

# MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Constitution Hall  
Atrium Level, Con-Con Conference Room  
525 West Allegan Street,  
Lansing, Michigan, 48933

and

Remote Technology via Microsoft Teams  
Dial: 1-248-509-0316, Conference ID 656 266 695#

## MEETING MINUTES March 15, 2023

### **PRESENT:**

Andy Chae, Vice-Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Juliette King-McAvoy, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Monica Wyant, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Dr. Felicia Wu, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
David Williams, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Kathleen Angerer, Acting Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

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

Vice Chairperson Chae called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 9:30 a.m. on March 15, 2023. Commissioner Chae called the roll with Commissioners Chae, King-McAvoy, Wyant, Wu and Williams and Acting Director Angerer present.

Vice Chairperson welcomed our new commissioners. Commissioner Wu and Commissioner Williams introduced themselves.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR MARCH 15, 2023. COMMISSIONER WYANT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 7, 2022, MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is May 17, 2023, meeting location and time is currently to be determined.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL**

Commissioners each briefly shared details around their background, information relative to their farm operations, and agriculture in their respective areas.

Commissioner Chae explained his farm was starting spring work on the vegetable farm. This entailed sanitizing trays, starting onions, and prepping seeds.

Commissioner King-McAvoy discussed her travel to the meeting. She explained the next six weeks will be crucial to fruit growth for the year.

Commissioner Wyant explained that her team at Meijer had been networking with local farmers for their next season.

Commissioner Wu, a professor at Michigan State University, expressed gratitude to the staff at MSU for their leadership following the recent tragedy on campus.

Commissioner Williams explained his farm was prepping for spring planting and preparing fertilizer for application.

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

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **COMMISSIONER ISSUES**

Commissioner Chae advised the Commission is needing to fill its positions of Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair for 2023.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER CHAE AS CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2023. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED.**

**Roll Call (5-0):**

**Yeas: Wyant, King-McAvoy, Chae, Williams, Wu**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER WYANT AS VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2023. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED.**

**Roll Call (5-0):**

**Yeas: Wyant, King-McAvoy, Chae, Williams, Wu**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY AS SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2023. COMMISSIONER WYANT SECONDED.**

**Roll Call (5-0):**

**Yeas: Wyant, King-McAvoy, Chae, Williams, Wu**

**Nays: None**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Chae reviewed the retirement resolution before the Commission recognizing Director Gary McDowell. Mr. McDowell expressed his appreciation, adding he has thoroughly enjoyed his time with the department.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY MOVED THE RESOLUTIONS FOR GARY MCDOWELL BE ADOPTED WITH BEST WISHES FOR A LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT. COMMISSIONER WYANT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Chae reviewed the retirement resolution before the Commission recognizing Lou Ognajanovski.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED THE RESOLUTIONS FOR LOU OGNAJANOVSKI BE ADOPTED. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Chae reviewed the retirement resolution before the Commission recognizing Nancy Harris. Ms. Harris expressed her appreciation and gave her examples of great landscape architecture in our state.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED THE RESOLUTIONS FOR NANCY HARRIS BE ADOPTED WITH BEST WISHES FOR A LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Chae reviewed the retirement resolution before the Commission recognizing Keith Eldred. Mr. Eldred expressed his appreciation and commented on the future of invasive pests in our state.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED THE RESOLUTIONS FOR KEITH ELDRD BE ADOPTED WITH BEST WISHES FOR A LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Acting Director Angerer shared with the commission the MDARD 2022 Accomplishments and the latest MDARD Magazine, that was being announced the following day.

Ms. Angerer explained that she had been busy presenting at the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Committees. Discussion had been based on department overviews, the Governor's Recommended FY 2024 Budget and regenerative agriculture. She explained the agency's commitment to the Michigan Healthy Climate Plan.

Acting Director Angerer has had multiple tours since the last commission meeting. Some highlights were the Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm in Clare, Michigan Farm to Freezer Manufacturing in Eastern Market, Detroit, Safie Specialty Foods, in Chesterfield, and, yesterday, visited Bath Elementary for March is Reading Month

Ms. Angerer was happy to note different events the Agency had representation at the last few months, including the Great Lake Fruit and Vegetable Expo, NASDA Winter Policy Conference, Michigan Underground Innovation Conference, and Great Lakes Crop Summit.

She expressed her commitment to MDARDs Agriculture and Environment Stakeholders, with one-on-one conversations that have been happening since the first of the year.

Tomorrow, Ms. Angerer is heading to Kistler's Maple Syrup in Ludington and Grand Alpaca Company in Montague. She has events in Traverse City for the Rural Development Fund Board Meeting and Ionia for McDonalds Egg Cracking Competition and is excited to be attending the Michigan Healthy Climate Conference mid-April.

**ERAIL (Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock): Beth Ferry, MSU Extension, Mary Kelpinski, Michigan Pork Producers Association, and Brad Deacon, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

Mr. Deacon introduced the program ERAIL, which has become a partnership with MSU Extension and Michigan Pork Producers in emergency response to a livestock accident. Ms. Ferry explained how and why ERAIL was implemented, the training local emergency staff have participated in, and what the future entails for the program with growth. Ms. Ferry explained that trailers have been created to supply equipment needed to help local emergency officers with livestock accidents.

Commissioner Wyant asked what resources this program would need to institutionalize the program in our state. Ms. Ferry explained that work continues with stakeholders for disruption of work and cost to replace equipment that has been damaged during training exercises.

Commissioner Williams asked if incidents occurred on major highways. Ms. Ferry explained they have happened on both highway and back roads. Mr. Williams asked how trailer locations have been determined. Ms. Ferry explained that they are placed throughout the state within an hour travel time and in animal dense population areas.

### **BUDGET UPDATE: Sylvia Renteria, MDARD Director of Finance and Budget**

Ms. Renteria shared details around the Fiscal Year 2024 Governor Executive Budget Recommendations. In the recommendations in the current fiscal and next fiscal year, there are one-time funds for select programs. These programs include Supply Chain Resiliency, Climate Smart Farming, and Herd Protection and Management.

Ms. Renteria explained there is one ongoing General Fund Initiatives for Emerging Contaminants in the recommendation.

Commissioner Chae asked Ms. Renteria if the commission could hear future presentations on the recommended one-time funding programs. Ms. Renteria agreed and said she would look into presentations in the future.

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

Ms. Steffen gave an overview of her role in the agency, working with the legislature on agency led policy. She explained her participation in committee meetings and meetings with the legislature and Acting Director Angerer to discuss the agency's priorities.

Ms. Steffen discussed the current group of agency led bills before the legislature, which have not had any meetings scheduled.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Patrick Cudney, Director of Government and Stakeholder Relations, for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, AgBioResearch and MSU Extension, came forward to introduce himself to the commissioners and volunteered to act as a resource.

### **ADJOURN**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER WYANT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

### **Attachments:**

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes November 7, 2022*
- C) *Retirement Resolutions for Director Gary McDowell, Lou Ognajanovski, Nancy Harris, and Keith Eldred*
- D) *Acting Director Report February 15, 2023*
- E) *ERAIL Presentation – February 15, 2023*
- F) *MDARD Budget Update Presentation – February 15, 2023*