

**Michigan Onion Committee  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 6, 2024**

**Meeting at 12pm.  
Michigan Celery Promotion, 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426  
[meet.google.com/ffc-sbie-vdu](https://meet.google.com/ffc-sbie-vdu)**

**(US)+1 347-696-7617 PIN: 334 233 881#**

Attendees: Board members (Bruce Klamer, Mark Nail, Michael Bosch, Mitchell Schreur), Greg Bird, Ben Werling, Virtual Jeff Haarer, Virtual Mary Hausbeck

Absent: Board member (James Young (called in for a short period))

Invited Guests: 5 USDA RMA employees

**Business Meeting**

1. Call to Order - Mark Nail (Mitch Schreur called meeting to order and took motion on minutes until Mark Nail arrived at 12:10pm)

Time: 12:03pm

2. Minutes – March 5, 2024 Annual Meeting - Mark Nail

Motion: Bruce Klamer

2nd: Mike Bosch

Motion passes to approve prior meeting minutes

3. Report on research - Mary Hausbeck

Dr Hausbeck was online virtually and talked about her current onion research. Dr Hausbeck first talked about the current GREEN project, stemphylium traps to catch spores for SLB. Few overwintered but very worried about SLB in 2024 due to early and mild weather and warm humid nights. The spore traps cost \$6-\$7k range. Dr Hausbeck is starting work on a SCBG for downy mildew for onions and this will run through 2025. The program is telling us to start the year with heavy hitting fungicide to get started. Dr Hausbeck has found SLB overwintering on barley, unsure of what to do. Dr Hausbeck is worried this is the problem and barley is important to MI onion growers. Wheat and rye can also become affected with SLB.

4. MSU Extension Report – Ben Werling

Ukrainian growers are on tours in Michigan this week. MSU has a farmdroid which is solar powered/GPS/planter/cluster sower/weeder. About \$100k at present. The weeding is mechanical but working on adding spraying option as well.

5. MDARD Report – Jeff Haarer MDARD

Jeff Haarer introduced himself to the group. Jeff and Sasha will be working with the onion committee moving forward. MDARD has spent a lot of time recently dealing with the bird flu. MDARD has been restructured into 4 bureaus. This year there were 37 SCBG proposals submitted through the new MiAgrants system.

## 6. Risk Management - (USDA RMA)

The onion growers came out and said that RMA was not very beneficial for onion growers in Michigan. Other states have special provisions for rotations. The CCAP policy makes you rotate colors of onions which is not done in Michigan. CAP for RMA is like NAP for FSA. The reason CAP did not work in Michigan is if over 30% are bad you cannot harvest anything. For CAP to work the value of Michigan onions needs to be over \$20\100 lbs. Only certain counties have policies available. Bordering counties can get policies fairly easily but non-bordering cannot. Some onion growers see a whole farm policy as the only option. But with whole crop one can't plant 100 acres of onions and 100 acres of soy, so have to get neighbor to plant soy for rotation. Many agents do not like selling specialty crop policies.

## 7. Finances – Greg Bird

### a. Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet.

Motion: Bruce Klamer

2nd: Mitch Schreur

motion passes to approve financials as presented.

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

The 2023 assessments were reviewed and contact would be made to Keilen, Vandenberg, and Valley on missing assessments.

### c. PNC Bank account fraud - plan moving forward

The board suggested moving banks from PNC to Huntington and no longer put check routing info in emails.

Motion: Bruce Klamer

2nd: Mike Bosch

motion passes to make change to banks and process

### d. 2024-25 Budget

#### i. NOA memberships, pay for growers june 2024, \$3900?

Motion: Bruce Klamer

2nd: Mitch Schreur

Motion to pay NOA memberships for MI growers for 24-25

Motion made and passes to accept Greg Bird's contract for 2024-25 as the same contract as 2023-24.

Motion: Mike Bosch

2nd: Mitch Schreur

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

### a. MI Onion Website - upgrades and options \ Quickbooks \ prioritize

### b. 2024 Onion Committee calendar

June 19 2024 is white champion trials at Schreur, Greg will send our invite to growers.

August 21 2024 will be the onion trials and steak dinner

November 12 2024 will be annual meeting in Lansing at 12:30pm, location TBD

March 4 2025 meeting will be at celery co-op

June 3 2025 meeting will be at celery co-op

- c. 2024 onion crop price report, MI did not do one in 2023?

Greg will get with MDARD to see if we can get the price report reestablished for 2024.

- d. 2024-25 officer elected

- i. Chair - Mark Nail

- ii. Vice Chair - Mitch Schreur

- iii. Treasurer - James Young

Motion: Mitch Schreur

2nd: Bruce Klamer

motion passes

#### 9. White Champion Trial Update - Mitch Schreur

Vriesland will invoice onion committee for work done so far. Working to kill white champion at 2-4 leaves. Syngenta's product Optigen has suppressed it some. June 19 will be the meeting and dinner to show the white champion trials and discuss next steps.

#### 10. Onion Trials Status - James Young

James contacted all the seed companies for the 2024 onion seed trials. There is not a list of what was planted but we know seeds are in. Solar Seeds has 4 seed types in trials, Stokes has 8 types, Clifton has 3 types.

#### 11. 2024 Onion Trials and Twilight Steak Dinner - Greg Bird

- a. Contact Syngenta

#### 12. Other business

None

#### 13. Adjournment - Mark Nail

Time: 3:09pm

Motion: Bruce Klamer

2nd: Mitch Schreur