

**Michigan Onion Committee  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, March 5, 2024**

**Meeting at 10am.  
Michigan Celery Promotion, 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426  
[meet.google.com/zjo-agsp-hpe](https://meet.google.com/zjo-agsp-hpe)**

(US)+1 929-266-2633 PIN: 533 274 559#

Attendees: Mark Nail, Michael Bosch, James Young, Greg Bird Heather Throne (Virtual), Ben Werling

**Business Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Mark Nail

Time: 10:12am

2. Minutes – November 2, 2023 Annual Meeting - Mark Nail

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: James Young

Minutes accepted, motion approved

3. Financial Reports – Greg Bird

- a. Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss.

Greg reviewed the balance sheet and profit and loss reports. Greg will look into Quicken and Quickbooks desktop and compare prices to Quickbooks online. Motion to approve reports was accepted.

Motion: James Young

2nd: Mike Bosch

- b. Assessments from 2023 crop YTD compared to 2022 YTD

The 2023 assessments were looked at. Prices are currently good. The team asked who was losing acreage in 2024. Norm DeYoung is no longer doing onions. Need to look at assessments on Bruce Bouwkamp's onions and make sure they pay.

- c. 2024 per diem and mileage

Motion to approve \$75 per diem and \$.67 per mile for 2024 was accepted.

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: James Young

An amendment was made to do mileage from this point forward according to the IRS mileage rate, amendment approved.

Motion: James Young

2nd: Mike Bosch

A motion was made for Greg to investigate and take up to \$50,000 and purchase up to a 4 month savings certificate at PNC with the money. As the money market account has no interest and a 4 month certificate should be able to get to 4 or 5%. Motion accepted.

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: James Young

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

Ben started his report, asking the group what they would like to see at Expo 2024. Emerging Technologies was one topic. Brian Nault from Coirnell was a suggestion or others from out of state, possibly Christy Hoepting. Drone spraying also would be a good education idea. Ben told the group that Bernie Zandstra is still active and able to take calls regarding weeds. Dan Brainard is going to Denmark to see the FarmDroid and may get a unit or two for trials. James will get some seeds to Ben Werling for a trial.

#### 5. MDARD Report – Heather Throne

Heather gave a report for MDARD. There were 36 applications for SCBG for 2024. The Rural Development and Food+Ag grants are all being offered in 2024. There is \$10 million worth of grants for Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure.

#### 6. NOA DC Trip Review - Bruce Klamer

Greg reviewed Bruce's notes from his trip to Washington DC.

##### a. NOA memberships MI growers

The team wants to move forward with offering NOA memberships again to all onion growers in 2024. This will be worked into the budget in June. The NOA is OK with MOC paying for memberships in July and then having them be good for the following year.

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

##### a. MI Onion Website - upgrades and options

Greg explained that the MOC website was outdated and the PHP code news updating. This will likely take about 5 hours at \$100/hr. Or the MOC website can stay as is, but the web admin charges \$10/month for support of this old technology. The onion committee decided to continue with the old technology and pay the extra \$10/month.

##### b. 2023 Onion Committee calendar

MOC meeting June 6 at MI Celery The dinner and trials is best not the week of Aug 21 due to Hudsonville fair.

##### c. Research priorities, no SCBG, Nov meeting

Greg will continue to add prior research reports to the MOC website. These reports are not always obtainable otherwise. Greg will try to get MSU research to one meeting per year to share report results even if it's over Zoom.

##### d. White campion trial

This weed is on Schreur and Woodwyk farms. Need to kill the weed in the fall. Dan Brainard has a GREEN proposal to work on this. If the GREEN does not get awarded then Schreur may work with FMC to see if they can do a private trial. MOC will stay abreast but not get involved if it is a private trial.

##### e. 2024 onion crop price report, MI did not do one in 2023?

Greg will reach out to Ed Invine of USDA to see if Michigan can be added to the pricing report. Basically this would entail Ed contacting Michigan packers one a month.

8. Onion trials - Plans for 2024

a. What roles does each person play?

Greg will verify with Darryl Warncke that he no longer wishes to do communications with the seed companies. If Darryl is no longer interested, then James Young will do the communications, using a personal email address. James will work on a spreadsheet. James will get the email contacts for the seed companies from Darryl.

9. Other business

The following discussion was had, started by Mark Nail: The onion committee needs to get more feedback from MSU researchers before all phases of projects. The November meeting will be used to talk with researchers about the previous season. Perhaps some time is needed in October and quite possibly before submitting projects in Jan or Feb. Most discussions need to be had with researchers.

10. Adjournment - Mark Nail

Time: 1:17pm

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: James Young