Agriculture Housing Stakeholder meetings across the state. He provided an update on emerging contaminants and announced the department has hired a Senior Environmental Policy Advisor. The Governor's State of the State address will be given on January 29 and her budget recommendations are expected on February 6.

He detailed the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) key 2019 accomplishments, and noted priorities for 2020 will include ag housing and labor solutions, climate change, water quality in Michigan's watersheds, online licensing portal and new inspection system, and updating the Food Code and Industrial Hemp laws. Agriculture must be prepared for anticipated crop challenges again in 2020 and the department looks forward to working with the industry and its partners in being proactive in crop preparation.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

There was no public comment relative to agenda items.

MICHIGAN'S CENSUS 2020: Kerry Ebersole, Executive Director, Michigan's Census 2020

Ms. Ebersole shared details around the process and timeline of Michigan's Census 2020, emphasizing federal funding and Congressional seats for the state are determined by the census response. Individuals can respond by mail, telephone, and online as well, which goes live mid-March. Counting everyone who lives in Michigan is critical to the future success of our state and she encouraged everyone to help in sharing the message. Information and materials can be found on the census website at www.Michigan.gov/census2020.

Commissioner Montri suggested census information be shared during the department's upcoming Agriculture Stakeholder meetings. The Director concurred.

CROP DISASTER UPDATE: Joel Johnson, State Director, and Benjamin Belkholm, Agriculture Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency

Mr. Belkholm advised their agency has been working diligently over the last year to provide as much assistance as possible to producers. Last year was very difficult for agriculture in Michigan, as climate conditions were compounded by depressed prices. He reviewed the 2019 crop disasters and how FSA is working to mitigate issues producers have been facing, as well as collaborating with MDARD and the Governor's office. He shared details around FSA's numerous assistance, emergency loan, and market facilitation programs, as well as specifics of additional programs available for the 62 Michigan counties that have been approved for some type of disaster assistance.

MICHIGAN ONION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Greg Bird, Executive Director, Michigan Onion Committee

Mr. Bird advised the Michigan Onion Committee (MOC) requests approval by the Commission for reapportionment to decrease its number of committee members from seven to five, in accordance with the Agricultural Commodity Marketing Act, PA 232 of 1965 as amended. He reported the reason being there are insufficient onion growers to support higher membership involvement. The MOC Board of Directors has approved this change, as has Director McDowell.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPORTIONMENT REQUEST TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF MICHIGAN ONION COMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM SEVEN TO FIVE. COMMISSIONER BORING SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

BOVINE TB PROGRAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: Dr. Nora Wineland, State Veterinarian and Division Director, Animal Industry Division

Dr. Wineland reviewed details of the updated Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the associated required Zoning Order for the Commission's consideration at their next meeting, as required by PA 466. She explained the changes, which include various required animal testing and public notification activities.

Information on the major changes in Presque Isle County requirements and surveillance requirements in buffer counties (Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Otsego, and Roscommon) was reviewed. She summarized the recent USDA Bovine TB Program review and resulting recommendations, as well as a TB positive herds report.

Challenges for the program going forward were discussed. The Director advised the department is totally committed to the program and thanked Dr. Wineland and her staff for all of their efforts, especially for their recent positive negotiations with USDA.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Chairperson Pridgeon recessed the meeting at 10:37 a.m. for a brief break. He reconvened the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT KEY GOALS AND OUTCOMES: Kevin Bambenek, Business Performance Specialist

Mr. Bambenek advised MDARD's 90 different mandated programs operate under the standard of performance excellence, which is comprised of the four goals of food safety and human and animal health, environmental sustainability, economic development, and efficient, effective government. He explained the 13 components of the performance framework and various initiatives being undertaken to strengthen the department's operations. He also shared the most recent MDARD scorecard summarizing the department's outcome measures, which are utilized to help drive continuous improvement. The Commission discussed various challenges the department faces daily.

Commissioner Montri asked about the scorecard metric regarding the amount of new investment generated by companies and Commissioner Boring asked about the pesticide complaint investigation measure. Mr. Bambenek will inquire on both and advise the Commission in more detail.

PROPOSED 2020 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs): Jim Johnson, Division Director, and Ben Tirrell, Right to Farm Program Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division; and Dr. Janice Swanson, Care of Farm Animals GAAMP Committee Chair

Mr. Johnson advised RTF Act is very specific in terms of the role the Commission has relative to establishing a set of defined GAAMPs, those standards that are used for determining compliance with the RTF Act. The Act also dictates the GAAMPs be reviewed and approved on an annual basis. The proposed 2020 GAAMPs were introduced in November and today, Commissioners have the opportunity to ask questions and ultimately make a decision about each of the eight GAAMPs as presented. He expressed appreciation to the GAAMP Committees for the extensive amount of work they accomplish reviewing the documents. Mr. Tirrell advised most recommended changes to the GAAMPs were minor edits and updates, with substantial changes for only two.

Mr. Tirrell summarized RTF program actions in response to Commissioner requests made during their November 2019 meeting. Toward obtaining more productive public comment, an initial step of posting a detailed comment form to the RTF website will help capture more concise public input. The topic of siting scientific citations whenever possible within GAAMPs will be discussed during the upcoming meeting scheduled with the GAAMPs Chairs. To address the issue of editing, a comprehensive revision of each GAAMP was completed by staff and those edits will be incorporated going forward.

Dr. Swanson summarized changes recommended for the Care of Farm Animals GAAMP and addressed the question raised at the November meeting relative to timeframe, explaining the language was inserted to give guidance on what to do with animals once they become ill and debilitated. She advised the updated American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines on Animal Euthanasia were just released and requested being able to change from the 2013 edition mentioned in the GAAMP to the new 2020 edition.

Commissioner Montri questioned the reference on page 12 relating to the increase in mature dairy cows. Dr. Swanson will ask her committee person to double check that

figure and advise the Commission. Commissioner Montri advised formatting of the definitions section is needed, and in the references on next to last page, a reference needs to be added for bumblebees.

Discussion ensued relative to clarification of the terms “can, shall, should, and must.” Dr. Swanson advised keeping desired outcomes in mind, those terms give producers some flexibility in ways to achieve those outcomes. For any basic elements required for care of the animal or having legal connotation, the term “must” will always be used.

Commissioner Boring asked about the inclusion of zero tolerance for pig abuse and neglect in the Swine Section. Dr. Swanson advised it is part of the Pork Quality Assurance Guidelines, noting the GAAMP is currently consistent with industry language recommended for each species. She suggested the committee could develop something useful in this regard for all chapters and will undertake this topic for the GAAMP moving forward.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2020 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CARE OF FARM ANIMALS WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER BORING SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION APPROVING THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CARE OF FARM ANIMALS WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED, TO INCLUDE THE INCORPORATION OF UPDATING THE AVMA GUIDELINES ON ANIMAL EUTHANASIA TO THE 2020 VERSION. COMMISSIONER BORING SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Following discussion, it was suggested two of the GAAMPs be formally deferred to allow for additional review by the Commission and the opportunity for the respective Committee Chair of each to present changes.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO TABLE THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FARM MARKETS AND PESTICIDE UTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL TO THE MARCH COMMISSION MEETING. COMMISSIONER BORING SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

The GAAMP for Manure Management and Utilization was discussed. Commissioner Boring requested any applicable changes that result from EGLE’s (Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) comprehensive review of the CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) permitting process be considered for incorporation into recommended practices going forward. Commissioner Montri requested continued consideration of cumulative impact on multiple farms for both the Manure Utilization and the Site Selection GAAMPs. Mr. Tirrell advised he will communicate all direction and comment from the Commission to the committees for consideration in their future discussions.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2020 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MANURE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER MONTRI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Tirrell advised the remainder of the 2020 GAAMPs are being recommended with no changes.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2020 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CRANBERRY PRODUCTION, IRRIGATION AND WATER USE, NUTRIENT UTILIZATION, AND SITE SELECTION AND ODOR CONTROL FOR NEW AND EXPANDING LIVESTOCK FACILITIES WITH NO CHANGES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MEINTZ SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Montri advised the Farm Markets GAAMP Committee is meeting on February 10 and will be discussing issues of markets in exclusively residential districts. Committee members Ryan Coffey Hoag and Ron Goldy have invited the Commissioners to speak with them if they have certain metrics or criteria they would like considered.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND REQUEST: Jodi Gruner, Economic and Community Development Specialist, Agriculture Development Division

Ms. Gruner introduced the PFI Holdco, LLC, Peterson Farm project and Mr. Richard Raffaelli, Chief Financial Officer. The project represents an \$18.5 million investment in the blueberry, cherry, and apple commodities. It will provide value-added processing for over 400 processors, relocate facility capacity from other states, and create 50-70 new jobs. Mr. Raffaelli provided background on their company and details surrounding this project that will increase processing capacity capabilities for the Michigan fruit industry.

Ms. Gruner advised MDARD staff recommends the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$135,000 for PFI Holdco, LLC.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE-BASED GRANT OF \$135,000 FOR PFI HOLDCO, LLC, AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEINTZ. MOTION CARRIED.

PESTICIDE PROGRAMS UPDATE: Mike Philip, Division Director, and Brian Verhougstraete, Pesticide Section Manager, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Mr. Philip introduced Brian Verhougstraete who provided an overview of the Pest Program Section. He detailed the various programs within the section which operate with compliance as the goal. He also discussed challenges and issues of the program going forward in continuing to protect human, animal, and environmental health as they ensure pesticides are used in a safe and legal manner.

Mr. Verhougstratete addressed Commissioner Boring's earlier question relative to the Scorecard measure on pesticide complaint investigation. He advised the primary reason for not meeting that goal is the division has been building an inspection and enforcement system that has pulled some resources from inspection activities.

BUDGET UPDATE: Maria Tyszkiewicz, Chief Budget/Financial Officer

Ms. Tyszkiewicz reviewed recent action on the Fiscal Year (2020) budget, including the restoration of \$4.0 million General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) for the Food and Agriculture Investment Program. She explained several supplemental changes that reduced regulatory departmental programs by \$1.0 million GF/GP. The FY 2021 Governor's recommended budget is expected the first week of February.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Nathan Kark, Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs

Mr. Kark referred to the MDARD Legislative Update provided to the Commissioners and discussed the status around bills of interest to the department, noting the Animal Industry Act was signed into law in December.

Commissioner Montri advised it would be helpful to include mention in the report when MDARD has a position on a particular piece of legislation. Mr. Kark advised he would integrate those notations in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ronald DeCook, East Lansing, reviewed a Drummond Island recreational development project on which he is working and complimented Mr. Peter Anastor and Nathan Kark for all of their assistance in guiding them through the various processes.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER BORING SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:52 P.M.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes November 6, 2019*
- C) *Director McDowell – Issues of Interest Report*
- D) *Everything You Need to Know About the 2020 Census Presentation*
- E) *Census – Counting for Dollars Flyer*
- F) *Farm Service Agency Updates Presentation*
- G) *Michigan Onion Committee Request for Reapportionment Documents*
- H) *TB Program Update Presentation*
- I) *Draft Bovine TB Zoning Order*
- J) *MDARD Vision and Mission Flyer*
- K) *MDARD December 2019 Scorecard*
- L) *2020 Draft GAAMPs*
- M) *2020 GAAMPs Public Input Meeting Report and Public Comments*
- N) *PFI Holdco, LLC (Peterson Farms) Memo and Terms Sheet*
- O) *Pesticide Section Overview Presentation*
- P) *MDARD Budget Update*
- Q) *Legislative Status – January 2020*