

Michigan Onion Committee
Annual Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2023, 12:00pm
Michigan Corn, 13750 S Sedona Pkwy #5, Lansing, MI 48906
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Appointed Board:

Mark Nail

Bruce Klamer

Michael Bosch

James Young

Mitch Schreur

Guests and others: Heather Throne, Greg Bird, Ben Werling

Lunch - 12:00pm

Research Projects - Discussion with Michigan Vegetable Council, Michigan Onion Committee, and MSU Research Team - 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Lunch and a vegetable research discussion was held. Those other than MVC and MOC board members who attended were from these labs: Quintanilla (Virtual), Szendrei, Hausbeck, Brainard, Lu, and Hayden. See scanned notes from this meeting.

Business Meeting after 2pm

1. Call to Order – Chairman Mark Nail
2:10pm

2. Minutes: June 8, 2023 (Doc provided post June meeting) - Mark Nail
Motion: Bruce Klamer
Supported by: Mitch Schreur
Motion approved

3. 2023 Onion Season Review - Mark Nail
Bruce is working with NOA to come up with NOA Storage Report by 12/1. Stock on hand is needed. We have a good handle on acreage, just took off 200 for 2023 from 2022. Most onion central to west were average. Central mid had $\frac{2}{3}$ yield. 800 bags per acre of 100 weight bags. Prepack prices were good. Prices good early of \$.30 per lb and now bad of \$.20 per lb.

4. Financial Reports – Greg Bird (see profit and loss \ balance sheet)
Greg reviewed profit and loss and balance sheet reports for the board.

Motion: James Young
Supported by: Mitch Schreur
Motion approved

5. MDARD Report – Heather Throne

Heather reviewed current happenings at MDARD. MDARD will begin processing payments for SCBG on Monday. If a new Farm Bill is not voted on then contingent language will be written for the next round of SCBG. MDARD will be using a new grant system for the next round of SCBG. This new system will be announced in December. Rural Dev Grants of \$100K with 30% match (by county, housing projects etc) until 1/9/2024. There is \$30 million for wastewater grants. USDA also has given MDARD \$10 million for resilient food systems for infrastructure and equipment. Either the wastewater or resilient grants will be between \$225K and \$2 million.

6. MSU Extension Report – Ben Werling

Bruce will get Saltanat to Keilen and Valley Farms. Dan Brainard will be working some on white campion. Growers are still a bit unsure when to kill white campion which is well established.

7. Onion Seed Variety Trials 2023 and 2024 – Darryl Warncke

a. Invoice from Darryl

2023 trials were successful enough to offset prior work and effort that went into trials. People liked the trials in the greenhouse.

A motion was made to purchase a sign for up to \$250 to go near onions on Main Street at Expo.

Motion: Bruce Klamer
Supported by: Mitch Schreur
Motion approved

The trials at Expo will go in baskets and a motion was made to buy tags and baskets to display onions for up to \$300.

Motion: Bruce Klamer
Supported by: Mike Bosch
Motion approved

8. Discuss Research Projects Needed and Supported - Mark Nail

The team wondered why it was 18-21 months to hire a replacement for Sushila Chaudhari if it is known this hire will happen. Greg was tasked with finding out more about this from Dr Baird. Several things need done. Dan Brainard needs asked to do a white campion SCBG. A Zoom meeting needs held with Ryan Bounds, FMC, and Nicole from IR4 to find out logistics of having an off label trial for herbicides for white campion. Greg will work on pulling this meeting together.

9. Executive Director Report - Greg Bird

- a. East Side Flooding
- b. Conflict of Interest Document, members sign
- c. 2023 Appointed members (Bruce and Mike selected again)

- d. Expo
 - i. Onion Booth
 - 1. Giveaways
 - 2. Video on Display Monitor
 - 3. Ag Tech Symposium - 12/7 9am-2:30pm, Need grower speaker (5-10min)
- e. 2024 Calendar
 - i. March 5, 2024, at Celery Co-op, Hudsonville 10am
 - ii. June 6, 2024, at Celery Co-op, Hudsonville 12pm

10. Other Business - Mark Nail

There was a motion made for MOC to fund up to \$700 each for up to 2 people to attend NOA meetings in DC in 2024.

Motion: Mitch Schreur

Supported by: Bruce Klamer

Motion approved

11. Adjourn - Mark Nail

3:45pm

Motion: Bruce Klamer

Supported by: Mitch Schreur

Motion approved