

**Michigan Onion Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 17, 2021**

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

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/zce-rpye-kah

Phone Numbers

[\(US\)+1 617-675-4444](tel:+16176754444)

PIN: 148 728 240 9961#

Appointed members attendance: Bruce Klamer, Michael Bosch, Mitch Schreur, Mark Nail, Kristin Oomen

Attendees: Greg Bird, Heather Throne (remote), Ben Werling, Andrew Smith

Business Meeting Minutes

1. Lunch served

2. Call to Order - Bruce Klamer

Time: 12:10pm

3. Minutes – Feb 9, 2021 Board Meeting - Bruce Klamer

Motion: Michael Bosch

2nd: Kristin Oomen

Approved

4. MDARD Report – Heather Throne

Heather gave a brief update on MDARD programs from SCBG, Rural Development Fund Grants and Value-Added and Regional Food Systems Grants.

5. MSU Extension Report – Ben Werling

Ben provided a brief update from MSU Extension. Onion thrips are here at present. There is a new product for Valent called “Senstar”. It is expensive and similar to Movento. Mary Hausbeck got a USDA grant for doing work on the Pest Management Strategic Plan for Michigan Onions. This was last accomplished many years ago and needs to be updated for many reasons, one being IR-4. The work will most likely happen in winter of 2021-22.

6. Onion Trial Report – Darryl Warncke

23 onion varieties have been planted at Bruce Klamers farm. 7 onion varieties have been planted by Mike Bosch. 8 different seed companies submitted seed for the onion variety trial. Stands are variable and thin due to the several nights of freezing temperatures when the onions were coming up and in the flag leaf.

7. MOC Chair’s report - Bruce Klamer

Bruce reviewed some industry concerns that he would take to Washington DC the following week. The concerns were those such as labor, chemical labels, etc. Bruce will be joining the NOA in DC and having talks about the industry with Senator Stabenow among others.

8. Executive Director Contract - Bruce Klamer

Greg presented the board with a contract for the year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. There were no changes for the year other than the dates.

Motion: Mitch Schreur

2nd: Michael Bosch

Motion Approved to accept contract. 3 copies were signed by Greg and Bruce.

9. Michigan Onion Committee Referendum 2022 - Greg Bird

2022 has several 232 referendum votes and already has votes for Jan and Feb. The onion committee would like to see if March is available and asked Heather to check on this. Otherwise it could be done anywhere between March and July.

Some changes to the Onion Committee program language are needed. These cover items such as consecutive terms, pronouns, and membership. See the document "Draft for 2022 Referendum MICHIGAN ONION PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM amended 1.2020" to view the actual updates. The onion committee voted to approve these changes and move forward with them in the 2022 referendum. The main change is that there is no longer a limit on how many terms can be served.

Motion: Michael Bosch

2nd: Mitch Schreur

Approved

10. Board appointments - Greg Bird

Bruce and Mike were up in Aug 2020, both submitted applications in 2020. Mitch, Mark, and Kristin are up in Aug 2022.

11. Elect Officers for 2021 Onion Season - Greg Bird

Chair: Bruce Klamer

Vice Chair: Mark Nail

Treasurer: Michael Bosch

Motion: Kristin Oomen

2nd: Mitch Schreur

Approve

12. Michigan Onion Assessment Rate for 2021 growing season - Greg Bird

\$.06 per hundredweight is the maximum and has been the amount in the recent past. \$.06 per hundredweight is the amount for the Michigan onion assessment for the 2021 crop.

Motion: Mark Nail

2nd: Kristin Oomen

Approved

13. Financial reports and Budget – Greg Bird

Review Balance Sheet and (Profit and Loss Yearly Comparison)

Motion: Mitch Schreur

2nd: Michael Bosch

Approved

2021-22 Budget Planning, Review Cash Flow (Profit and Loss by month)

These items explain what different aspects of the budget are for. Cash Flow groups - Misc Exp budgeted (noa auction and expo giveaways, in marketing and promotion), office expense (quickbooks, website, office), Dues (ipm and noa), committee meeting expense (meeting and steak dinner)

A budget for 2021-2022 was completed and included budgeted amounts for (Expo giveaways and NOA auction item). Plus travel expenses for Bruce Klamer's NOA trip to DC (\$650) for 2020-2021 budget year are included in the motion.

Motion: Mark Nail

2nd: Kristin Oomen

Approved

The new Cash Flow report which is Profit and Loss by Month was reviewed by the group. The same goes for the report from Quickbooks to display crop payments. Greg will no longer enter data into Quickbooks and spreadsheets. The data will only be entered into Quickbooks and reported on from there.

Review Crop Payments(Old and New) and Checks Received were reviewed, comparing 2019 and 2020 payments.

Cnossen, Lubbers, Gary Kunkel, Nick Morris, and Bosgraff can be removed from the list. However in the future will show who has paid in the current year unless compared with the previous year.

Greg reviewed the assessment process as to when reports are sent to growers, as well as emails, and letters. As of the time of the meeting these growers were known to be delinquent with 2020 crop payments: Vandenberg, Valley Farms, Bouwkamp\Blackhawk(packer). As of this minutes being recorded, a full 2020 crop payment was received from Valley Farms. Michigan Onion has requested that Greg attempt to visit Nathan Vandenberg and based on the results potentially contact MDARD regarding Vandenberg non-payments once again.

14. Future Board meetings and twilight dinner - Greg Bird

The twilight onion trials and steak dinner will be held on August 24, 2021. Doug Bulgrin and Greg Yielding from NOA will attend. Greg Bird will reserve tables and chairs. Bruce Klamer will coordinate dinner again. Syngenta has a portable outdoor cooking grill and they have volunteered to do the cooking

The Michigan Onion Committee 2021-2022 meeting schedule is:

Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids Expo December 8, 2021 12:30pm

Research Meeting, February 10, 2022 10:00am, hopefully at MSU

Board Meeting, June 9, 2022 12:00pm Michigan Celery Co-op

15. Research priorities - Greg Bird

The research priorities were reviewed and left unchanged for 2021-2022.

Motion: Mitch Schreur

2nd: Michael Bosch

Approved

16. Other business -

Andrew Smith gave a brief review of his role as ambassador for the Michigan Ag Council.

17. Adjournment - Bruce Klamer

Motion: Mark Nail

2nd: Kristin Oomen

2:24pm