

**Michigan Onion Committee**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**December 8, 2021, 12:30pm**

**Devos Place Grand Gallery Overlook CD**

Attendees: Greg Bird, Bruce Klamer, Michael Bosch, Kristin Oomen, Mitch Schreur, Ben Werling, Heather Throne, Darryl Warncke

1. Call to Order – Chairman Bruce Klamer 12:33pm
2. Minutes: June 17, 2021 (see doc)

*Motion: Mitch Schreur*

*Supported by: Mike Bosch*

*Motion approved*

3. 2021 Onion Season Review - Bruce Klamer

Bruce made comments about the 2021 onion crop. Bruce had just returned from the NOA winter meeting. There are 46 million pounds of US onions on hand. Wisconsin and New York had big crops in 2021. Michigan had an average crop. The current price for onions is about .10 per 50 lbs. NOA summer meetings will be in Grand Rapids in summer 2023.

4. Financial Reports – Mike Bosch (see docs)

Mike reviewed the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Reports for MOC. The Balance sheet was for FY 2021-2022 (July 1-Dec 1)

*Motion: Kristin Oomen*

*Supported by: Mitch Schreur*

*Motion approved*

Greg reviewed the new Onion Assessment report. The group found it satisfactory. Greg is still working on providing the budget on the profit and loss report so that the prior Cash Flow report can be replaced.

5. MDARD Report – Heather Throne
  - a. Record Retention
  - b. 2022 Onion Program Referendum

Heather gave updates from MDARD. New SCBG grants can spend money as of 11/01/2021. The next SCBG RFP will begin 1/4/2022. There will be \$1.9 million normal and \$1.2 million HR. Heather will have a packet together for commodity groups to know what needs done for MI record retention. This will come out in Feb 2022. Heather will set up a meeting for Greg and MDARD to review next steps for delinquent assessments. Heather also will set up a pre-meeting for MDARD and the onion team to discuss what needs done for a public hearing and onion referendum in 2022. The Onion referendum vote is scheduled for May 2, 2022 to last 2 weeks.

6. Executive Director's Report - Greg Bird

- a. Grant Report (see doc)

Greg reviewed the MOC grants provided from the past and from 2021.

- b. Conflict of Interest Document, members sign
- c. Heiss Onions, selling harvester
- d. New Jersey food processor, looking for onion growers
  - i. F&S FRESH FOODS Damon Twomey Strategic Sourcing Specialist 500 West Elmer Rd Vineland, NJ 08360 O: (856) 391-7114 C: (609) 744-7421  
[www.fsfreshfoods.com](http://www.fsfreshfoods.com)
- e. MI license review for Rep Alexander
  - i. License type \ problem or challenge

Comments on the Michigan agricultural licenses were that people still value taking the exam on paper. 10 sittings for this exam is not sufficient.

#### 7. MSU Extension Report – Ben Werling

Ben Werling and Mary Hausbeck are going to organize reviewing and rewriting Michigan's Pest Management Strategic Plan which has not been done since 2005. It will be an all day meeting. Ben has grant money to cover this meeting. 2 potential research needs for 2022 could be to help fund work with Zsofia Szendrei for onion thrips thresholds and to Zack Hayden for Nitrogen work.

#### 8. Onion Seed Variety Trials 2021 and 2022 – Darryl Warncke (see doc)

Darryl said that he will provide MOC with an invoice for 2021 and look to doing the trials again in 2022. The 2021 trials had good size, but poor storage quality.

#### 9. 2022 Calendar - Greg Bird

- a. February 10, 2022, \*\*\*Decide on location and time, hopefully cherry\asparagus in DeWitt.
- b. June 9, 2022, at Celery Co-op, Hudsonville 12pm

#### 10. Other Business

Ben Werling said that Brian Nault of Cornell is going to be working on a maggot seed treatment trial for IR4 (film coated seeds + onion maggots)

#### 11. Adjourn 1:25pm

*Motion: Mike Bosch*

*Supported by: Mitch Schreur*

*Motion approved*