

**Michigan Onion Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 18, 2020**

**Lunch at 12:00 p.m.
Michigan Celery Promotion
5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426**

Live Attendees: Bruce Klamer, Michael Bosch, Mitch Schreur, Mark Nail, Greg Bird

Virtual Attendees: Heather Throne, Ben Werling, Darryl Warnke

Business Meeting

1. Lunch served
2. Call to Order - Bruce Klamer
Time: 12:09pm

3. Minutes – Feb 27 2020 Board Meeting - Bruce Klamer

Motion: Mike Bosch

Supported by: Mitch Schreur

Motion approved

4. Executive Director comments - Greg Bird

Greg made a few comments as to the 2020 Expo is still in the planning process. Greg also made a few comments that he hopes the general public can learn to stay home when sick and that will help to lighten the responsibility of businesses and events to monitor as such.

5. Executive Director Contract - Bruce Klamer

Greg presented a contract for the 2020 growing season, July 2020 through June 2021. The address of the home office has changed. The amount of the contract is \$960 in fees and or onion survey storage each month and \$40 for Quickbooks subscription.

The 3 copies were signed by Greg Bird and Bruce Klamer.

Motion: Mark Nail

Supported by: Mitch Schreur

Motion approved

6. Elect Officers for 2020 Onion Season - Greg Bird

Chair: Bruce Klamer - nominated by Mark Nail

Vice Chair: Mark Nail - nominated by Bruce Klamer

Treasurer: Mike Bosch - nominated by Bruce Klamer

2nd: Mitch Schreur

Motion Approved

7. Board appointments - Greg Bird

- a. Mitch, Mark, and Kristin are up in Aug 2022
- b. Bruce and Mike are up in Aug 2020
 - i. Have had no recent contact with governor's office.
 - ii. Sent out message to onion contacts but have received back no interest.
 - iii. Ideas?

Heather recommends that the group comes up with 2 names for each appointee position that is up. There will be a governor's application and quite possibly a senate application which needs filled out by all applicants.

Jeff at Woodwyk was a suggestion, but thought perhaps he was too new to the industry. Bruce will check with Ryan at Ver Hage and Scott Vogel. Greg will check with Craig Brandt of Valley Farms.

8. MDARD Report – Heather Throne

Heather noted that \$1.9 million was available for this year's Specialty Crop Block Grants. There were value-added grants that were available, which received 80 proposals, but these were put on hold.

9. MSU Extension Report – Ben Werling

Dr Hausbeck is working on stemphylium trials this season. Dr Szendrei has a new student, Natalie, who will be looking to make some visits. The committee welcomed this opportunity. Natalie's work will have something to do with conventional vs organic (I did not catch more details). Dr Hayden could do more nitrogen work and MOC needs to let him know that we would most likely have funds available for him to do this work. Ben has some approval to do some scouting.

10. Onion Trial Report – Darryl Warncke

The onion trials are at Klamer's except for at Eding. Klamer did not get Braddock planted. Eding did not get red #5 planted. Aldrin #10 was substituted. They germed well but the hard frost thinned some, especially in the middle.

11. MOC Chair's report - Bruce Klamer

Bruce spoke very briefly, he gave out the onion varieties planted at his location. This list with field map will be included in July newsletter.

12. Financial reports – Greg Bird

- a. Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss, Cash Flow, assessments, and budget documents

The above documents were reviewed. The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss were not sent out ahead of time. At this point, Greg will close the year on June 30 and then send a copy of these out to the committee.

Motion: Mitch Schreur

Supported by: Mike Bosch

Motion approved

- b. 2020-21 Cash Flow and Budget document planning

The existing Excel Cash Flow document is duplicate work as everything is stored in Quickbooks. A replicate printout can be retrieved from Quickbooks. The committee said that there was no longer a need to continue with the Cash Flow document. Greg will keep using the Cash Flow document for the near future but may consider stopping at some point. The budget planning took place and it was decided to keep the budget items for 2020-2021 the same as 2019-2020. If alterations are needed, the committee can approve.

Motion: Mark Nail

Supported by: Mike Bosch

Motion approved

c. Assessments from 2019 crop YTD compared to 2018 YTD

The assessments from the 2019 onion crop were compared to the previous year. 2019 is still waiting on Bolthouse which should be in process now by Bolthouse Corporate according to Lynette. If this is close to \$5000 then the 2019 total will be substantially higher than 2018.

d. Which growers to contact?

1. VanDenburg \$1353.25 not received since MDARD review with farm.

Nate was contacted in October and he was waiting for some onion cash flow to pay his assessments. When Nate was contacted in February he said that Market Brothers had agreed to pay the 2019 assessments for him. Greg told Nate that if Market Brothers did not it was still his responsibility. Greg will continue to contact Nate and will report back to MDARD.

2. Valley Farms assessments received in 2019-20.

13. July newsletter - Greg Bird

a. Address change from Mason to St Johns.

b. Twilight dinner plans

Greg will include the above items as well as look to NOA for content. Greg will include a field made of the 2020 trials so visitors could stop by.

14. Financial reviews now an audit every year - Greg Bird

MDARD informed Greg that due to the past 3 year balance of MOC averaging above \$50,000, the committee now has to have an annual audit instead of a review 3 of every 5 years. Gerg informed the committee of this and Greg will work with accountant at end of year to get an audit.

15. Review research priorities, use previous or make changes? - Greg Bird

Greg will continue to provide the existing priorities to MSU for the upcoming grant year. Greg told the group that Sushila Chaudhari (Bernie Zandstra's replacement) had hoped to ask MOC for some funds, but due to COVID she would not be able to take on another new project.

16. Future Board meetings and twilight dinner - Greg Bird

a. Twilight dinner date

i. Cook and setup?

ii. Sponsorships

The twilight onion trials dinner will be at Bruce Klamer's, not on Aug 24 or 25 due to audits. The few days after that may work best. Bruce will take care of setup and food just like in 2019. Greg will check with Kristin and MSU to see what dates may work for the industry this year. MOC would like the event to happen in August and not in September.

b. December expo board meeting, what date, what time, and with lunch?

The Michigan Onion Committee annual meeting will be held at the 2020 GL Expo pending the GL Expo plans for this year. Since there are unknowns, MOC will wait for GL Expo plans before establishing a date and time. Wednesday at lunch did not work for Greg's schedule.

c. 2021 meeting dates

The winter research meeting will be on 2/9/2021 and a location and time are TBD.

The summer meeting will be on 6/17/2021 at the Michigan Celery Promotion Office.

17. Expo giveaways and NOA auction item - Greg Bird

Greg received approval to include an auction item for the NOA auction which will still need reviewed before purchased. The committee was hoping for a Michigan themed item. The group realized we do not have Expo giveaways and were willing to put up to \$500 into the budget towards items. Greg will work on getting items and may use NOA as a resource. These were approved to be part of the budget for 2020-21, so that motion is used for these.

18. Other business -

None

19. Adjournment - Bruce Klamer

Motion: Mark Nail

Supported by: Mitch Schreur

Motion approved