

Michigan Onion Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 8, 2023

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

or

meet.google.com/jsz-cjuk-gik

+1 929-282-1270 PIN: 149 695 282#

Appointed members: Bruce Klamer, Michael Bosch, Mitch Schreur, Mark Nail, James Young

Other Attendees: Sasha Eliason(virtual), Ben Werling, Greg Bird

Business Meeting

1. Call to Order - Bruce Klamer

Time: 12:11pm

2. Minutes – March 2, 2023 Annual Meeting - Bruce Klamer

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: Mitch Schreur

3. MSU Extension Report – Ben Werling

Ben told the group that the Expo onion session will be Doug Bulgrin, someone from the Stop the Rot project, and Mary Hausbeck. Ben also informed the committee that Sushila Chaudhari is leaving her position at MSU at the end of July and she will be taking a role in private industry. Greg informed the committee that himself, Mike Kenny, and Katie Hensley talked with Vance Baird of MSU regarding this position earlier this week.

4. MDARD Report – Sasha Eliason

Sasha joined the meeting through Google Meet. Sasha reviewed that MDARd had sent SCBG requests to USDA for review at the end of April. The 2023 MDARD Value-Add grants are currently undergoing scoring by MDARD.

5. Onion Trial Plans for Aug 16 – Greg Bird

The 2023 twilight steak dinner and onion trials will start at 6pm and will take place at the greenhouse, not in the field. The dinner will take place upon finishing the discussion of the trials. Darryl will make signs and how these get to the trials is still TBD. We will need some blank signs for onions brought to the trials. The 2023 crop will be late. Where the onions are stored from Aug to Dec 2023 is TBD, but most likely at Bruce's. Darryl will still collect data from seed companies post harvest. Someone will get onions to Expo for Wednesday morning setup. In the future, the YIELD field will be removed from the data. Syngenta will bring the steak trailer grill and coordinate steaks with Bruce.

6. MOC Chair's report and June 16 NOA Tour planning - Bruce Klamer

Bruce and James did the NOA tour route a month ago. The tour starts at 9am on 6/16. Carbon Robotics is coming to Ionia this weekend and then on to Hudsonville. Lunch will be at Stokes, donated by Stokes.

After Stokes it is on to Holland State Park. There are 2 buses, 1 for Bruce and 1 for James. Wednesday is golf and Saturday is Fishing. On Thursday starting at 1:30pm, Stabenow will do a Zoom presentation, with Brandon Honeycutt answering questions. Mary Judnich will be in attendance.

7. Financial reports and Budget – Greg Bird

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

Greg reviewed the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Sheet. These were approved. The \$4353 listed as revenue is from a journal entry made by the auditor for 2 assessments from 2021 that came in during FY2022.

Motion: James Young

2nd: Mark Nail

b. Review Assessments and Checks Received

i. Assessments from 2022 crop YTD compared to 2021 YTD

ii. Assessment follow-up process

1. Delinquent growers

Vandenburg and Valley Farms texted Greg assessments would be in this week. Greg will retext before a letter and certified letter. Both Vandenburg and Valley Farms are 250 acres and their assessment should be closer to \$5000.

2. Growers not growing in 2023? Klamer is not growing in 23 but his farm will grow in 24. Plakmeyer is not growing in 23.

c. 2023-24 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)

The group asked Greg to see if other assessment groups could go together to get a break on the \$3950 audit pricing.

James asked what the Director's Insurance covers. Greg will provide an answer to the Committee on this question.

The Committee will ask MI growers if having the NOA membership of any value to them in 2023. It is not in the budget as of present for future years.

Budget for 2023-24 was created and approved

Motion: Mitch Schreur

2nd: Mike Bosch

8. Executive Director's Report - Greg Bird

a. Committee member appointments upcoming in 2023

i. Vogel?, Brink no, Wallinga no

Greg will contact Glen Vogel. James will contact Jeff Hawkins from Woodwyk. Another option might be Oliver Scott.

Greg will look at having the non-profit price for the onion\carrot booth as the carrot commission was questioning whether there was something else for their promotion.

9. Future Board meetings and twilight dinner - Greg Bird

- a. Twilight dinner date
 - i. Aug 16
 - ii. Sponsorships
- b. December expo board meeting, Wed Dec 6 at 12:30pm?
- c. 2023-24 meeting dates (Feb and June)

The 2023-2024 meeting schedule is schedule a meeting Oct 30-Nov 2 in Lansing. The Expo meeting is canceled as the first of Nov meeting will replace it and be used to get research ideas to and from MSU staff. The winter meeting will be March 5-7 in Lansing area. The summer meeting will be June 6 at Celery Co-op.

10. Executive Director Contract - Bruce Klamer

- a. Changes from 2022-23
- b. Sign 3 copies

There were no requested changes for the 2023-2024 contract from the 22-23 contract. The contract was approved and signed by Bruce Klamer and Greg.

Motion: James Young

2nd: Mike Bosch

11. Elect Officers for 2023 Onion Season - Bruce Klamer

Chair:Mark Nail

Vice Chair:Mitch Schreur

Treasurer:James Young

Bruce will continue to report acreage to NOA. Greg will begin process of getting Bruce and Mike off from PNC and getting James and Mark onto the bank account.

Motion: Bruce Klamer

2nd: Mike Bosch

12. Michigan Onion Assessment Rate for 2023 growing season - Bruce Klamer

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

The Committee agreed to keep the assessment rate at \$.06 for 2023 growing season. The motion was approved.

Motion: Bruce Klamer

2nd: Mitch Schreur

13. Other business - Bruce Klamer

14. Adjournment - Bruce Klamer, Motion by Bruce at 2:37pm, 2nd by Mike Bosch.