

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MSU Detroit Center, Multi-Purpose Room
3408 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48201

and

Remote Technology via Microsoft Teams
Dial: 1-248-509-0316; Conf. ID 386 784 12#

MEETING MINUTES September 15, 2021

PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Montri called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 9:32 a.m. on September 15, 2021. Commissioner Montri called the roll with Commissioners Bergdahl, Chae, Meintz, and Montri, and Director McDowell present. She noted Commissioner Boring will be joining the meeting shortly.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2021. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEINTZ. MOTION CARRIED.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Chairperson Montri recessed the meeting at 9:35 a.m. for a brief break to resolve technical issues. She reconvened the meeting at 9:40 a.m., at which time Commissioner Boring also joined the meeting.

APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 21, 2021, MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BORING. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is November 10, 2021, to be held at AgroLiquid in St. Johns, Michigan.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL

Commissioners shared information relative to their farm operations, as well as agriculture in their respective areas. Although corn and soybean crops are poised for record yields, concerns were expressed regarding the continuing increase in crop input costs, supply chain issues, and labor challenges; revenue needs to remain strong to avoid issues, particularly in the dairy industry. Commissioners also shared details around recent industry meetings they attended.

Commissioners Bergdahl, Boring, Chae, Meintz, and Montri, traveled to attend today's meeting. Commissioner Bergdahl traveled to participate in the Michigan Farm Bureau tour of Hannaville Indian School aquaponics operations in Wilson, Michigan, and Commissioner Chae traveled to Lansing for his Senate Advice and Consent hearing. There was no other travel submitted for approval.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAE. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Montri encouraged Commissioners to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the State of Michigan Implicit Bias Training, which offers training on how to be thoughtful and intentional when considering projects and policies that come before the Commission.

Commissioner Montri advised she is excited to be touring some of the urban agriculture operations in the City of Detroit and thanked Commissioner Chae for his organization of the tour. She recognized and expressed appreciation for the incredible amount of urban agriculture projects within the city.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Commissioner Montri reviewed a retirement resolution before the Commission recognizing Terrance Philibeck.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED THE RESOLUTION FOR TERRANCE PHILIBECK BE ADOPTED WITH BEST WISHES FOR HIS LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT. COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director McDowell announced Tom Zimnicki joins the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) on September 20 as its new

Environmental Policy Advisor. The Director also shared details of meetings in which he recently has or soon will be participating, including grand opening of the Peterson Research Center in Hart, Governor's UP tour and UP State Fair (Donna LaCourt attended on behalf of the Director), recognition of Citizens LLC in Charlotte as the 2021 Ag Exporter of the Year, open house of Zeeland Farm Services in Ithaca, Corn Marketing Board, Michigan Economic Development Corporation Stakeholder Collaboration, recognizing Schramm's Mead in Ferndale as this year's "Rising Star Award" recipient, Michigan Agri-Business Association annual meeting, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture annual meeting, West Michigan Food Processing Association 'FutureFood21" conference, and Tri-National Accord. He invited Commissioners to join MDARD's Employee Awards Ceremony on November 2, which will have a remote component. He also provided updates on the status of remote work for MDARD staff, reauthorization of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), and the Climate Council activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Jessica Youngblood, Youngblood Vineyard, Ray, Michigan – Ms. Youngblood shared details around their vineyard operations in metro Detroit. They involve the community to offer them a harvest experience and are excited to be a part of urban agriculture.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP) STANDARDS – APPROVAL OF 2022 STANDARDS: Jim Johnson, Division Director, and Joe Kelpinski, MAEAP Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division

Mr. Johnson advised the MAEAP Standards, as introduced at the July meeting, are before the Commission for approval today. They would be implemented and used for risk mitigation and MAEAP verification for individual operations during fiscal year 2022. This is a very important program in which farmers are being proactive in addressing environmental issues. The Commission has the statutory responsibility to annually review and approve the MAEAP Standards.

Mr. Kelpinski reiterated there are no recommended changes to the standards for 2022. He requested an overall approval of the maintenance of the standards for 2021 carrying them over to 2022.

Current database development includes incorporating all of the various A-Syst tools into two documents, one intended for farms and the other remaining with Forestry Wetlands and Habitat. The standards will not change. This streamlining will increase efficiencies for the farmers and the department, as well as technicians delivering the tools on farms, entering data in the system, and updating the tools annually for approval.

In response to question from Commissioner Montri, Mr. Kelpinski confirmed there are no major content changes to the standards anticipated for 2023, although there are a few peripheral items being considered. If any new regulation or piece of legislation should arise, it will be addressed as promptly as possible.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR 2022 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL. MOTION CARRIED.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED PROCESSING PRACTICES (GAPPs): Jim Johnson, Division Director, Environmental Stewardship Division

Mr. Johnson advised the Commission is statutorily required to annually approve the Generally Accepted Fruit, Vegetables, Dairy, Meat, and Grain Processing Practices for Noise and Odor (GAPPs) as dictated by the Legislature in 1998. Practices were developed specifically around noise and odor related issues that provide nuisance protection for agricultural processors who are following the standards.

Although the department continues to work with processors, the GAPPs have never been used. Processors have been able to handle issues themselves, making whatever changes are needed to address any complaints.

During a recent committee meeting, members confirmed the standards are very important to the agricultural processing industry. The committee is considering developing standards around fugitive dust as the next nuisance condition.

As indicated in the materials provided to the Commission, there are no changes recommended this year and they can be approved as they currently exist.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED FRUIT, VEGETABLES, DAIRY, MEAT, AND GRAIN PROCESSING PRACTICES FOR NOISE AND ODOR AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BORING. MOTION CARRIED.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs): Jim Johnson, Division Director, and Mike Wozniak, Right to Farm Program Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division

Mr. Johnson noted the Right to Farm (RTF) Act provides nuisance protection for farm operations that are in conformance with Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs). The Act gives the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development responsibility for the GAAMPs, which RTF staff use to determine compliance with the conditions necessary under the RTF Act. The Act dictates the GAAMPs be reviewed annually by the Commission and revised as

necessary. Today, the proposed 2022 GAAMPs are introduced for the Commission's review between now and the November meeting, with anticipated decision regarding the 2022 GAAMPs at that time.

Mr. Wozniak recognized the outstanding efforts of the GAAMPs taskforce committees, who worked under a shortened review cycle this year. He provided a summary of the recommended revisions to the 2022 GAAMPs, including minor text and formatting changes, references to new research, and language added regarding depopulation of livestock in emergency circumstances. He further reviewed specific recommendations within each GAAMP, which included consistency between GAAMPs and a change to the preface for each.

Commissioner Montri added the Commission's appreciation for efforts of the taskforce committees and their willingness to change their review timeline to provide for approval in November, which can be inclusive of new Commission members.

Commissioner Chae requested a briefing specific to urban farming within the GAAMPs. Mr. Johnson confirmed there is a provision allowing cities of a certain size to determine what urban farming will look like within those communities and he will provide an update during the November Commission meeting. Mr. Wozniak advised he is also available for conversation at any time.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Chairperson Montri recessed the meeting at 10:41 a.m. for a brief break. She reconvened the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

BOVINE TUBERCULOUS (TB) PROGRAM UPDATE: Nora Wineland, Division Director and State Veterinarian, Animal Industry Division; and Jared Duquette, Wildlife Division Chief, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Wineland provided an update on the Bovine Tuberculous (TB) Program, including positive herds and how they impact MDARD's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), general program updates, and status of MOU discussions with USDA.

MDARD's current MOU stipulates USDA will withdraw Michigan's split-state status if we were to identify more than three newly affected herds in the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) within any consecutive 12-month period. Currently, we have one newly affected herd since September 15, 2020. We have three positive herds with which MDARD is coordinating a test and removal approach. Details around each specific positive herd were shared.

Dr. Duquette provided an update on deer surveillance conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MNDR). Deer surveillance indicates deer positives remain primarily clustered within Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452.

Prevalence was consistent with previous years, with a decrease outside of DMU 452. He reviewed details and methods for this year's proactive implementation plan, targeted at increasing the number of heads submitted by hunters. Localized sharpshooting by USDA Wildlife Services to reduce deer density in localized areas is also planned. A new Force of Infection (FOI) model to view the disease in deer will better portray TB transmission rate at a given time to allow staff to better react. Also reviewed was the ongoing vaccine study, which is currently working to determine the best delivery method.

In conclusion, Dr. Wineland summarized the ongoing weekly discussions with USDA regarding the new MOU. Expiration of the current MOU has been extended to April 15, 2022.

In response to questions from Commissioner Meintz, Dr. Duquette explained taxidermists have received training on how to preserve heads and still provide relevant test samples. MDNR's communication staff is continually working to effectively educate hunters in all aspects of TB testing processes and encouraging hunters to be partners in this ongoing effort.

Commissioner Montri expressed appreciation for the joint presentation today, anticipates it will be of similar value for updating the Natural Resources Commission, and suggested issues of common interest, such as Bovine TB and CWD, be presented jointly by MDARD and MDNR in the future.

COMMISSION POLICY MANUAL: Brad Deacon, Director, Legal Affairs and Emergency Management

Mr. Deacon emphasized the Commission Policy Manual is an important document, not only for the Commission but for the entire department, as it establishes standards for operations of the Commission, as well as a variety of expectations ranging from equal protection to how appeals are administered under the Right to Farm determinations. The manual is reviewed, revised as needed, and reapproved every other year. Comments from each MDARD division and program, as well as the Commission, were solicited and updates incorporated accordingly.

He noted that included in the manual, is a list of specific responsibilities on pages 3-4 referencing a wide range of Public Acts where the Commission plays a role. Because many of these have not been utilized in recent years, he offered to present at a future meeting to review those issues. In addition, the policy attachments will be updated to ensure most recent versions are included.

Commissioner Montri acknowledged the commitment around including diversity, equity, and inclusion in the manual revisions. Also, to ensure the policies reflect how we do things in practice, she made several recommended revisions that were included. She confirmed the Commission would be interested in receiving

a presentation reviewing the Public Acts which designate a role for the Commission.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED COMMISSION POLICY MANUAL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BORING. MOTION CARRIED.

PROTECT MICHIGAN COMMISSION: Chuck Lippstreu, President, Michigan Agri-Business Association; and Meredith Smith, Communications Specialist, Environmental Stewardship Division

Mr. Lippstreu advised the Protect Michigan Commission was created under Executive Order 2020-193. The strategy is educating and empowering Michigan residents about the COVID-19 vaccine, its safety, approval, and effectiveness in the fact that having Michiganders vaccinated is the way out of the pandemic.

The Protect Michigan Commission has been working with a broad range of stakeholders with the goal of reaching 70 percent of Michiganders who are eligible vaccinated. Specifics of the various goals were reviewed. The key focus includes equitable access, inclusiveness in all communities, transparent communications, providing data and relevant facts, and strategic implementation through effective partnerships to protect the health and safety of Michigan's families and workers. Current statistics around vaccine efforts in the state were also reviewed, noting rural communities nationwide tend to lag behind metro areas with number of residents vaccinated, which has driven the development of mobile vaccination events in Michigan, as well as promotional efforts from the leadership of national agriculture and agri-business sectors.

Commissioner Montri thanked Mr. Lippstreu and Ms. Smith for their leadership in this important effort, noting this resource is critical for rural communities.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM GRANT AMENDMENTS: Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Division Director, Agriculture Development Division

Ms. Zmitko-Somers reviewed recommended changes to the milestones for the 2019 Food and Agriculture Investment Program KDS, LLC, DBA Schramm's Mead grant project.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BORING MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED AMENDMENT TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM GRANT PROJECT MILESTONES FOR KDS, LLC, DBA SCHRAMM'S MEAD. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAE. MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Zmitko-Somers next reviewed recommended changes to the milestones for the 2018 Food and Agriculture Investment Program Northern Market grant project. MDARD's portion of this grant was to assist in funding the architectural

design and development contract, which allowed them to proceed with fund raising for project construction. Following considerable discussion around the company not yet having broken ground and explanation of the project's current status, the department's confidence level, and planned future engagement in the project, the Commission considered the request to revise milestones and provide for closing out the grant project.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BORING MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED AMENDMENT TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM GRANT PROJECT MILESTONES FOR THE NORTHERN MARKET. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAE. MOTION CARRIED.

In the future, Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised the department will most likely focus more on implementation type grants, being inclusive as possible across the state.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Ashley Steffen, Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs

Ms. Steffen referred to the MDARD Legislative Update provided to the Commissioners and reviewed current status and activity around bills of interest to the department. Finalization of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget is hoped within the next two weeks and the department is pleased with what it was able to accomplish through recent meetings with appropriations chairs. MAEAP reauthorization and creation of the Office of Rural Development are proceeding, and changes to the Industrial Hemp Program are anticipated. She explained reasoning behind the department being opposed to House Bill 4561 that would provide for refunding of certain food establishment licensing fees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment on non-agenda items was requested.

ADJOURN

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes July 21, 2021*
- C) *Commission Resolution Recognizing Terrance J. Philibeck*
- D) *Director's Update – September 15, 2021*
- E) *Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Standards*

- F) Generally Accepted Fruit, Vegetables, Dairy, Meat, and Grain Processing Practices for Noise and Odor*
- G) 2022 Draft Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs)*
- H) Summary of Recommended Changes to 2022 GAAMPs*
- I) Public Input Meeting Summary – 2022 GAAMPs*
- J) Public Comment Relative to the 2022 Draft GAAMPs*
- K) Bovine Tuberculosis Program Update*
- L) Draft Revised Commission Policy Manual*
- M) Protect Michigan Commission Update*
- N) Food and Agriculture Investment Program Amendment – KDS, LLC DBA Schramm's Mead Grant Project*
- O) Food and Agriculture Investment Program Amendment – Northern Market Grant Project*
- P) MDARD Summary of 2021-2022 Michigan Legislature 9/16/2021*