

**Michigan Onion Committee Meeting - Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

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

Appointed members: Bruce Klamer, Michael Bosch, Mitch Schreur, Mark Nail, Kristin Oomen(Virtual)

Other Attendees: Greg Bird, Sasha Eliason(Virtual), Ben Werling, Emily Mead, Larry Weber

**Business Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Bruce Klamer

Time: 12:18pm

2. Minutes – March 8, 2022 Annual Meeting - Bruce Klamer

Motion: Mitch Schreur

2nd: Mike Bosch

3. MSU Extension Report – Ben Werling

Ben Werling thanked the group for their participation in the March 8 Pest Management Strategic Planning Session for onions. Ben asked if there were any speakers that people were interested in for Expo. Ben informed the group that there were 2 committees for replacing the 2 vegetable educator position vacancies. Ben is on one of the committees.

4. MDARD Report – Sasha Eliason

Sasha informed the group that MDARD would be reviewing its new record retention policy at the 232 commodity meeting on July 11. Starting the end of June 2022, 232 checkoff organization meetings will have to have audio recorded. The audio files will then be made available. More details to come on the availability of the files. Value Add grants will be in July and have a value of \$1 million. The 2022 SCBG grants have been passed along to USDA for follow-up.

5. Onion Trial Report – Darryl Warncke

Bruce did not have any information for a chair's report, but Bruce did cover for Darryl in Darryl's absence. The trials are running a bit behind due to wet spring weather. Bruce's onion trial plantings were completed on 5/8. Mike Bosch's trials are doing well. Bruce has 23 yellow and 4 red varieties planted. Next to these trials is a Syngenta trial for pre-emergent weeds.

6. MOC Chair's report - Bruce Klamer

N/A

7. Financial reports and Budget – Greg Bird

- a. Review Balance Sheet and (Profit and Loss Yearly Comparison)

Greg reviewed the Balance Sheet Report and the Profit and Loss.

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: Mitch Schreur

b. Review Assessments and Checks Received

i. Assessments from 2021 crop YTD compared to 2020 YTD

Greg reviewed the report which compared 2020 assessments with 2021 assessments.

ii. Assessment follow-up process

1. Delinquent growers (Vandenberg, Valley Farms, Bouwkamp\Blackhawk)

A letter will be sent to the 4 places listed above. This letter will be logged in the Assessment spreadsheet. After 2 weeks if no response has been received a certified letter will be sent. At that point, after 2 weeks if no response, then the names will be turned over to MDARD for further action.

2. Growers not growing in 2022?

Van Singel will not be growing or packing onions in 2022.

The Onion Committee will determine what the assessment cutoff would be for providing NOA membership to Michigan growers. This cutoff will be determined by August 17 with a potential vote at the December Annual Meeting.

c. 2022-23 Budget Planning

i. 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)

2022-2023 Onion Committee budget was developed

Motion: Mark Nail

2nd: Mitch Schreur

8. Executive Director's Report - Greg Bird

a. Forgot to pay per diem and mileage from March meeting, what to send to everyone?

Mileage was paid to those in attendance by the MSU PMSP grant. Per Diem will be paid to Bruce Klamer, Kristin Oomen, Mitch Schreur, and Mark Nail. Mike Bosch left at the beginning of the Onion Meeting so he does not receive the per diem.

b. Referendum Vote and Committee member appointments upcoming in 2022

Greg read the MDARD director's resolution for continuing the Onion Promotional Program for 5 more years. Kristin will not be seeking an appointment again. Bruce, Mark, Mike, and Mitch will. James Young is interested and we will pass along his name. Gracie Kenny may be interested but needs more experience with the industry.

c. Onion Reporting to NOA - Greg or Bruce

Bruce will continue to reply to requests for onion reporting. Mark or Mike could also help get onion acreage numbers if Bruce is no longer on the committee at some point.

d. Audit Update

Greg has attended 2 Michigan Senate Ag Committee Hearings. Bill 977 was approved by the senate committee. This bill sponsored by Senator Daley will only require 232 Checkoff programs to be audited once every 5 years if the yearly assessments are under \$40,000. The bill now needs to go to the House and then the Governor.

9. Future Board meetings and twilight dinner - Greg Bird

a. Twilight dinner date

The onion trials and twilight dinner will be held on August 17, 2022 at Bruce Klamer's place.

i. Sponsorships

Bruce has new sponsors to reach out to.

b. December expo board meeting, Wed Dec 7 at 12:30pm?

Yes this will be the annual meeting at the Devos Place in Grand Rapids.

c. 2022-23 meeting dates (Feb and June)

Onion research meeting - March 1, 2023, location TBD

Onion June meeting - June 8, 2023, at Celery Promotion

10. Executive Director Contract - Bruce Klamer

a. Changes from 2021-22

b. Sign 3 copies

Greg reviewed the only change for 2022 from 2021 was Greg's contract amount is now \$945 a month and Quickbooks is \$55. a month.

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: Mitch Schreur

11. Elect Officers for 2022 Onion Season - Bruce Klamer

Chair: Bruce Klamer

Vice Chair: Mark Nail

Treasurer: Mike Bosch

Motion: Mitch Schreur

2nd: Bruce Klamer

12. Michigan Onion Assessment Rate for 2022 growing season - Bruce Klamer

a. \$.06 per hundredweight is the maximum and has been the amount in the recent past.

Assessment left at \$.06 for 2022 growing season.

Motion: Mark Nail

2nd: Mitch Schreur

13. Other business - Bruce Klamer

N/A

14. Adjournment - Bruce Klamer

Time: 2:28pm

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: Mitch Schreur