



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF MEETING

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

May 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The business session is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public and this notice is provided under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. The Commissioners will be meeting at Michigan State University Federal Credit Union Headquarters, Conference Room, 3777 West Rd, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. This meeting is also being conducted electronically to allow for greater remote public attendance and participation. To join the meeting via Microsoft Teams: by telephone dial: **1-248-509-0316** and enter the Conference ID: **930 224 647#** or by video conference visit www.michigan.gov/mdard/about/boards/agcommission to join the day of the meeting.

In accordance with the Commission's Public Appearance Guidelines, individuals wishing to address the Commission may pre-register to do so during the Public Comment period as noted below and will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. Documents distributed in conjunction with the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.

To pre-register to speak virtually during this meeting, individuals should contact the Commission Assistant **no later than Fri., May 12, 2023**, via email at MDA-Ag-Commission@michigan.gov and provide their name, organization they represent, address, and telephone number, as well as indicate if they wish to speak to an agenda item. You may also contact the Commission Assistant at that email address to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the Commission at the meeting. The Commission Chair will call upon each person by name and telephone number when it is time for them to speak and there will be a meeting moderator facilitating participation. All others wishing to speak will be provided two minutes to do so. Instructions on how to be recognized will be provided at the beginning of the meeting.

Those needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Commission Assistant at 800-292-3939 one week in advance or may use the Michigan Relay Center by calling 711 for deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired persons.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Boring".

Tim Boring
Director

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MSUFCU Headquarters
3777 West Rd
East Lansing, MI

Option to Join via Remote Technology
Dial: 1-248-509-0316; Conf. ID 930 224 647#

May 17, 2023 TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 10:30 a.m. 1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
- Introduce New Director
2. **Approval of Agenda (action item)**
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the March 15, 2023, Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Meeting (**action item**)
4. **Motion to Amend Meeting Schedule** Moving September 13th to September 20th (**action item**)
5. **Next Scheduled Meeting** (information only)
- July 26, 2023
- 10:40 a.m. 5. **Commissioner Comments and Travel (action item)**
- 10:50 a.m. 6. **Commissioner Issues**
- Retirement Resolution – Paula Dankert (**action item**)
 - Retirement Resolution –Ahmed Jama (**action item**)
- 11:00 a.m. 7. **Director’s Report**
- 11:10 a.m. 8. **Public Comment**
In accordance with the Public Appearance Guidelines in the Commission Policy Manual, individuals wishing to address the Commission will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. Documents distributed at the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.
- 11:20 a.m. 9. **Overview of Commission Policies:** Brad Deacon, Director of Legal Affairs and Emergency Management (information only)
- 11:30 a.m. 11. **Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Requests:** Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Division Director, Agriculture Development Division (**action item**)
- 11:50 p.m. 12. **Legislative Update:** Ashley Steffen, Legislative Liaison (information only)
- 12:00 p.m. 15. **Adjourn (action item)**

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

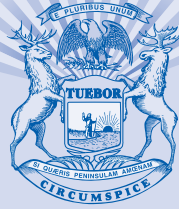
MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER WYANT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

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*

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING

PAULA K. DANKERT

WHEREAS, The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is pleased to honor Paula K. Dankert upon her retirement from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on April 28, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Paula is an identical twin born to Robert and Anna Marie Shingledecker in Monroe, Michigan. She graduated from Roscommon High School and earned a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Michigan State University in 1983; and,

WHEREAS, Paula's post-college employment included working as an agricultural loan officer for Farmers Home Administration-USDA, until she began her career with the Michigan Department of Agriculture in 1987 starting what would be an impactful decades long career in public service; and,

WHEREAS, Paula's career with MDARD began as a Milk Inspector, she was promoted to senior inspector, Milk Laboratory Evaluation Officer (LEO), and accepted her current position of Dairy West Region Manager in 2020. As expected, Paula successfully navigated her new management role despite the ongoing pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, Paula's contributions to the dairy industry are too numerous to count (TNTC) but include: MDARD's alternate voting delegate for the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) and the National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials (NADRO), a member of the NCIMS Document Review Committee. As well as Dairy Section workgroups such as Extended Run, Licensing Issues, Laboratory Results Review, Policy and Field Guide, Industry Plant Sampler, Training, Roundtable, and Mentor for the QOL Mentor / Mentee Program; and,

WHEREAS, those close to Paula know that she lives a life of humble service by giving back to her community including the donation of at least 14 gallons of blood during her lifetime. She also volunteers with the Salvation Army where she helps make the Angel Tree Program an annual success. Paula truly leads by example; and,

WHEREAS, the town of Kingsley is where Paula and her husband, Dale, raised their family and where they continue to hold deep roots. Paula and Dale have two grown sons, Dalen and his wife Jessica, and their sons, Brayden, Asher, and Graham, and son Samson and his girlfriend, Sydney. Paula is a beloved mother and grandmother, spending time making memories with her grandchildren; and,

WHEREAS, Paula is an avid animal lover and enjoys spending time with her mule Maggie, her basset hounds, and bird watching and also enjoys jigsaw puzzles, gardening and making quilts; and,

WHEREAS, with great honor and gratitude we acknowledge Paula's 35 years of service to MDARD and Michigan's dairy industry. We will miss her knowledge, attention to detail, and her sincere 'lead by example' philosophy; and,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development commends Paula K. Dankert for decades of loyal service to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, food safety, the dairy industry and to the people of the State of Michigan. The Commission joins her family, friends, and professional colleagues in wishing her a healthy and happy retirement.

Adopted April 28, 2023
Lansing, Michigan


Andy Chae, Chair

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING

AHMED OMAR JAMA

WHEREAS, The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is pleased to honor Ahmed Omar Jama upon his retirement from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on March 31, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Ahmed was born in Erigavo, Somalia. He attended Sheekh Secondary School in northern Somalia from 1972 to 1976 and then completed two years of the National Service Program. Ahmed attended the College of Agriculture of the Somali National University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree (with Distinction) in Agricultural Sciences in 1982. Ahmed then attended the University of Arizona where he obtained his Master of Science degree in Agronomy and Plant Genetics in 1990, and in 1999 he obtained a Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences from Michigan State University; and,

WHEREAS, Prior to working for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Ahmed worked for the Ministry of Agriculture of Somalia as an extension agent and as a farm manager in southern Somalia. He then worked as a research assistant at Michigan State University until 1995, when he was hired as a Plant Industry Field Scientist and his career with MDARD began; and,

WHEREAS, Ahmed has been recognized for many awards and achievements. During his time with the Ministry of Agriculture of Somalia, he was recognized by the World Bank and the USAID for innovation in agricultural extension and he was awarded a scholarship to the United States. He was inducted into the Honor Society of Agriculture Gamma Sigma Delta at Michigan State University for outstanding achievements and service to agriculture science. He has received certificates of appreciation from the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture, and from MDARD. Ahmed is a perfect example of integrity, and his accomplishments are downplayed by his very humble nature and his desire to do what is right; and,

WHEREAS, Ahmed was a thorough, conscientious, and effective inspector for MDARD and was respected by the clients he served. Ahmed fully understood the MDARD "way" of effective regulation and partnership. Most importantly he was integral in shaping MDARD's future by training many inspectors throughout his career. His legacy will live on in the people he trained and taught; and,

WHEREAS, Ahmed and his wife, Kaltum Saleh have three daughters: Faduma, Asma, and Safiyah. Ahmed enjoyed his mini pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia in 2021 and he looks forward to his journey to Mecca during his retirement; and,

THEREFORE, The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development commends Ahmed Omar Jama, for 28 years of dedicated service to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the people of the State of Michigan. The Commission joins Ahmed's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement and great success in future endeavors.

Adopted May 17, 2023

Lansing, Michigan

Andrew Chae, Chair



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY MANUAL
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MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

OVERVIEW

This overview includes individual sections covering the following:

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- Responsibilities
- Legal Authority
- Procedures
 - Officers
 - Compensation and Expenses
 - Meetings
 - Voting
 - Ethics
 - Policy Manual
- Resolutions
- Legislative, Legal, and Media Issues
- Public Appearance Guidelines
- Duties of the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Policy Development

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development has the responsibility to recommend, and in some cases determine, policy on food, agricultural, and rural development issues.

As gubernatorial appointees subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, the Commissioners are representatives of the Executive branch of government and cooperate and collaborate with the Governor in the development, creation, implementation, and communication of policy. Effective and efficient administration requires a significant degree of interaction, especially in the implementation of Executive Orders and Executive Directives issued by the Governor that apply to the Commission and to the department.

Michigan's multi-billion-dollar food and agriculture industry needs ongoing focus and support for it to continue to grow. To this end, the Commission encourages diverse, equitable, and inclusive partnerships of government, private industry, trade associations, and residents working toward common goals of protecting the public health, growing our economy, and preserving our environmental heritage.

The Commissioners strive to generate statewide interest and mobilize support for issues important to the food and agriculture sector and to promote the future health and growth of Michigan's vast food and agriculture economy.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development should assist the Governor in protecting Michigan's health, economy, and environment through policies that:

- Align with State of Michigan statutes, regulations, and Governor-issued Executive Directives and Orders;
- Protect public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of Michigan by reporting information about imminent threats;
- Enhance food safety;
- Prevent and mitigate diseases and pests of humans, plants, and animals;
- Promote land and water stewardship, including implementing the Domestic Action Plan for Lake Erie to decrease phosphorus by 40 percent by 2025;
- Develop land-use policies allowing for long-term agricultural viability;
- Develop, diversify, and expand agriculture's economic potential including encouraging opportunities for all businesses;
- Protect all consumers and ensure fairness in the marketplace;
- Recognize and celebrate the heritage of agriculture, including the events and activities that make Michigan a great place to live, work, and play;
- Promote and foster efforts supporting viable rural communities;
- Promote public awareness of Michigan agriculture, food, and fiber;
- Promote good stewardship of public resources, including reporting of irregularities relating to public money or public property;
- Coordinate and partner on food, agricultural, and rural development interests with government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels; the private sector, academia, and the many diverse and interested organizations to achieve these goals; and
- Participate from time to time as a group in food and agriculture industry tours.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture was created under Act 13 of 1921 (attachment A); and reorganized under Act 380 of 1965, as amended (attachment B); and named in other statutes that provide specific duties and responsibilities. Executive Orders 2009-45 (attachment C), 2009-54 (attachment D), and 2011-2 (attachment E) further explain the role, powers, and duties of the Commission. Executive Order 2011-2 also renamed the Commission into the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development shall consist of five members, not more than three of whom shall be members of the same political party, appointed by the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The term of the office of each member shall be four years. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the unexpired term. Each member of this commission shall hold their office until the appointment and qualification of their successor. The Commission shall elect from its members such officers as it deems advisable, and not later than March 31 of each year the Commission shall designate a Chair to serve in that role through March 31 of the following year, unless a new chair is elected prior to that date. A member may not serve as Chair for consecutive annual periods. Commissioners "shall be knowledgeable about modern agriculture or food supply and committed to the protection, promotion, and preservation of the food, agricultural, conservation, and economic interests of the People of the State of Michigan." (Executive Order 2009-54).

A majority of the Commission members serving is required to constitute a quorum.

The business of the Commission shall be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976 (attachment F); and records of the Commission are subject to the Freedom of Information Act, Act 442 of 1976 (attachment G).

The chief executive officer of the department is the Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Director is appointed by the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director shall consult with the Commission on agricultural policy matters and the Commission may provide advice to the Director on matters relating to the department, including, but not limited to, agricultural policy.

The Commission has specific responsibilities as delegated within various pieces of legislation:

- a) Michigan Renaissance Zone Act, 1996 PA 376: responsibility to act on Agriculture Processing and Renewable Energy Renaissance Zones.
- b) Julian-Stille Value-Added Act, 2000 PA 322: responsibility to act on Value Added Grants and the Agriculture Development Fund.
- c) Insect and Plant Disease Act, 1931 PA 189: responsibility to act on Nursery Inspection Fees.

- d) Michigan Right to Farm Act, 1981 PA 93: responsibility to define and review annually the Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices; and, make recommendation to the Director when a review of a Livestock Siting Suitability Determination is requested.
- e) Michigan Seed Law, 1965 PA 329: responsibility for prohibition of local ordinances unless reviewed by Commission.
- f) Anhydrous Ammonia Security Act, 2006 PA 417: responsibility to establish Safety and Security Practices.
- g) Michigan Organic Products Act, 2000 PA 316: responsibility to determine Registration Fees.
- h) Animal Industry Act, 1988 PA 466: responsibility for determination of Livestock Zoning and Movement Restrictions.
- i) Pseudorabies and Swine Brucellosis Control and Eradication Act, 1992 PA 239: responsibility to establish fee for testing of animals.
- j) Michigan Agricultural Processing Act, 1998 PA 381: responsibility to define Generally Accepted Practices for Processors.
- k) Food Law Act 92 of 2000, as amended: responsibility to consult on fees if the Local Health Department ceases their inspection.
- l) State Potato Industry Commission, 1970 PA 29: responsibility to provide permission for Potato Commission to re-apportion districts.
- m) State Bean Commission, 1965 PA 114: responsibility to provide permission for Bean Commission to re-apportion districts.
- n) Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, 1965 PA 232: responsibility to provide permission for re-apportionment of 232 Check-Off Programs.
- o) Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451: responsibility to determine agriculture purpose within surface water discharge provisions; approval of conservation easement practices; approval of pesticide container recycling program; provision for reviewing local pesticide use ordinances; approval of Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program conservation practices; provision for reviewing local fertilizer ordinances; development and approval of voluntary groundwater stewardship practices; approval of members to Conservation Species Advisory Panel; identify jointly with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality 2,500 acres for cranberry production; definition of agriculture purpose for water diversions; water conservation measures and within the Generally Accepted

Agriculture and Management Practices; approval of scoring for purchase of Development Rights; spending of Ag Preservation funds; agriculture practices/Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices within hunting / conservation practices; and orders on restricted species/invasives.

- p) Horse Racing Law of 1995, 1995 PA 279: promulgation of rules for premiums at fairs.

PROCEDURES

Officers

Not later than March 31 of each year, the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development shall designate a member of the Commission as the Chair through March 31 of the following year, unless a new Chair is elected prior to that date. A member of the Commission may not be designated as Chair for consecutive annual periods. The Commission may also designate a member to serve as Vice Chair and as Secretary.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, or in the absence of both, the Secretary, shall serve as Acting Chair.

Compensation and Expenses

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation (Executive Order 2009-54). Members of the Commission may receive reimbursement for necessary travel and expenses consistent with relevant statutes and the rules and procedures of the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, subject to available funding.

Each Commissioner shall submit a signed expense voucher and statement of respective work completed to the Commission Assistant for payment.

Meetings

The Commission shall hold meetings as it deems necessary.

The yearly meeting schedule will be set at the preceding November meeting, but is subject to change with proper notification.

The Commission reserves the right to cancel meetings or hold special meetings at the direction of the Chair and in accordance with the law.

The Commission shall:

1. Ensure at least three Commissioners, a quorum, are present at the posted meeting location;
2. If possible, post the alternate locations or technological attendance options as permitted by law as part of the formal Open Meetings Act notice, allowing the public to attend and participate through public comment;
3. Shall prohibit the use of texting, or other forms of electronic communication among its members during an open meeting that constitute deliberations toward decision-making or actual decisions in a manner violating the Open Meetings Act.

The Director, in consultation with the Chair, shall develop a proposed agenda for each meeting to include action items, staff reports, presentations, and public comment.

All Commission meetings shall be compliant with the Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act and State of Michigan Attorney General Opinion No. 7318 (attachment H).

The statement of purpose and agenda (when possible) shall be included in/with the posted Meeting Notice.

The Commission shall avoid meeting in facilities or areas subject to public access restrictions.

Minutes will be kept of all meetings of the Commission and retained per the Open Meetings Act and the State of Michigan Records Retention and Disposal Schedule.

Voting

Unless otherwise requested by a Commissioner, voting on matters before the Commission is by voice vote. If any Commissioner requests a roll call vote, the Executive Assistant to the Commission shall record the vote of each Commissioner.

Ethics

The members of the Commission shall adhere to basic principles for ethical conduct as outlined in statutes, rules, and Executive Directives.

A member of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development:

- 1) Shall discharge the duties of the position in a nonpartisan manner, in good faith, in the best interests of this state, and with the degree of diligence, care, and skill that a fiduciary would exercise under similar circumstances in a like position.
- 2) Shall not make or participate in making a decision, or in any way attempt to use his or her position as a member of the Commission to influence a decision, on a matter before the department or the Commission regarding a loan, grant, or other expenditure in which the member is directly or indirectly interested.
- 3) Shall not be interested directly or indirectly in any contract with the department or the Commission that would cause a substantial conflict of interest.
- 4) Shall not use public resources to make contributions or expenditures.
- 5) Shall disclose governmental waste, fraud, and abuse to appropriate authorities.
- 6) Shall not represent a personal opinion as the opinion of the Governor, the Office of the Governor, a state department or agency, or any other governmental entity.
- 7) Shall not divulge to an unauthorized person, in advance of the time prescribed for its authorized release to the public, confidential information acquired as a result of their performance of governmental duties.
- 8) Shall report any alleged violation of these standards of ethical conduct to their department head.

- 9) Members of the Commission shall comply, and the Commission shall adopt policies and procedures for members to comply, with the requirements of this paragraph, State of Michigan statutes and regulations, Governor Directives and Orders, and all of the following:
- a) 1978 PA 472, MCL 4.411 to 4.430 (Lobbyists, Lobbying Agents, and Lobbying).
 - b) 1978 PA 566, MCL 15.181 to 15.185 (Incompatible Public Offices).
 - c) 1968 PA 318, MCL 15.301 to 15.310 (Conflicts of Interest).
 - d) 1968 PA 317, MCL 15.321 to 15.330 (Contracts of Public Servants with Public Entities).
 - e) 1973 PA 196, MCL 15.341 to 15.348 (Standards of Conduct for Public Officers and Employees).
 - f) 1976 PA 169, MCL 15.401 to 15.407 (relating to political activities by public employees).
 - g) 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 to 169.282 (the Michigan Campaign Finance Act).

Policy Manual

The Commission Policy Manual shall be reviewed, revised as necessary, and re-approved on at least a biennial basis.

RESOLUTIONS

The Commission may adopt resolutions to honor or recognize individuals and organizations, or to represent the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development's position on a specific issue, topic or activity, and to convey that information or a request for action.

- A. For resolutions meant to represent the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development's position on a specific issue, topic or activity, or to convey a request of action on the part of others, the following procedure should be followed:
- A Commissioner with a resolution request should contact the Chair at least 20 days prior to a regularly scheduled Commission meeting;
 - The Director is contacted and appropriate staff, with particular expertise in the subject area, will be assigned to draft the resolution;
 - The draft resolution is returned to the Commission Chair and the Commissioner making the original request for review;
 - The draft is distributed to all Commissioners in the pre-meeting mailing one week prior to a regularly scheduled Commission meeting.
 - If it is deemed necessary to draft a resolution on the day of the Commission meeting, a Commissioner may request that the Commission Chair consider the resolution for placement on the agenda. If the Chair places the resolution request on the agenda, the Commission shall vote to approve the addition of the resolution to the agenda. Once formally placed on the agenda, the full Commission may consider the resolution.
- B. To qualify for a Commission Resolution upon employee retirement or other celebratory occasion, each individual or organization must meet at least one of the following criteria:
- Retirement after 15 years or more of employment with the state of Michigan and outstanding service as an employee of the department when recommended by division director and approved by the Director.
 - Outstanding contribution to an industry serviced by this department when recommended by the Director.
 - Any individual or organization so designated by the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development.
 - Other special circumstances.

- When possible, the draft resolution is presented for approval at the next Commission meeting. If the resolution is needed prior to that date, it may be approved at the discretion of the Commission Chair and presented for final approval at the next Commission meeting.

When appropriate, departmental retirees not qualifying for a Commission resolution shall receive a letter of commendation from the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Procedures for writing resolutions shall be established by the Office of Communications with approval of the Commission Assistant and the Director.

LEGISLATIVE, LEGAL, and MEDIA ISSUES

Commissioners shall refer all legal, legislative, and media contacts relating to the duties of the Commission to the Director of the department or the Director's designee.

To remain informed on important public policy matters before the Legislature, the Commission asks for regular updates on legislative activities, and for the department to advocate positions on legislation in accordance with Commission policies and those policies established by the Governor.

The Commission shall occasionally be required to meet legislative obligations as included in appropriations boilerplate language.

When legislative urgency requires a response from the department, and there is no applicable policy from the Commission or the Governor, the Commission may call a special meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Outside of Commission meetings, individual Commissioners may express their opinions to the Director on legislative issues.

While each Commissioner as a member of the public is free to contact their legislators and voice opinions during the legislative process or to the media, no Commissioner shall speak on behalf of the Commission to the media or on legislative matters unless done in coordination with the Director.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE GUIDELINES

Public comment and input are important to the development of public policy. As a public body, the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development needs and wants to hear from the public. In the interest of fairness and ensuring there is adequate time for as many voices as possible, the Commission operates under the following guidelines:

1. Public appearances will be scheduled during the Public Comment period of a regular session of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development. If there is a change in this scheduled time, it will be noted on the original agenda distributed in advance of the meeting. Those registering in advance (prior to noon on Friday before the week of the Commission meeting) of the meeting will be notified.
2. Persons addressing the Commission will be requested to identify their: name, address, and the organization (if any) they are representing. In those instances in which a person is representing an organization, the presenter should indicate whether the presentation represents the official views of the organization.
3. All persons wishing to address the Commission must declare their intent by completing a Public Appearance card prior to or during the Public Appearance portion of the meeting, unless they have already contacted the Assistant to the Commission, and their names appear on the agenda. For virtual meetings, those wishing to speak should note that in the chat function, and for those joining by telephone, the Chair will provide those wishing to speak opportunity to identify themselves and time to speak. For all meetings, the Chair will ask if there is anyone wishing to speak before closing the public comment period.
4. The public comment period(s) (time(s) allotted on agenda of the meeting will last until closed by the Chair or by vote of the Commission.
5. Anyone wishing to address the Commission is limited to a presentation of no more than three (3) minutes. Extensions shall be at the discretion of the Commission Chair or by vote of the Commission.

In instances where there are several speakers on the same subject, the Chair is authorized to request that the group appoint a representative to address the Commission on the group's behalf -or- each individual presentation shall be limited to three (3) minutes. If a spokesperson is designated, that individual may be granted 10 minutes.

- a. A group of persons speaking on a common subject are encouraged to choose a spokesperson for their group.

- b. The Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development will make every attempt to accommodate all individuals who wish to speak, and may set time frames different from those referenced above in order to encourage and allow maximum public input.
 - c. Questions asked by Commissioners and/or department staff will not be considered part of the three minutes allotted for public comment.
6. Fifteen (15) copies of written comments (if possible) should be provided to the Executive Assistant to the Commission for distribution, either prior to or at the meeting. This will allow the presenter to include detail and background not possible within the allowed time frame scheduled for oral presentation. These written comments will become a part of the formal Commission record and will provide the Commission and staff with a precise, clear reference upon which to base their response to concerns.

All documents distributed at the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. It is the responsibility of the presenter to make sure all statements made are accurate and based on fact.

7. The Commission, at its discretion, may or may not hear matters relative to litigation. The Commission will not comment on or question presentations made relative to matters that are in litigation. Contacts on legal matters made to the Commission should be referred to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
8. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak. The Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.

DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

It shall be the responsibility of the Director to provide leadership and administrative oversight in the day-to-day activities of the department and to carry out the tasks as designated under law.

- A. The Director shall have authority over all employees, agents, and entities operating under the jurisdiction of the department.
- B. The Director shall assist the Commission in policy decisions for the department, the industry, and government, including policy decisions that may require consultation with Michigan's federally recognized Indian tribes, per the department's Tribal Consultation Policy. The Director shall also recommend adjustments in administrative policies both in the development and implementation thereof.
- C. The Director shall report to the Commission on a monthly basis or otherwise as the Commission requests, and shall direct appropriate staff to report as needed.
- D. The Director shall make recommendations to the Commission on issues that require Commission approval.
- E. The Director is the chief budget officer for the department. It is the duty of the Director to secure appropriate funding and human resources to carry out the department's programs and to recommend program adjustments where needed or required.
- F. The Director is the chief spokesperson for the department, including legislative matters, and shall be responsible for recommending changes in current law or to recommend new laws that further the goals and commitment of the department.
- G. The Director is the appropriate person to respond to Commission issues regarding department operation.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Accurate information, based on scientific and economic research, is essential to development of sound policies. Recognizing its close operational relationships, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development would work cooperatively with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission as it strives toward promoting quality of life in Michigan; and, would seek input and expertise from other State of Michigan agencies and organizations as appropriate in developing policies to meet the objectives of the Commission and the department to serve the citizens of the State of Michigan. Further, public understanding is necessary to gain support of such policies.

The Commission may adopt policies as either overarching goals for, or as specific direction to the department.

An intensive ongoing communications effort should be developed to generate public awareness and support of policies recommended.

Policies adopted by the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development will be communicated to the Governor, Legislature, stakeholders, and the general public as necessary.

In the Policy development process, the Commission:

1. Recognizes the value of agricultural diversity in Michigan's agriculture sector. This diversity – in crop type, ownership, size of operation, etc. – contributes heavily to Michigan's economic success.
2. Recognizes the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion in Michigan's food and agricultural sector with inclusion of people in all protected classes as defined by the State of Michigan in the decision making process. This diversity of thought and inclusion contributes heavily to Michigan's economic success.
3. Recognizes that social change has led to greater consumer demand for wider food choices and consumer interest in food and agriculture systems and seeks to support new opportunities to meet these demands.
4. Recognizes that access to healthy food is an important issue to be addressed in underserved communities.
5. Recognizes the value of vibrant local food networks which provide greater stability for small farms and contribute to the quality of life for Michigan residents.
6. Recognizes the importance of food and agricultural businesses for the state's economic stability, and the vital role of the department's programs in supporting business activity.

7. Recognizes that good public policy requires a balance of competing interests, social and economic values, science, and the political environment. MDARD will consider all of these variables.
8. Recognizes the value of engagement with a broad array of stakeholders including those who have not traditionally been involved in policy development.
9. Recognizes that public policy decisions need to balance responsiveness with short-and long-term impacts, and considerations of those impacts on all of the people of the State of Michigan.
10. Recognizes the value of an intensive ongoing communication effort to generate public awareness and support of policies, including communication with the Governor and legislature, as necessary.
11. Recognizes the importance of climate and renewable energy to the food and agriculture sector, and to all the people of the State of Michigan.
12. Recognizes the importance of recycling and food waste prevention efforts.

These statements are not intended to be construed as a position on any specific policy issue.

Overview of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Policies

Re-approved in Detroit, Michigan
September 15, 2021

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**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 1**

Policy Title: **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

By policy the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development affirms the department's commitment to lead and serve the citizens of Michigan through the following values:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Integrity | We say what we will do and we do what we say. We shall strive to be role models to ensure that honesty, respect, fairness, impartiality, trustworthiness, and dependability are standards of all employees' personal and professional conduct. |
| Excellence | We are committed to getting the work done in a way that we are proud of and that our stakeholders are confident in and impressed with. We are committed to the development of our organization's mission, values, goals, and systems to monitor, measure, and sustain quality. |
| Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | We are committed to a sustainable department-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion program that fosters an enhanced workforce and brings added value to its mission in serving the people of the State of Michigan. We include all food and agriculture external stakeholders, members of the public, and every employee of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to be represented and contribute to the important decisions that affect their lives. |
| Teamwork | We focus on what we can do together, sharing information, resources, and energy to achieve our vision for the department and the State of Michigan. |
| Customer Focus | We provide the highest quality of service to our customers. It is our responsibility to identify customers and their expectations, and to devise ways to address their needs in a timely manner. |
| Meeting Staff Needs | We are committed to the development of our entire workforce and encourage participation, learning, and creativity to foster individual achievement at all levels of the organization. |
| Effective Communication | We encourage the exchange of ideas and information throughout the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and with our customers and organizational partners. |

**Continuous
Improvement**

We will take responsibility to seek out and advocate new methods for improving our services.

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 2**

Policy Title: **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**

The Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is committed to equal opportunity and an inclusive culture in state employment, and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workforce through involvement and empowerment, where inherent worth and dignity of all people are recognized. The Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development reaffirms the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's policy, which is attached.

Re-approved in Detroit, Michigan
September 15, 2021

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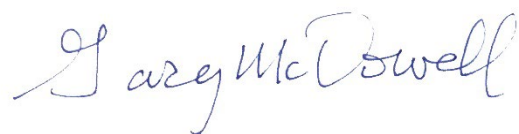
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY

The State of Michigan and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will provide equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, height, weight, marital status, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position and will prohibit employment discrimination. Equal opportunities in state contracting and grant and loan programs and prohibiting discrimination in the provision of state services will be ensured.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is committed to a department-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion program that builds upon our values and invests in our employees. We provide an inclusive culture through involvement and empowerment, where the inherent worth and dignity of all people are recognized.

This policy is promulgated consistent with state and federal law, including Governor Executive Directives.

The State of Michigan, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and I, as the department Director, firmly support equal employment opportunity. I will ensure the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is committed to reviewing all aspects of employment, including recruitment, selection, retention, and promotion, to identify and eliminate barriers to providing all persons equal employment opportunity. In hiring, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will ensure equal opportunity by not inquiring about an applicant's salary history.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary McDowell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary McDowell, Director

Dated: January 1, 2021

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 3**

Policy Title: **DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY**

It shall be the policy of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to foster the safety and occupational well-being of the department's employees during the performance of their official duties. All departmental employees shall work cooperatively to identify unsafe working conditions involving themselves and others. The department shall strive to meet or exceed federal, state, local and industrial safety and health standards.

This policy shall be implemented within the department by utilizing the following:

- A. An active safety program shall be developed, implemented and annually reviewed.
- B. The Director shall appoint a safety committee, composed of departmental staff, to provide recommendations to the Director regarding safety issues and programs.
- C. The Director shall provide ongoing education for employees on safety and the safe use of materials within the workplace.
- D. The Director shall designate an individual to serve as Departmental Safety Officer.

Re-approved in Detroit, Michigan
September 15, 2021

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**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 4**

Policy Title: **PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE**

It shall be the policy of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to foster and encourage the expansion and promotion of all agricultural goods and services and improve public awareness of Michigan food and agriculture products and to strengthen the economy of rural Michigan.

We encourage positive public relations and promotional activities to increase sales of Michigan's products in cooperation with the food and agricultural industry, including commodity marketing programs and individual companies. It is important that consumers everywhere recognize the quality of Michigan products.

We encourage continued cooperation with all partners, stakeholders, and private industry. It is important to provide assistance in identifying and developing opportunities in new and existing markets domestically and internationally. We will provide the food and agricultural industry with current information and compliance assistance to support growth of the agri-food industry.

Further, we encourage the expansion of Michigan food and agriculture through business, education, research, legislative changes, and cooperation with other governmental agencies and organizations.

We are committed to and encourage expanding opportunities and fostering entrepreneurship for innovation and new technology within the food and agriculture sector. The Commission directs the department to assist in the coordination, development, and promotion of the bio-economy to improve the environment and economy of the Great Lakes State.

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 5**

Policy Title: **FOOD SAFETY
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH
CONSUMER PROTECTION and INDUSTRY SUPPORT**

It is the policy of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to help safeguard the health and welfare of all consumers of this state and to protect the food chain by assuring safe, secure, wholesome and accurately labeled food and other consumer products.

In accordance with its statutory duties, the department shall:

- Prevent, control, and eradicate reportable infectious, contagious and communicable diseases of domestic animals; and work with others on the prevention, control, and response to all diseases of animals;
- Prevent, control, and eradicate pests and diseases of plants;
- Prevent and respond to contamination of any portion of the food or feed supply by noxious materials or toxic substances;
- Protect all consumers' health by maintaining a safe and wholesome food supply; and,
- Promote the economic viability of food and agricultural industries in this state through producer security programs; grading, testing, and evaluation certification programs; and industry collaboration programs.

To achieve this, it shall be the mandate of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to:

- A. Enforce laws and regulations that: protect the safety and wholesomeness of foods; govern weights and measures and their respective devices and practices; govern the commercial handling, inspecting, and processing of farm produce; and govern product advertising and labeling;
- B. Provide regulatory response and resource expertise for support of domestic animal health and welfare programs, food and dairy, and weights and measures regulatory programs, and assist the livestock, food, and dairy industries;
- C. Enforce laws and regulations that protect the welfare of the public and the health of the livestock and animal industries of this state and work with the regulated industries and the veterinary profession to promote compliance;
- D. Provide, through laboratory services, accurate scientific analyses and technical data necessary to support the consumer protection and regulatory services of the department;

- E. Provide all Michigan consumers and agri-businesses the necessary technical assistance to ensure wholesomeness and purity of food, dairy, meat, poultry and consumer products;
- F. Conduct investigations and surveys and support research, when necessary, to monitor the state's food chain and recommend changes and modifications to existing standards to protect the food chain;
- G. Recommend necessary changes to existing laws and policies to accomplish these mandates;
- H. Provide personnel and expertise in the management and control of the food chain and animal and livestock industry during a crisis by providing effective emergency services planning and response within the department and participate in a coordinated statewide emergency preparedness program, to ensure the food chain, animal food supply, and livestock and plant industries are free from undesirable substances, diseases, and pathogens;
- I. Seize, control, or quarantine animals and plants, when necessary, to protect the food chain and the animal and plant industries of this state and destroy and dispose of animals and plants in those situations where threat of exposure to the food chain or the environment is imminent;
- J. Seize or otherwise control food and food products to protect the health and welfare of all consumers;
- K. Seize or otherwise control animal feeds and other products to protect animals, and the health and welfare of all consumers;
- L. Work with the dairy, grain, nursery and other industries to facilitate legislatively enacted producer security and inspection programs; and
- M. Collaborate with Michigan's fairs, festivals, and other agricultural events to celebrate Michigan's agricultural heritage and promote understanding and support for Michigan's food and agriculture industry.

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 6**

Policy Title: **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

It is the policy of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development that the department maintain an ongoing capability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate impacts of emergencies and disasters affecting the food and agricultural resources of this state.

The department will utilize the principles of the National Incident Management System and will appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator to provide leadership, assistance, and support to employees of the department in meeting their responsibilities to the food and agriculture sector and the general public during times of emergency or disaster. The principal duties of the Emergency Management Coordinator are:

- Establish and maintain an emergency management program based on departmental duties and structure that is capable of responding to emergencies and disasters affecting Michigan's food and agricultural resources;
- Maintain the Food and Agriculture support plans to the Michigan Emergency Management Plan as required by Public Act 390 of 1976; and prepare and train departmental personnel to meet the emergency and disaster responsibilities of the department.
- Represent the department and its stakeholders on the Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council to advance the cause of emergency planning in the food and agriculture sector as required by SARA Title III, PL 99-499 of 1968 and Executive Order 2007-18 Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council;
- Cooperate and coordinate with federal, state, and local emergency management agencies in providing emergency and disaster services to the affected public;
- Develop relationships with the food and agricultural community that enhance the delivery of emergency and disaster services; and
- Coordinate with other agencies and the private sector to provide human and animal food and water to victims of disasters and emergencies when normal food and feed delivery systems are unable to do so.

It is further the policy of the Commission that all personnel and divisions of the department will fully support the emergency management program whenever the opportunity to do so arises.

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 7**

Policy Title: **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION**

It is the policy of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies to protect soil, air, water, and ecology while promoting profitable working lands: agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and horticulture. This includes but is not limited to:

- Protection of air quality;
- Surface and ground water pollution prevention strategies;
- Minimizing soil loss and promoting soil health;
- Regulation and education regarding agri-chemical use and storage;
- Responsible manure and fertilizer management;
- Promoting energy conservation, efficiency, generation programs;
- Wildlife habitat expansion and enhancement programs for private landowners;
- Forest stewardship programs improving forest health and sustainability;
- Enhanced drainage for agricultural productivity and public health;
- Enhanced drainage for the prevention of flood damage;
- Supporting irrigation strategies improving productivity and water use efficiency;
- Facilitating Conservation District capacity to deliver environmental programming;
- Supporting state tax policies benefitting working lands in Michigan;
- Adoption of technologies for mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- Adoption of testing and monitoring procedures for emerging chemicals in fertilizers, soil conditioners, and related products.

Michigan must also continue to strengthen the economic viability of the food, fiber, and agricultural industry, and to help provide profitable economic opportunities for businesses on working lands. Agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and horticulture operations must have the protection and freedom to expand or change to remain competitive and profitable. Only in this manner can Michigan create a truly sustainable policy for the protection of natural resources on working lands.

Re-approved in Detroit, Michigan
September 15, 2021

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**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 8**

Policy Title: **RIGHT TO FARM PROGRAM**

Pursuant to the Michigan Right to Farm Act (Act), P.A. 93 of 1981, as amended, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development has the responsibility to define Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs).

When defining GAAMPs, the Commission will give due consideration to available Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) information and written recommendations from the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU Extension, and MSU AgBioResearch in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Services Agency, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and other professional and industry organizations.

The GAAMPs will be developed, adopted, and revised pursuant to the procedures in the Appendix. The Commission will define GAAMPs by formal vote. GAAMPs will be reviewed annually and revised by the Commission when necessary.

The Commission recognizes commodity diversity in Michigan's agricultural industry, which produces more than 300 commodities using a multiplicity of varied management procedures and techniques, and will strive to define specific GAAMPs encompassing all sectors of the industry. Given the breadth of the industry, it is the policy of this Commission that GAAMPs include any traditional farming practice which is not detrimental to the environment or human and animal health.

The following list includes categories and examples of farm products as defined under the Michigan Right to Farm Act:

- A. Forages, Sod Crops, and Renewable Fuels: forages, grasses, pasture, seed crops, sod crops, and turf.
- B. Field Crops: cereal grains, feed grains, feed crops, field crops, seed crops, soybeans, dry beans, potatoes, sugar beets, mint, hops, ginseng, and other herbs.
- C. Livestock and Dairy: breeding and grazing livestock, dairy cattle and dairy products, beef cattle, veal, swine, equine, sheep, goats, bison, llama, privately owned cervid, and wool. (Livestock does not include dogs and cats.)

- D. Poultry and Ratites: laying chickens and eggs, broiler chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, peafowl, ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, kiwis, and game birds that are propagated and maintained under the husbandry of humans.
- E. Fish and Fish Products: aquatic animals such as fish, shrimp and other crustaceans, mollusks, reptiles, and amphibians, aquatic plants, and other aquacultural products reared or cultured under controlled conditions.
- F. Bees and Bee Products: colonized bees raised for pollination or to produce honey, and wax.
- G. Small Fruit: blueberries, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, and cranberries.
- H. Tree and Tree Crops: fruit trees, nut trees, coniferous trees, deciduous trees, saw logs, firewood, pulpwood, and maple syrup.
- I. Vegetable Crops: asparagus, carrots, celery, cole crops, cucurbits, lettuce, onions, peppers, snap beans, sweet corn, and tomatoes.
- J. Greenhouse and Nursery Products: bedding plants, vegetable and flower seedlings, foliage plants, flowering plants, cut flowers, seeds, tree seedlings, shrubs, ornamental plants, and other nursery stock.
- K. Mushrooms: agaricus, shiitake, oyster, morel, and chanterelle.
- L. Fur Bearers: mink, fox, rabbits, and chinchilla.

This listing should not be construed to be all encompassing. Other products may be identified and added to the above list at the discretion of the Commission consistent with the Act.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding with EGLE, MDARD staff will be utilized for the investigation and resolution of non-emergency environmental complaints and agrichemical spills. MDARD procedures will be followed for the investigation and resolution of other farm-related complaints. MDARD staff will provide public information and education on the Act, the GAAMPs, and other statutes. MDARD and MSU may conduct informational seminars in cooperation with other agencies and individuals concerning the GAAMPs. MDARD staff may request other public agencies, professional and industry organizations, and individuals to assist on Right to Farm issues.

APPENDIX

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, AND REVIEW OF “GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES”

The Michigan Right to Farm Act, (Public Act 93 of 1981, as amended, MCL 286.471 et seq.) says in part:

A farm or farm operation shall not be found to be a public or private nuisance if the farm or farm operation alleged to be a nuisance conforms to generally accepted agricultural and management practices according to policy determined by the Michigan commission of agriculture. Generally accepted agricultural and management practices shall be reviewed annually by the Michigan commission of agriculture and revised as considered necessary. (MCL 286.473(1)).

Annually, the Commission will establish and review policy for the implementation of Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). In addition, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) staff will present to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development (Commission) on the status of all existing GAAMPs and the need, if any, for proposed new GAAMPs. The Commission will direct MDARD staff as to whether significant changes should be examined in any set of GAAMPs or a new set of GAAMPs should be developed.

New and Existing GAAMPs may be developed and/or adopted by the following procedure:

1) Creation of New Material

- a) The Commission identifies the need for GAAMPs and takes a vote to proceed with a request to the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources or any other resource or topical experts as deemed appropriate to name a Chairperson for a GAAMPs Advisory Committee. MDARD will assist in the formulation and management of the Advisory Committee.
- b) The Advisory Committee develops scientifically-based draft GAAMPs pursuant to the Michigan Right to Farm Act. The Advisory Committee may give due consideration to available MDARD experience reviewing existing language in the field and written recommendations from any other educational, professional, and industry organizations.
- c) MDARD staff reviews the draft GAAMPs and discusses suggested changes with the GAAMPs Advisory Committee, then submits to the Commission.
- d) The Advisory Committee Chairperson presents the new draft GAAMPs to the Commission for review.
- e) The Commission considers the draft GAAMPs and may request other methodologies be used to further identify or define the GAAMPs.
- f) In addition, the Commission may identify existing scientifically-based materials, including but not limited to, publications from university, research and extension sources, documents from other departments, and/or documents from other state agencies or federal agencies that may be adopted by the Commission as GAAMPs.
- g) The Commission votes on whether to adopt the new GAAMPs.

2) Annual Review of Existing GAAMPs

- a) MDARD contacts Advisory Committee Chairpersons to begin the annual review process and to determine if and how new technology, research results, or new regulations may impact the current GAAMPs.
- b) If the Advisory Committee Chairpersons determine that substantial changes to the GAAMPs are warranted, they contact their committee members to reconvene their respective committees to review current GAAMPs and propose recommended changes.
- c) MDARD staff reviews GAAMPs in light of recent Right to Farm program environmental complaints and site selection verification requests for new and/or expansion of existing livestock facilities and provides feedback to the Advisory Committee Chairperson or Committee as part of the review process.
- d) The Advisory Committee Chairperson or Committee completes its review and proposed draft GAAMPs are prepared for review.
- e) MDARD will conduct a Public Input meeting to receive additional comments on the GAAMPs; input is provided to the Advisory Committee Chairperson for Committee consideration.
- f) The Advisory Committee presents revised GAAMPs to the Commission.
- g) The Commission reviews existing GAAMPs, with any changes proposed by the Advisory Committee(s), and votes whether to adopt the revisions to the GAAMPs.

3) The appointment of Advisory Committee Chairperson

- a) Through the retirement of existing Chairperson or the Commission acknowledges the need for new sets of GAAMPs.
- b) MDARD's Chief Deputy Director sends a letter to the Dean of Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources formally requesting the appointment of a new Chair to lead the Advisory Committee.

All sets of GAAMPs may undergo the annual review process simultaneously to streamline and maximize staff efficiency.

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 9**

Policy Title: **GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
DETERMINATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

It is the policy of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to determine that a farm/farmer is not following Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices if a Right to Farm complaint case involves air and/or odor issues, and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff is refused access to review practices and/or records related to the appropriate Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices.

Re-approved in Detroit, Michigan
September 15, 2021

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**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 10**

Policy Title: **APPEALS FROM MDARD'S SITE SUITABILITY DETERMINATIONS**

Under the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities (Site Selection GAAMP), farms may request a site suitability determination from MDARD. MDARD's site suitability determinations are sent to the farmer and the local unit of government, and posted on MDARD's Right to Farm (RTF) website. MDARD's site suitability determination can be appealed to MDARD's Director as provided below.

A. Who can request to appeal MDARD's site suitability determination

The following people or entities can request to appeal MDARD's site suitability determination:

- The owner of the proposed livestock facility.
- A person with property within one-half mile of the site of the proposed livestock facility.
- The local unit of government in which the site for the proposed livestock facility is located.
- Local unit of government which is within one-half mile of the proposed livestock facility.

B. Timing of a request to appeal

A request to appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date MDARD's site suitability determination is posted on MDARD's RTF Siting website.

C. Contents of a request to appeal

A request to appeal MDARD's site suitability determination is made by sending a written description of the appeal including all documentation supporting the appeal to MDARD's Director through the Commission email at:
MDA-Ag-Commission@michigan.gov.

The request to appeal must identify with specificity the section or requirement in the Site Selection GAAMPs that the requestor believes MDARD failed to or improperly applied when it made its site suitability determination.

The request for appeal must include relevant facts, data, analysis, and supporting documentation for the appellant's position.

A request to appeal that does not identify with specificity the manner in which MDARD failed to or improperly applied the Site Selection GAAMPs or does not provide supporting documentation will be denied. The Director will notify the Site Selection GAAMPs Chair, as well as the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development of this decision. MDARD will send a letter to the entity who submitted the request to appeal stating the reason the request has been denied. A denial of a request to appeal is a final agency decision on MDARD's site suitability determination.

A request to appeal meeting the requirements of this section will be approved and will proceed through the appeal process outlined below. MDARD shall make all determinations regarding requests to appeal within 14 days after the close of the 30-day appeal window.

D. Appeal process

Once MDARD approves a request to appeal, the following process will be initiated:

1. MDARD will ask the Chairperson of the Site Selection GAAMPs Committee to convene a panel of recognized professionals to review MDARD's site suitability determination. The panel of recognized professionals may include, but are not limited to, personnel from the following: conservation districts, industry representatives, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, professional consultants and contractors, professional engineers, the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service, university agricultural engineers, and other university specialists and shall contain no less than three recognized professionals.
2. Within 28 days, the panel of recognized professionals shall review MDARD's site suitability determination and consider the information provided by the Appellant. The panel of recognized professionals shall create a written report to be considered at the Commission's next scheduled public meeting.
3. The Commission will consider the panel of recognized professionals' reports, oral or written comments from the appellant(s), and other public comments regarding MDARD's site suitability determination.
4. The Commission shall make a recommendation to the MDARD Director. The Commission's recommendation can take one of three forms: (i) approve MDARD's site suitability determination; (ii) reverse MDARD's site suitability determination; or (iii) send the case back to the panel of recognized professionals or MDARD staff with instructions to consider certain factors or issues that were not sufficiently considered during the panel's initial review, including a timeframe for providing the information to the Commission. In the event of a tie vote by the Commission, the matter shall be submitted to the Director without a recommendation from the Commission.

5. The Director shall issue a written final decision regarding the site suitability determination within 14 days of the Commission's recommendation/ submission.
6. Following the Director's final decision, the farmer, appellant, and local unit of government will be sent MDARD's final decision and the final decision will be posted on the MDARD RTF Siting website.

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY NO. 11**

Policy Title: **ENFORCEMENT**

It is the policy of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to utilize progressive enforcement when possible, including, but not limited to compliance assistance, warning letters, settlement agreements, probationary periods, issuance of fine, administrative hearings or a combination of these. The department will consider various factors, such as:

- Nature of the violation
- Establishment compliance history
- Establishment maintenance and/or self-inspection programs
- Establishment probationary status
- Economic benefit for the establishment versus harm to the consumer associated with the alleged violation(s)
- Length of time the requirement has been in effect
- Other evidence/special circumstances offered by the establishment operator

A maintenance and/or self-inspection program is considered an essential component of good business practices and the implementation of these programs will be considered and weighted accordingly.

The department is committed to the fair and impartial enforcement of laws and regulations.

Serious, repeated, and/or multiple violations of laws and regulations may result in criminal prosecution where provided for in law.

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

POLICY NO. 12

Policy Title: **FISCAL CONTROL**

It is the policy of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development that sound fiscal control practices be utilized in the conduct of department activities. All memoranda of understanding or other documents which commit department resources shall be reviewed by the Director of Finance and Budget and the department Director.

Re-approved in Detroit, Michigan
September 15, 2021

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ATTACHMENTS

- A) PA 13 of 1921, Department of Agriculture
- B) PA 380 of 1965, Executive Organization Act
- C) EO 2009-45, Executive Reorganization (Creation of Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Direct Governor Appointment of Director)
- D) EO 2009-54, Executive Reorganization (Restoration of Commission Oversight of Policy)
- E) EO 2011-2, Executive Reorganization (Commission powers and agency name)
- F) PA 267 of 1976, Open Meetings Act
- G) PA 442 of 1976, Freedom of Information Act
- H) PA 220 of 1976, Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

DATE: April 28, 2023
TO: Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
FROM: Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Agriculture Development Division Director
SUBJECT: Manthei Inc.

Background

Manthei Inc., DBA Manthei Wood Products, is a 79-year-old veneer-based products manufacturer in Petoskey, MI. In the early 1940's, brothers Ted and Ernie Manthei were strawberry farmers who wanted to save money by making their own fruit baskets. In their pursuit of this cost-cutting idea, they purchased a "basket making machine" which mistakenly turned out to be a veneer lathe. So, they began manufacturing and selling veneer instead of growing strawberries. By combining vision, diligence, and attention to craftsmanship, Manthei Wood Products has risen from humble beginnings to a national leader in precision hardwood face veneers. In 2018, the company took a leap beyond rotary and plain slice veneers by entering the plywood industry. By purchasing used plywood pressing equipment from a closed facility, Manthei wood products was able to enter the market and establish a reputation for high quality plywood products thanks to the efforts of an excellent team. However, this is currently being accomplished with outdated equipment that is limiting production, opportunities for product innovation, and potential for growth. A new, state-of-the-art plywood press, inspection and repair line, and trimming line from Burkle North America will lift those barriers and allow production to increase by over three times.

Project Description

The \$8,730,300 Manthei Inc. plywood production expansion project will create 10 jobs. The project includes a new 24,000 square foot manufacturing facility housing a state-of-the-art plywood press, inspection and repair line, and trimming line from Burkle North America, as well as a new dust collection system and boiler that will allow veneer-faced plywood panel production to increase by over three times.

The project is necessary to meet increased demand for plywood panels (both domestic and international), to improve working conditions, and provide a means to take advantage of opportunities for future growth and product innovation.

This project will increase production of veneer-faced plywood panels from 7,000 to 25,000 panels per week, increasing demand for local, small diameter hardwood timber. This will provide a domestic supply of thin hardwood veneer plywood, traditionally imported from Russia, China, and other countries. Operating costs will be lower through automation and efficiency, increasing competitiveness in domestic and international markets. The quality of panels will increase along with decreased scrap rates, leading to improved forest product utilization and greater business

efficiency. The ability to produce custom panel runs quickly and efficiently, will increase the ability to serve small specialty markets in the U.S. and perform innovative research and development testing.

There will be improved operator working conditions by reducing manual manipulation of panels and reducing the amount of noise and dust released into the facility. Also, the project will transition plywood operations from basic labor roles to more technical, skilled positions.

Impact on Michigan's Agriculture Industry

Veneer-faced plywood products, like what this new equipment will produce, are excellent for the agriculture industry in Michigan. Increasing production of veneer-faced plywood by three times will increase demand for veneer and core by the same. The over three-fold increase in plywood production will require an increase in high quality hardwood veneer logs of over 1.4 million board feet per year. This increased demand for high quality hardwood logs to make veneers will drive responsible forest management practices in the Michigan forests. This increased demand will provide Michigan landowners and loggers with additional market opportunities for their hardwood timber and will also give Michigan wood product manufacturers additional market opportunities for their plywood core materials.

Additional Impact

By increasing plywood production by over three times, demand for inputs will follow. Roughly \$12 million in additional glue, veneers, and core materials will need to be purchased each year. Much of the timber used for the veneers on these plywood panels is sourced from the Northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Much of the core material comes from manufacturers in the area as well. These inputs and the finished product need transportation, much of which is provided by local trucking companies. While the equipment itself uses the latest technologies and therefore does not require many operators, it will require increased skilled labor to perform maintenance and upkeep duties. The greater production will require more material handlers, more logistics specialists, a larger sales force, and increased production from the veneer side of Manthei Wood Products. In total, 10 skilled jobs are expected to be created. In addition, the project will provide domestic supply of thin hardwood veneer plywood, traditionally imported from Russia, China, and other countries.

MDARD Staff Recommendation

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$90,000 for Manthei Inc.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

DATE: May 17, 2023
TO: Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
FROM: Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Agriculture Development Division Director
SUBJECT: Long Road Distillery, LLC

Background

Long Road Distillery, LLC (LRD) has been fully committed to the utilization of Michigan grown agricultural products (grains and fruits) in the production of their distilled spirits since opening in 2015. They have held firm to their belief that world class and internationally recognized distilled spirits products can be made in Michigan using exclusively Michigan grown grains and fruits. Over the past 8 years LRD has created a diverse portfolio of products that have gained notoriety for their quality and innovation and maintained their commitment to Michigan agriculture.

Project Description

The production expansion project will include several large equipment investments and building upgrades at their new facility to accommodate growth. The company will move all their processing, barreling, storage, and packaging operations to the new facility. The project will include building renovations, site improvements, and machinery and equipment including new grain handling equipment at facility located at 1750 Elizabeth Ave NW in Grand Rapids, MI. The project will include capital investment of \$1,335,414 with the creation of 5 new positions.

Impact on Michigan's Agriculture Industry

Since opening, Long Road Distillery, LLC has partnered with Heffron Farms for red winter wheat and corn. Heffron is committed to farmland preservation and LRD has been proud to support a grower dedicated to long term management and care of Michigan's farmland. The company also partners with Emergent Malt for malted barley, and they have been instrumental in sourcing Michigan grown rye and purple corn. Great Lakes Malting has also assisted in formulating specialty products for the bourbon category. Knappen Milling Company is a new partner who can assist in sourcing of wheat of the utmost quality as the company grows demand. LRD is using approximately 400,000 pounds of Michigan grown grain (corn, wheat, rye and barley) in 2023. Once the expansion project is complete the company anticipates utilizing over 1,000,000 pounds of Michigan grown grain in the first year alone, with increases in usage in subsequent years. Additional investments will be made to expand whisky production which utilizes both Michigan grown and malted barley for the newly created American Single Malt category as well as Michigan grown rye for our 100% Rye Whisky. The company is eager to partner with more farmers in Michigan to help highlight the agricultural richness of our state.

Additional Impact

The expansion project at Long Road Distillery, LLC is designed with a strong focus on sustainability and energy efficiency, incorporating various measures to minimize their environmental footprint, and contribute to responsible business practices. The new equipment will be more energy efficient and will reduce energy costs. The company is also sourcing raw materials from local farmers and suppliers, that will minimize the environmental impact associated with transportation and support sustainable agricultural practices within the region. Additionally, the company will implement waste reduction and recycling measures throughout their operations, aiming to minimize waste generation and promote responsible disposal and recycling practices including eliminating solid grain from our waste stream and utilizing it as a feed for local farmers.

MDARD Staff Recommendation

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$65,000 for Long Road Distillery, LLC.

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Intro Date</u>	<u>MDARD Lead</u>	<u>Chamber</u>	<u>Primary Sponsor</u>	<u>Last Action</u>	<u>Act</u>	<u>Description</u>
4030	1/18/2023	FDD	House	ROGERS	Re-referred to Health Policy 2/28	2000 PA 92	Food: other; lead leachate levels for dinnerware; regulate.
47	2/1/2023	ESD	Senate	Daley	Referred to Senate Ag/Nat. Resources	1994 PA 451	Land use: farmland and open space; relinquishment of portion of farmland from agreement or easement; allow to make boundaries more regular.
4134	2/22/2023	Exec	House	Friske	Referred to Local Gov. & Mun. Finance	1846 RS 66	Property: land sales; sale or transfer of real property to foreign entities; prohibit
4283	3/14/2023	Exec	House	G. Johnson	Referred to Gov. Ops	1846 RS 66	Property: land sales; prohibition for foreign entity to purchase farmland in Michigan; provide for.
148	3/7/2023	AID	Senate	POLEHANKI	Referred to Senate Ag/Nat. Resources	1969 PA 224	Animals: research facilities; reporting requirements and penalties for noncompliance; provide for.
149	3/7/2023	AID	Senate	HERTEL	Referred to Senate Ag/Nat. Resources	1969 PA 224	Animals: research facilities; certain research facilities to offer certain laboratory animals for adoption before euthanization; require
4277	3/14/2023	AID	House	PAIZ	Referred to Reg. Reform	1969 PA 224	Animals: research facilities; reporting requirements and penalties for noncompliance; provide for.
4278	3/14/2023	AID	House	PAIZ	Referred to Reg. Reform	1969 PA 224	Animals: research facilities; certain research facilities to offer certain laboratory animals for adoption before euthanization; require.
4333	3/27/2023	FDD	House	Alexander	Referred to House Ag	2000 PA 92	Food: cottage food operation; certain requirements for cottage food operations and cottage food products; modify.
4382	4/12/2023	ESD	House	MORSE	Referred to Local Gov. & Mun. Finance	1956 PA 40	Drains: water management districts; chapter 22 of drain code; revise process through determination of sufficiency of petition and proposed boundaries.
4383	4/12/2023	ESD	House	VanderWall	Referred to Local Gov. & Mun. Finance	1956 PA 40	Drains: water management districts; chapter 22 of drain code; revise process through determination of sufficiency of petition and proposed boundaries.
260	4/14/2023	Exec	Senate	Bellino	Referred to Senate Ag/Nat. Resources	1846 RS 66	Property: land sales; sale or transfer of real property to foreign entities; prohibit.
277	4/18/2023	ESD	Senate	MCDONALD RIVET	Referred to Senate Energy/Environment	1994 PA 451	Land use: farmland and open space; policy for farmers to rent land for commercial solar operations while enrolled in the PA 116 program; allow.
270	4/19/2023	Exec	Senate	Lauwers	Referred to Gov. Ops	1846 RS 66	Property: land sales; sale or transfer of agricultural assets or land to foreign entities; prohibit.
4460	4/25/2023	ESD/AID	House	DeSana	Referred to House Ag	2006 PA 110	Land use: zoning and growth management; rearing of hen chickens in residential areas; allow.
4461	4/25/2023	FDD	House	DeSana	Referred to House Ag	2000 PA 92	Food: cottage food operation; gross sales requirements for cottage food operations; modify.
4462	4/25/2023	ESD/AID	House	DeSana	Referred to House Ag	1981 PA 93	Agriculture: animals; generally accepted agricultural and management practices for rearing egg-laying hens in residential areas under certain conditions
327	5/4/2023	FDD	Senate	IRWIN	Referred to Senate Energy/Environment	2000 PA 92	Food: other; use of PFAS, bisphenols, and phthalates in food packaging; prohibit.