

**Michigan Onion Committee  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, March 2, 2023**

**Meeting at 10am.**

**MSU Agronomy Farm 4450 Beaumont Rd, Lansing, MI 48910**  
[meet.google.com/hou-qgmg-vhv](https://meet.google.com/hou-qgmg-vhv)

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Attendees: Bruce Klamer, Mark Nail, Michael Bosch, Mitchell Schreur, James Young, Greg Bird  
Heather Throne, Ben Werling, Darryl Warnke, Mary Hausbeck, Zsofia Szendrei, Sushila Chaudhari,  
Matthew Uebbing, Abdelrazek, Abdelrhim

**Business Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Bruce Klamer

Time: 10:04am

2. Minutes – December 7, 2022 Annual Meeting - Bruce Klamer

Motion: Mark Nail

2nd: Mitch Schreur

3. Research Reviews and future research projects - MSU research scientists

- a. Dr. Mary Hausbeck - Mary introduced from her program: Matthew Uebbing and Abdelrazek, Abdelrhim. Mary provided the 2023 GREEN proposal for Stemphylium work which MOC gave \$10k total matching funds if the grant is given funding by MSU. Mary presented research from MOC Stemphylium SCBG. The research showed the application internal schedule and showed forecasting is not that good for Stemphylium. For 7 days, program 1 and 2 were most reliable. There was a list of products that can be used. Do cover crops act as a source for Stemphylium? Barley and winter rye can host Stemphylium, but not rye grass. The barley is an issue as it is used early for onions. Mary's lab was looking at if wheat and oats are hosts. The spores show up mostly after rain events.  
\*\*\* - Mary would like to find time with onion growers for a meal to discuss and learn exactly what the onion growing schedule is for Michigan.
- b. Dr. Zsofia Szendrei - Zsofia talked about a MOC SCBG on onion thrips research. Zsofia talked about the interaction with Collectotrichum. Do onion thrips care about the health of host plants? It appears thrips like injured plants the most when given choices or when not given choices. The next topic was how far do thrips spread and what environmental factors make a difference? A pesticide trial with different action thresholds was explained (how many thrips per leaf). Different spray programs were used. In low thrip years scouting needs to be done to reduce insecticides, but still need fungicides. A plastic mulch trial with different colored plastic is being researched to see how much different colors of the mulch play roles in thrip populations.
- c. Dr Sushila Chaudhari - Sushila provided a weed management update: 1) herbicide update - Dual magnum is registered with IR-4 until 2026 now with new wording on label for pre-emergence. 2) evaluation of Tiafenacil - 2021 and 2022 trials of when to use

Tiafenacil. Tiafenacil kills off barley as a pre-emergence, and the more that it is used. P01 increased Tiafenacil stand looks worse. P02 yield decrease, less decrease at P03 and P04. 3) effects of dicamba - 3 applications 5/24, 6/29, and 7/26 low levels of injury also check residue to see if problem for limits. Need to send fruit along with leaf tissue to check for dicamba drift. 4) 2023 plans - formesafen program, evaluate post herbicide for white campion. Not a tremendous amount of white campion work in 2022, but still has more to do.

#### 4. Financial Reports – Greg Bird

##### a. Statement of activity and statement of financial position.

Greg reviewed the profit and loss and balance sheet reports. These 2 reports are used instead of statement of activity and financial position for Onion books. The names were a mistake in agenda. The team asked Greg to check on the bill that was put forward by Daley of the senate ag committee to change commodity audit regulations.

##### b. Assessments from 2022 crop YTD compared to 2021 YTD

Greg reviewed 2022 assessments received vs 2021 to date and final 2021. 2022 assessments are on similar pace. Plakmeyer will supposedly be out of onions in 2023 and doing greenhouses. Bolthouse will probably no longer be packaging onions. Chris Bouwkamp probably grew 20 acres in Grant. Bruce Klamer will call on Vandenberg and Valley Farms as a reminder. Greg will contact them in April if nothing has been received by then.

Motion to approval financial report was made and approved

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: Mitch Schreur

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

Ben told the board that MSU has 2 new vegetable extension educators. Chris Galbraith has started and will service SE MI and NW Ohio. Saltanat Mambetova will start soon and service Eastern MI.

#### 6. MDARD Report – Heather Throne

MDARD has \$2.2 for SCBG in 2023, normally 1.6-2.2. There were 34 SCBG proposals submitted. 2 FarmInnovation projects were funded at \$200k each. Value Add Grants up to \$100k with match are due April 1.

#### 7. Executive Director's Report - Greg Bird

##### a. Committee member appointments upcoming in 2023, Bruce K and Mike B

- i. New people to approach (Nate B, Chad W, Glen V) The board feels these 3 people should be asked of interest.
- b. 2023 Onion Committee calendar
  - i. NOA June 14-17 in Grand Rapids.

Bruce provided details. Kathe Klamer will provide activities for NOA visitors not attending meetings on Thursday. Friday, MOC will plan the bus tour for the NOA convention. MOC members will need to help and ride the buses as tour guides. The bus tour will be about 9:30am-4:00pm. Saturday Bruce is helping plan outings like golf or fishing. Saturday morning is the crop reports.

For the bus tour, Schreur farms is available to tour, but not the indoors packaging line. James will check with Stokes or Gowans warehouses as options. Mitch will check on celery co-op plant as an option. The tour will eat somewhere towards the lake and plan on visiting the lake.

- ii. MOC meeting June 14-17 instead of June 8?

The board likes the idea of moving the MOC meeting from June 8 to somewhere during June 14-17. This will be decided once the NOA June 14-17 is finalized.

- c. Research priorities and RFP on website.

Greg displayed michiganonion.com and the new research RFP page and form.

- d. MI Veg Council - Advocacy Committee

Greg talked about MVC hiring a lobbying firm and creating a vegetable advocacy committee. This committee will have members from all of Michigan's vegetable industry. Both James and Bruce expressed interest.

## 8. Onion trials - Darryl Warncke, New plans for 2023

- a. How to provide support for getting onions to Bruce's.

We will figure out how to get onions to Bruce's and to the Expo after the onions are in the ground. Seed companies need to help get onions to Bruce's. Storing onions from Aug to Dec at Bruce's might be the easiest.

## 9. MOC Chair's report - 2022 onion crops in Michigan - Bruce Klamer

- a. NOA memberships MI growers
    - i. Over \$100 in assessments? Cost to do this? Now or June meeting when the budget is established?

Bruce was in DC with the NOA. Bruce provided list of new chemistries from IR-4. This list will be provided to board with minutes. Products from both Mexico and Panama are coming in making market full of product. Current onion price for growers is \$.14/lb, which used to be decent, but not as good with high input costs of 2023.

Mark Nail made a motion to have the Michigan Onion Committee pay for one year of NOA membership for Michigan onion growers. This one time membership should be \$199 per growers. The growers and their assessments will be placed in a list with a 3 years average of assessments per grower. The board will

look at the list and let Greg know who to offer memberships to. Greg will then get approval from growers to get them a membership.

Motion: Mark Nail

2nd: Mitch Schreur

10. Other business

N/A

11. Adjournment - Bruce Klamer

Time: 1:47pm

Motion: James Young

2nd: Mike Bosch