

# MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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## **MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

### **PRESENT:**

Andy Chae, Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Monica Wyant, Vice Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Juliette King-McAvoy, 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  
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 10:30 a.m. on November 8, 2023. Chair Chae called the roll with Commissioners Chae, Wyant, King-McAvoy, Wu and Williams and Director Boring present.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY MOVED TO APPROVE MEETING AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2023. COMMISSIONER WYANT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 11, 2023, MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **PROPOSED 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WU MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL**

Commissioner King-McAvoy stated it was another record year for the apple crop. Farmers were hoping the apples would last until next fall in storage. The Commissioner expressed concern with farmers having issues with supply, especially boxes.

Commissioner Wyant expressed the same excitement for Michigan produce production this fall as Commission King-McAvoy. Many of the Meijer retail locations are prepping for the Thanksgiving holiday offering Michigan onions, potatoes and squash.

Commissioner Chae finished their Community Supported Agriculture for the year, which marks their end of the season, but still growing for wholesale accounts. The Commissioner did finish up planting garlic before the weather changed.

Commissioner Williams' farm finished their soybeans two weeks before the meeting and were starting to focus on corn. The Commissioner shared his travel to the department potluck and awards ceremony the day before. He was impressed with the employees and the food they provided.

Commissioner Wu recently attended two conferences at MSU. One regarding PFAS and another on reducing water use and increasing yields. In December she will be attending the Harvard School of Business with a focus on Agriculture Business. Commissioner Wu will also be attending a Society for Risk Analysis meeting in December, which she will be leading.

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

### **COMMISSIONER ISSUES**

Chairman Chae invited Mr. Ben Schram, Private Lands Forestry Manager in the Environmental Stewardship Division, and Mr. Kevin VanGieson, of the Qualified Forest Program in the Environmental Stewardship Division, to the table to honor Mr. VanGieson on his upcoming retirement. Mr. Schram gave a highlight of Mr. VanGieson's career at the department. The commission expressed gratitude and congratulations to Mr. VanGieson.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED THE RETIREMENT RESOLUTION FOR KEVIN VANGIESON BE ADOPTED. COMMISSIONER WU SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director expressed it had been a busy couple of weeks. The main highlight was the annual potluck and awards ceremony, which the Governor attended, the day before. The Director expressed gratitude to the team that put the event on. The Deputy Secretary from USDA visited Michigan highlighting USDA's investments in Rural America. With the realignment to a bureau structure, the department continues to grow. Positions are being backfilled. The Department currently has positions posted a Chief Scientist and in Regenerative Agriculture.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beatrice M. Friedlander, President, Attorneys for Animals, testified before the Commission.

Randy Buchler, testified before the Commission.

Ryan Lacovacci, testified before the Commission.

Brian Rogers testified before the Commission.

### **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND REQUESTS**

Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Division Director, Agriculture Development Division, introduced the grant application, Quality Roasters. They are in Reese Michigan processing soybeans into crude

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oil; however, this new expansion will start processing into food grade oil. Erin Davis from Quality Roasting explained they currently are 100% sourced from local farmers.

The Commissioners asked if there were any challenges in sourcing, Ms. Davis explained it wasn't sourcing it was the competition with increase price, which was beneficial for the farmer. Commissioner Wu asked what happens to the byproduct, Ms. Davis explained that much of it is repurposed for livestock feed.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT OF \$150,000 FOR QUALITY ROASTING. COMMISSIONER WU SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPS) – PROCESS AND INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED 2024 GAAMPS:**

Mike Wozniak, Right to Farm Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division, came forward to answer any additional questions from the GAAMPS introduced at the prior meeting and reviewed the Commission's responsibilities to the GAAMPS

For the Care of Farm Animals GAAMP, Mr. Wozniak called up Dr. Madonna Benjamin, Chair, to review the proposed changes to the 2024 GAAMP. Commissioner Chae asked about the changes in debeaking in egg layers. Dr. Benjamin explained it was due to the pecking and mortality of laying hens, causing the least amount of pain. Commissioner Wu asked about the new pharmaceutical revisions to the GAAMPS; Dr. Benjamin explained it was related to changes by the USDA that the producer had to have a prescription, so the veterinary client patient relationship was enforced because that reduced access to in feed medications.

Commissioner King-McAvoy asked how a GAAMP is created to address a new area of concern raised by the public related to mushrooms. Mr. Wozniak expressed the Commission Policies to create a new GAAMP. Commissioner King-McAvoy also asked if environmental standards were considered when revising the GAAMPS. Mr. Wozniak explained the GAAMPS use scientific standards presented for environmental standards.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CARE OF FARM ANIMALS WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Wozniak invited Mr. Gerry May, Chair of the Site Selection GAAMP, to come forward to answer additional questions. Chairman Chae asked if MDARD received a nuisance complaint, from a facility that has completed siting, what the process would be. Mr. Wozniak explained they would revisit the location to review complaint and if the facility is following the plan MDARD approved. If they are not following the plan, then they would need to update their management to reflect the approved plan to bring the farm into conformance. Commissioner Chae asked that for future discussions if a representative from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy would be present to answer any additional questions.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WU MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SITE SELECTION WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Wozniak honored Chairman Safferman who recently retired as the chair of the Manure Management and Utilization GAAMP. Mr. Wozniak also offered additional information on the proposed changes. Commissioner Wu asked Mr. Wozniak on the difference between staging or stock-piling manure. Mr. Wozniak explained staging is a temporary location while stock-piling would fall under a longer term storage option which includes additional requirements under the Manure Management and Utilization GAAMP.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MANURE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER WU SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Wozniak introduced Dr. John Wise, Chair of the Pest Utilization and Pest Control GAAMP. Chairman Chae asked what changes were made for loud noise nuisance for best practices. Dr. Wise said they looked to Dr. Catherine Lindahl from Michigan State University on her research on blueberries and cherries in bird control and bird management best practices.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WU MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PEST UTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL WITH CHANGES AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Wozniak stated the Irrigation GAAMPs Chair, Younsuk Dong, was present for any questions, however there were no major revisions to the GAAMP. Mr. Wozniak honored Dr. Harrigan, the Chair to the Nutrient GAAMP, upon his retirement, however there were no changes in 2024. Mr. Wozniak also informed the Commission there were no additional changes to the Cranberry and Farm Market GAAMP for 2024 and Mr. Ryan Coffey-Hoag, chair of the Farm Market GAAMPs was also present to answer any questions if needed.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FARM MARKET, IRRIGATION, CRANBERRY AND NUTRIENT, AS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Randy Buchler testified before the Commission.

Brian Roger, a Leelanau County resident, testified before the Commission.

Megan Tinsley, representing the Michigan Environmental Council, testified before the Commission.

**ADJOURN**

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:08 P.M.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes October 11, 2023*
- C) *Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule*
- D) *Retirement Resolution for Kevin VanGieson*
- E) *Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Request – Quality Roasting*
- F) *Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPS) –Proposed 2024 GAAMPS*