

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MSUFCU Headquarters #2
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East Lansing, MI

Option to Join via Remote Technology
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MEETING MINUTES July 26, 2023

PRESENT:

Andy Chae, 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
David Williams, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dr. Tim Boring, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Chae called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 10:37 a.m. on July 26, 2023. Chair Chae called the roll with Commissioners Chae, King-McAvoy, Wyant, and Williams and Director Boring present. Commissioner Wu was absent and excused.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO EXCUSE COMMISSIONER WU. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA, AS AMENDED FOR JULY 26, 2023. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 17, 2023, MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is September 20, 2023, meeting location and time is currently to be determined.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Chairman Chae reviewed a retirement resolution before the Commission recognizing Beth Howell, from the Food and Dairy Division. Ms. Howell joined the commission virtually to be recognized for her service in food safety.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY MOVED THE RESOLUTION FOR BETH HOWELL BE ADOPTED. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL

Commissioner Williams stated his farm was in full swing with wheat harvest, which also means baling straw.

Commissioner Wyant has been touring sweet cherry growers around the state. She shared she was impressed with the innovation growers have used to expand their industry.

Commissioner King-McAvoy stated cherry harvest is in full swing, and they were experiencing a very large sweet cherry crop. Unfortunately, the State of Washington also had a large crop, so prices are down.

Chairman Chae stated the restaurant industry demand has increased. His farm is experiencing a later growing season, especially tomatoes.

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

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Boring discussed the recent budget the Governor was expected to sign soon. The MDARD budget saw investments in Rural Development Grant work, Regenerative agriculture, climate resiliency, and emerging contaminants work. The department will be working closely with MSU for more research. The department will focus on specialty crops and the diversity of crops grown by farmers in Michigan. The director had been busy touring different farms, including asparagus and cherry farms. Other members of the executive office have also toured dairy and urban farms around the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment on agenda items was requested.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED PROCESSING PRACTICES (GAPPS) – INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED REVISIONS

Chad Rogers, Deputy Director, and Laura Doud, Environmental Engineer Licensed Specialist, both in the Environmental Stewardship Division, gave an overview of the current GAPPs proposal before the commission. No changes are being proposed this year, however MSU recently sent their recommendation for a new committee chair. Commissioner Wyant asked what the most common complaints to the GAPPS and Ms. Doud stated it is mostly noise and odor complaints. The chair asked how measurements are taken when complaints happen. Ms. Doud said noise complaints will be measured alongside the complainant to assure noise is present while observing. Commissioner King-McAvoy asked how odor was measured. Ms. Doud state odor may be subjective and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Air Quality staff will measure under their rule 901.

PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE COMMISSION POLICIES

Brad Deacon, Director of Legal Affairs and Emergency Management, presented the department's revisions to the Commission Policies. Changes were made to update legal

references and make the document consistent. The Commission will review for any additional changes to be made in September.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA, MOVING THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND REQUEST FOR JULY 26, 2023, AFTER THE BUDGET UPDATE. COMMISSIONER WYANT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET UPDATE

Sylvia Renteria, Director of Finance and Budget, gave an update on current budget legislation, which is awaiting the governor's signature. The current budget has a \$10.3 million increase to the department. Investments were made to expand the department's focus on regenerative agriculture and climate resiliency. Another investment was to increase research and outreach response for emerging containments. Commissioner Wyant applauded the department's investment in climate resiliency and specialty crops.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND REQUESTS:

Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Division Director, Agriculture Development Division, presented an amendment to a formerly approved grant from July 2022, to amend the grant amount to \$20,000. Ms. Zmitko-Somers explained Ethel's Baking Company had experienced an issue with increased cost and supply chain. Commissioner King-McAvoy asked if the funding could be retained for future use. Ms. Zmitko-Somers explained the grants are performance based. Vince Bommarito, from Ethel's Baking Company, attended the Commission meeting virtually to explain their production expansion has been postponed until at least 2024.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT AMENDMENT OF \$20,000 FOR ETHEL'S BAKING COMPANY. COMMISSIONER WYANT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

The Commission went at ease, the time being 11:31 a.m.

The Commission was called back to order, the time being 1:00 p.m.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SITE SUITABILITY DETERMINATION FOR SILVER CREEK POULTRY, LLC – APPEAL PROCESS REVIEW AND SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES:

Chad Rogers, Division Deputy Director, and Mike Wozniak, Right to Farm Program Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division, gave an overview of the process regarding the Silver Creek Poultry, LLC voluntary site application that was received in March 2023. The Right to Farm program approved that the site determination did follow the Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices (GAAMPS) in May 2023. The department received three appeals in June 2023, and the director determined one to be accepted. The director asked the Site Sustainability GAAMPS Committee to organize and review the appeal and report to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture of Rural Development. The Commissioners asked questions pertaining to the GAAMPs siting process.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Lauren Wittorp, from Dowagiac Michigan, testified before the Commission.

Shari Lidgard-Pullins, from Dowagiac Michigan, testified before the Commission.

Conni Wittorp, from Dowagiac Michigan, testified before the Commission.

Tom Progar, representing the Michigan for Just Farming System, testified before the Commission.

Kim Korona, representing the Michigan for Just Farming System testified before the Commission.

Discussion was held amongst the Commissioners relative to the appeal. Ms. Wittorp was called back up to discuss the appeal.

The Commission went at ease, the time being 1:30 pm.

The Commission was called back to order, the time being 1:35 p.m.

Erik Peter Oosterwal, testified before the Commission.

Kelly Cromer, from Dowagiac Michigan, testified virtually before the Commission.

Dennis Foote, from Dowagiac Michigan, testified virtually before the Commission.

Dr. Sean Wightma, from Dowagiac Michigan, testified before the Commission.

Beatrice Friendlander, representing the Attorney's for Animals, testified before the Commission.

Shawna Wyngarden, from Dowagiac Michigan, testified virtually before the Commission.

PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT – APPEAL OF THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SITE SUITABILITY DETERMINATION FOR SILVER CREEK POULTRY, LLC:

Ryan Coffey Hoag, Michigan State Extension Land Use Planning, Chair, Site Selection GAAMP Task Force, described that the role of the committee was to review the site selection application and the appeal and make a recommendation to the Commission. Additional committee members, Sue Reamer, Bruce Washburn and Gerald May, answered additional questions from the Commission.

MOTION: CHAIRMAN CHAE MOVED TO REVISIT THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. COMMISSIONER KING-McAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes May 17, 2023*
- C) *Retirement Resolution for Beth Howell*
- D) *Generally Accepted Processing Practices (GAPPs) – Introduction of Proposed Revisions*
- E) *Proposed Updates to the Commission Policies*
- F) *FY Budget Presentation*
- G) *Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Grant Request for Ethel's Baking Company.*
- H) *Professional committee report – appeal of the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices Site Suitability determination for Silver Creek Poultry, LLC*