**MBC Meeting Minutes – August 17, 2021**

Those Present:

District #1 Kevin Noffsinger, Treasurer

District #2 Ted Bauer

District #3 Greg Ackerman, Chairman

District #4 Clint Stoutenburg, Vice Chairman

District #5

District #6 Ross Voelker

District #7 Jessica Rader

At Large Steve Ewald

Shipper Representative Neil French

Executive Secretary Joe Cramer

Those Absent:

District #1

District #2

District #3

District #4

District #5 Allen Bischer

District #6

District #7

At Large

Shipper Representative

Others Present:

Scott Bales MSU Dry Bean Specialist

Danielle Siler MSU

Kevin Kuhl MDARD

Jordan Dickenson Congressman Dan Kildee’s Chief of Staff

Chairman Ackerman welcomed Commissioners and guests. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Bales asked to have Intern Report added to the agenda. Chairman Ackerman added it as item C under the Research Director’s Report. There were no other additions. A motion was made by Noffsinger to approve the agenda as presented. Rader supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chairman Ackerman welcomed Mr. Jordan Dickenson, Chief of Staff, Congressman Dan Kildee. Ackerman invited Dickenson to comment on Trade, Logistics, Tariffs and the proposed Infrastructure Package. Dickenson shared a brief, interesting overview on each of the issues and took several questions. Cramer thanked Dickenson for always being available and responsive. He also thanked Dickenson for attending.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Minutes from the June 22, 2021 Commission meeting were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by French with support from Ewald to approve the minutes as presented. ***Motion passed.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**: Cramer presented MBC and PRAB YTD P&L reports including budget comparisons for September 2020 – July 2021. Cramer highlighted revenue and expense line items as compared to the budget. A brief discussion followed. A motion was made by Voelker to accept the report as presented. French supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

Cramer then presented an amended PRAB budget for FY 2020-2021 that included a $12,000 increase in assessment revenue, a $4,600 increase in Contract expense and a $650 increase in Insurance. These changes positively impacted the bottom line by just under $29,250. Following a brief discussion, Stoutenburg moved to approve the amended budget. Ewald supported the motions. ***Motion passed.***

**FY 2021-2021 Budget** - Cramer presented a MBC FY 21-22 budget with assessment revenue based on 200,000 acres x 20 bags per acre totaling $400,000. The proposal included $484,100 in operational expenses (including a $40,000 expense for Research). A discussion followed and it was decided to increase assessment revenue to $440,000 using a 22 bag per acre yield. Pass through accounts included $305,498 in revenue and $221,998 in expenses for a $36,359 net. Using the same 22 bag per acre yield, a PRAB budget including revenue of $88,000 and expenses totaling $84,050 was reviewed. Stoutenburg moved to accept the budgets. Ewald supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

**MDARD UPDATE:** Kevin Kuhl was on hand to introduce himself and invite anyone to utilize his expertise in the area of economic development.

**MBS UPDATE –** Shipper Representative Neil French contacted several other shippers for input concluding that:

* shipping schedules continue to be steady
* new sales are nil
* the uncertainty of the crop conditions across North America and what appear to be higher than usual price indications have buyers and sellers on the sidelines waiting
* the crop in Michigan has the potential to be a good crop although French encouraged growers to take a look at the ground in their dry bean fields and see how many little pods are on the ground blaming high temperatures causing plants to abort pin pods and blossoms.
* Minnesota has some nice beans however North Dakota has been hurt by drought. Corn, soybeans and wheat have been damaged at a higher level than dry beans however adding that navy beans appear to have handled the drought better than pintos beans and black beans have.
* French cautioned growers with good yields and good prices to patiently feed beans into the market to avoid causing processors to pull bids until they can find buyers.
* French encouraged growers to get involved in 2022 seed discussions/commitment/purchases early to avoid what will likely be a tight supply again. He expects seed to be readily available to growers that commit to a contract.
* French also thanks the Commission for supporting the Bean Queen program and encouraged growers to identify future bean queen candidates.

Cramer then updated the Commission on having solicited and received a recommendation from the MBS Trustees to submit Neil French’s name again to serve as Shipper Representation since his term expires at the end of the year. Cramer added that along with the recommendations Shippers also suggest that Commissioners considering implementing some sort of program intended or designed to mentor younger members of the industry. Cramer also reminded Commissioners that the Governors Appointments Office strongly encourages two nominees for any and all appointments. Discussion followed mostly complimenting French for his years of service and commitment to the industry. It was noted that Caleb Sundblad, Cooperative Elevator has expressed interest in serving so both names will be submitted at the same time as grower nominees are submitted.

Chairman Ackerman reminded Cramer to schedule a joint MBC-MBC meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Navy bean flour is being tested for lectin level following several variations of heat treatment.
* Cramer has been meeting with USDA-AMS and members of the trade to understand and address the need for more suppliers of canned beans. Several ideas and suggestions have been shared.
* 2022 Dry Bean & Sugar Beet Symposium will be held in February.

**RESEARCH DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Dry Bean Specialist Scott Bales introduced intern Danielle Siler who gave a brief presentation on her work with Western Bean Cutworm.
* Bales commented on the research currently being conducted. Generally, all of the plots look good noting that the plot in Sanilac County is especially showy.
* Bales also noted the level of white mold he’s seeing across the state, the presence of a bacterial wilt that has shown up in Early Cal light red kidney beans. some of the issues that are appearing as we approach harvest.
* Dr. Gomez and Evan Wright recently returned from the western seed production area. There is concern over the damage the extreme heat may have caused and the availability of water to help finish the crop.
* Plot Tour schedule is posted on the website. 4 RUP credits are available.

**USDBC UPDATE**

* Executive Committee – USDBC Vice Chair let Commissioners know that a small increase in the USDBC budget will be covered by a slight increase in dues.
* IPC Trade Team applications were distributed. Cramer encourage Commissioners to compare their availability to the trade activities being planned and apply for missions.
* The Innovation Committee continues to work toward the World of Flavors Event in November.
* GPC is planning a Meet the Experts webinar focusing on North America. The webinar will be held September 29, 2021.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

MBC Policy states that:

* The annual election of officers of the Commission for the next fiscal year will be held at the Commission’s last meeting of the current fiscal year.
* Terms of office shall commence with the new fiscal year with the exception of elections to fill vacancies. A vacancy occurring in an office can be filled at any time at a regular meeting of the Michigan Bean Commission, with the terms of office being only that portion which is unexpired at the time the position is filled.
* Commissioners shall be limited to a maximum of three consecutive terms in any single office, with the exception of the office of treasurer.

Chairman Ackerman relinquished the chair to Cramer for the purpose of electing a chair for FY 2021-2022. Cramer opened the floor for nominations. ***Kevin Noffsinger was nominated and elected chair.***

Cramer relinquished the chair to Ackerman who opened the floor for vice chair nominations. ***Steve Ewald was then nominated and elected vice-chair.***

Ackerman opened the floor for treasurer. ***Ted Bauer was nominated and elected treasurer.***

Ackerman opened the floor for executive secretary. ***Joe Cramer was nominated and elected executive secretary.***

Ackerman congratulated and thanked Noffsinger, Ewald and Bauer for being willing to serve as officers.

The group thanked Ackerman and Stoutenburg for their leadership and service to the Commission and to the industry during their tenue as officers.

**ANNUAL APPROVALS**

FY 2021-2022 Depositories

* Voelker moved to name PNC Bank, Frankenmuth Credit Union, Huntington Bank and NorthStar Bank as depositories. French supported. ***Motion passed.***
* A motion was the made by Ackerman to authorize Kevin Noffsinger, Steve Ewald, Ted Bauer and Joe Cramer as signatories and update bank records. Rader supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***
* Meeting Per Diem – Noffsinger moved to set the meeting per diem for FY 21-22 at $75 per meeting. Bauer supported. ***Motion passed.***
* FY 21-22 Meeting Calendar – Cramer included a draft calendar as presented for next year. Noffsinger moved to accept the calendar as presented. Bauer supported the motion. ***Motion passed.***

Chairman Ackerman adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully,

**Joe Cramer**

Joe Cramer, Executive Secretary