

# MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center  
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and

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## MEETING MINUTES November 2, 2022

### **PRESENT:**

Charlie Meintz, Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Andy Chae, Vice Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Patricia Bergdahl, Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Juliette King-McAvoy, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Gary McDowell, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Meintz called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 9:05 a.m. on November 2, 2022. Roll call was taken with Commissioners Bergdahl, Chae, King-McAvoy, and Meintz, and Director McDowell announcing themselves as present. Commissioner Wyant was absent.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO EXCUSE COMMISSIONER WYANT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Meintz announced he would be adding Sarah Lucas, Director of the Office of Rural Development to the agenda for an overview of the office. He also added that Joe Cramer, Michigan Bean Commission Executive Director, was unable to join us, and Scott Bales would be presenting.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA, AS AMENDED FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2022. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **PROPOSED 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Commissioners discussed the proposed dates for their 2023 meetings.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL**

Commissioners shared information relative to their farm operations, as well as agriculture in their respective areas.

Commissioner Chae is wrapping up harvest at his farm. They hosted four different tours this week, including Michigan Land Bank Authority and Wayne State University.

Chairman Meintz expressed concerns with winter wheat having issues with germination. They finished up harvest, however dry.

Commissioner Bergdahl harvested a good final hay crop for the year. They did have some snow but continues to be dry in her area.

Commissioner King-McAvoy noted apples are off the tree and was a record-breaking crop. There were supply issues with storage boxes, and logistics for trucking.

Commissioners Bergdahl, Chae, King-McAvoy, and Meintz traveled to attend today's meeting. There was no other travel submitted for approval.

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

## **RECOGNIZE RETIRING COMMISSIONERS**

Director McDowell honored Commissioners Meintz and Bergdahl for their service to the commission. Both expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the board and expressed the knowledge they gained during their term was exceptional.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director McDowell congratulated Commissioner King-McAvoy being named as one of the 40 under 40 fruit and vegetable industry professionals.

The Director shared the annual Employee Award Ceremony took place the day before. Fifty-eight staff were recognized for their years of service. The following special award recipients included:

Every Day Hero – William Wells, Food and Dairy Division  
Leadership – Ken Settimo, Food and Dairy Division  
Front Line Ambassador – Stephanie Baughan, Laboratory Division  
Rookie of the Year – Nicole Ballreich, Animal Industry Division  
Team Excellence – 2022 MI HPAI Response Team

The Director traveled to the NASDA Annual Conference in the state of New York. He has participated in tours throughout the state since the September meeting, including the Milk River Intercounty Drain Tour, Kids Food Basket Site, Soybean Asphalt Rejuvenator Program Tour, and a tour of Customs and Boarder Protection Ports.

The Director highlighted a few key industry meetings, including MABA Outlook Conference.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

No public comment on agenda items was requested.

**OFFICE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: Sarah Lucas, Director of the Office of Rural Development**

Ms. Lucas shared her outreach across the state on behalf of the department, and the excitement she is receiving. She discussed the grant opportunities the department will offer to rural communities in our state. Ms. Lucas shared the hiring process is moving forward for three new positions in the Office of Rural Development with hopes to have it finished by the end of the month.

**NURSERY INSPECTION FEES: Mike Philip, Division Director, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division**

Mr. Philip advised PPPMD requests the Commission approve a proposed increase in its nursery and related inspection fees by an amount related to inflation, as authorized through P.A. 189 of 1931. Program costs are approximately \$3.3 million, with licensing and inspection fee revenue only totaling about \$943,000. He reviewed specifics of the requested increase. Organizations affected by the increase have received advance notification of the pending increase.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED INCREASE TO THE NURSERY AND RELATED INSPECTION FEES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**SPOTTED LANTERNFLY: Mike Philip, Division Director, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division**

Mr. Philip gave a presentation on the status of Spotted Lanternfly in the state of Michigan. The invasive species was in Pontiac, Michigan in earlier 2022. The treatment of insecticide has been successful. There are some concerns of local distribution centers where the insect could be transported to new locations. There is also some concern of the insect being in Northern Indiana, which is in close proximity to Michigan's southwest grape industry.

Commissioner Chae asked if communication was ongoing with MDARDs counterparts in Indiana to protect the grapes in Southwest Michigan. Mr. Philip assured the commission the communication was frequent.

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs): Jim Johnson, Division Director, and Mike Wozniak, Right to Farm (RTF) Program Manager, both Environmental Stewardship Division and the GAAMP Advisory Committee Chairs**

Mr. Johnson noted the RTF 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 considered necessary. The proposed 2023 GAAMPs were introduced in September and today, Commissioners can ask questions of the GAAMP Advisory Committee Chairs and ultimately decide the adoption of each of the eight GAAMPs as presented. He expressed appreciation and gratitude to the GAAMP Advisory Committees for the extensive amount of work they accomplished reviewing the documents to ensure these standards reflect the very best in managing appropriate farming practices that address nuisance conditions.

Dr. Madonna Benjamin, Care of Farm Animals GAAMP Committee Chair, provided an overview of the recommended changes for each specific species chapter of the 2023 Care of Farm Animals GAAMP. Recommended revisions include changes to over-the-counter pharmaceuticals pending FDA changes, euthanasia and depopulation updates, changes to fencing requirement for equine and updates to water sources for Apiary Management.

Commissioners had multiple questions on why revisions were made. Dr. Benjamin and Mr. Wozniak discussed prior discussion of the Care of Farm Animals GAAMP Committee resulting in these decisions. The commissioners asked the GAAMPs Advisory Committee Chairs to review the effects of climate change.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CARE OF FARM ANIMALS WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Dr. Steve Safferman, Manure Management and Utilization GAAMP Chair, provided an overview of the proposed changes in the 2023 Manure GAAMP, which include several changes to provide consistency of storage and capacity limits and recommending the use of the Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program. Tracking and consideration of future scientific data will continue as they review the 2023 GAAMP. The committee will continue to look at Manure Winter Plans, in the event storage capacities are met in winter months.

Commissioner King-McAvoy asked Dr. Safferman what future plans the committee has for large precipitation runoff. Dr. Safferman explained that more discussion will be held for the 2024 GAAMPs when a 25-year flood is concerned, and how storage and runoff can be managed.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDHAL MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MANURE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION WITH**

**CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER CHAE  
SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Wozniak stated that the remaining GAAMPs have no major proposed changes. He invited the remaining GAAMPs Committee Chairs to discuss their areas of interest. Commissioner King-McAvoy expressed that all GAAMP Committee Chairs focus on transparency and diversity in their committees for 2024.

Mr. Ryan Coffey Hoag, Farm Markets GAAMP Committee Chair, discussed prior changes to the Farm Market GAAMP. For 2023, the Farm Market GAAMP has no major revisions. The committee does hope to review Agritourism in the 2024 revisions. Chairman Meintz discussed how local farmers can use Agritourism to diversify their operation and how the Farm Market GAAMP would be used to protect the farmer.

Mr. Younsuk Dong, Irrigation Water Use GAAMP Committee Chair, reviewed the recommended revisions to the 2023 Irrigation and Water Use GAAMP. Mr. Dong discussed trends before the GAAMPs Committee, especially odors related to irrigation and center pivots.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023  
GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES FOR IRRIGATION WATER USE WITH CHANGES AS  
PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY  
SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Wozniak presented the remaining four GAAMPs to the commission, and requested the commission adopt the remaining five GAAMPs.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023  
GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES FOR PEST UTILIZATION-PEST CONTROL, CRANBERRY  
PRODUCTION, FARM MARKETS, SITE SELECTION AND NUTRIENT  
UTILIZATIONS AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER  
BERGDAHL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**RECESS AND RECONVENE**

Chairperson Meintz recessed the meeting at 10:59 a.m. for a brief break. He reconvened the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

**MSU AGBIORESEARCH AND THE SAGINAW VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER: Dr. Jim  
Kells, MSU AgBioResearch Assistant Director and Paul Horney, Farm Manager, Saginaw  
Valley Research Center**

Dr. Kells and Mr. Horney welcomed the Commission to the Saginaw Valley Research Center. Mr. Horney explained that the facility is 13 years old and had been located in the Saginaw area since the 1800s.

Dr. Kells explained how the MSU AgBioResearch receives their funding and how the research is important to the industry in the state of Michigan. Dr. Kells explained that the Saginaw Valley Research Center is 450 acres of privately donated land.

Chairman Meintz discussed what successes and failures the research stations have encountered in their time of operation. Mr. Horney explained that they expect to fail 99% of the time.

**MICHIGAN BEAN COMMISSION: Scott Bales, Michigan Bean Commission**

Mr. Bales gave a presentation on the Michigan Bean Commission on the importance of dry beans in the Saginaw Valley and the state of Michigan. Mr. Bales explained the obstacles the industry face in processing, weed and disease control, and genetics. Mr. Bales thanked MDARD for their relationship in grants and guidance. He also explained how the Bean Commission works with MSU to receive grants and funding for success in research.

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND REQUEST: Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Division Director, Agriculture Development Division**

Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised five Food and Agriculture Investment Program project requests are being presented for Commission consideration today. The first project is Carnico Foods., which is owned and operated by Scott and Ali Ferry of Ferry Farms in Litchfield, Michigan. Their inspected facility will have processing, packaging, private labeling, co-packing, and product drying/climate room for specialty meat and cured meats. Carnico Foods will create 8 new jobs.

Scott and Ali Ferry provided additional background on the company. Mrs. Ferry explained how the Farm to Table movement has helped their roadside stand move quickly to a specialty meat product being sold in large facilities. Their plant will cut down the distance from 300 miles to 40 miles for other farmers to utilize their plant.

Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised MDARD is recommending a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$65,000 for Carnico Farms.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT OF \$65,000 FOR CARNICO FARMS. COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

The next project is D'Still, LLC., which is owned and operated by Tonya Lockwood. D'Still, LLC dba Motor City Gas (MCG) is a whiskey distillery that uses 100% grain grown in Michigan, 25% of that grain is grown at their family farm in Ann Arbor, Michigan. D'Still, LLC will create 2 new jobs.

Rich and Tonya Lockwood provided additional background on their company. This grant will help them increase their production with a purchase of a new 500-gallon whiskey still, forklift, grain handling equipment and processing tanks.

Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised MDARD is recommending a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$65,000 for D'Still, LLC.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT OF**

**\$65,000 FOR D'STILL, LLC. COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

The third project is Detroit Food Commons Qualified Active Low-Income Community Business (DFC QALICB), which is an Active Low-Income Community Business that will construct a new two-story, mixed-use building for processors, farmers, caterers, and mobile food trucks to grow at their own pace. Detroit Food Commons will create a total of 47 new jobs.

Board Member, Malik Yakini, explained that this grant will be used to create a commercial kitchen and grocery store. The Detroit People's Food Co-op, a grocery store cooperatively owned by community members, will occupy the entire 14,549 square feet first floor. The second floor will house 3,783 square feet of fully licensed incubator kitchen spaces. The DFC QALICB will provide very low cost, part-time commercial kitchen space for rent in SE MI where the available commercial kitchen spaces are at capacity. The building will also have a community event and banquet space, and office space for the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network. The development will sit on a 1.42-acre site with onsite parking and space for outdoor vendors. As a result of the access to commercial kitchen space that allows users to sell food products to the public.

Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised MDARD is recommending a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$100,000 for Detroit Food Commons Qualified Active Low-Income Community Business.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT OF \$100,000 FOR DETROIT FOOD COMMONS QUALIFIED ACTIVE LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY BUSINESS. COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

The fourth project is MG88 Holland Cold Storage, through its wholly owned subsidiary Cold-Link Logistics Holland (CLLH), opened in April 2022 after a 10-month construction period. CLLH provides comprehensive logistics solutions to area growers and manufacturers of frozen meats, fruits, and a variety of grocery products. MG88 Holland Cold Storage will create 10 new jobs.

Rick Mellema, CLLH CEO, explained that this grant will be used to expand approximately 73,000 sq ft to the current warehouse. This expansion will allow major meat packers like Clemens Foods, fruit growers like Cranes Orchard, and dairy processors like Palazzolo's Artisan Dairy to access much needed freezer storage space that is in very limited supply in West Michigan.

Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised MDARD is recommending a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$100,000 for MG88 Holland Cold Storage.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT OF \$100,000 FOR MG88 HOLLAND COLD STORAGE. COMMISSIONER CHAE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

The final project is Perdue Foods, LLC, one of the company's fastest growing divisions is the pet operation, which would utilize the Shelby, MI facility. Started in 2011, the company has approximately 15% of the U.S. jerky treat market share. Perdue Foods, LLC will create 99 new jobs.

Ryan Perdue explained that this grant will be used to expand its national reach while allowing it to grow in-source manufacturing capacity. Current similar facilities operated by Perdue Foods, LLC purchase approximately 150,000 pounds of apples, cherries, and other fruits each year which the company would expect to source locally for the Oceana facility.

Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised MDARD is recommending a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$100,000 for Perdue Foods, LLC.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT OF \$100,000 FOR PERDUE FOODS, LLC. COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Ashley Steffen, Legislative Liaison**

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. Ms. Steffen discussed legislation that is expected to advance in the last few weeks of the 2022 legislative term.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment on non-agenda items was requested.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes September 14, 2022*
- C) *Draft Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule*
- D) *Request for Approval to Increase Nursery and Related Inspection Fees*
- E) *State Treasurer Memo Re: Inspection Fee Inflation Adjustments*
- F) *Spotted Lanternfly Presentation*
- G) *2023 Draft Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs)*
- H) *Summary of Recommended Changes to 2023 GAAMPs*
- I) *MSU AgBioResearch and the Saginaw Valley Research Center Presentation*
- J) *Michigan Bean Commission Presentation*
- K) *Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Grant Request for Carnico Foods*



- L) Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Grant Request for D'Still, LLC*
- M) Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Grant Request for Detroit Food Commons*
- N) Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Grant Request for MG88 Holland Cold Storage, LLC*
- O) Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Grant Request for Perdue Foods, LLC*
- P) MDARD Summary of 2022-2023 Michigan Legislature 11/2/2022*