

MICHIGAN BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

DeVos Place Convention Center
303 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MEETING MINUTES December 06, 2017

PRESENT:

Jacob Clemons, Chair, Michigan Blueberry Commission
Steven Hunt, Vice-Chair, Michigan Blueberry Commission
Shelly Hartmann, Secretary, Michigan Blueberry Commission
Cheryl Sullins, Treasurer, Michigan Blueberry Commission
Creela Hamlin, Michigan Blueberry Commission
Dennis Vander Kooi, Michigan Blueberry Commission
James Sumners, Michigan Blueberry Commission
Kevin Robson, Executive Director, Michigan Blueberry Commission
Mark Longstroth, Michigan State University
Heather Throne, MDARD

ABSENT:

N/A

Call to Order

Chairman Jacob Clemons called the meeting to order at 3:54pm and presented an agenda.

MOTION: Steven Hunt moved to adopt the agenda with support from Shelly Hartmann; motion carried by unanimous verbal vote.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The Commission reviewed the minutes from November 6, 2017.

MOTION: Creela Hamlin moved to approve the November 06, 2017 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Dennis Vander Kooi; motion carried by unanimous verbal consent.

Reports

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Cheryl Sullins presented the Treasurer's Report. \$244,453.64 has been collected to date from assessments representing 81,484,546 pounds of blueberries. Two expenses were presented to be paid; one to Michigan Blueberry Advisory Committee in the amount of \$6,077.40 for reimbursement of advance and \$82.00 for the set up of the Post Office Box.

MOTION: Creela Hamlin moved to pay the expenses as reported by Cheryl with support from Steven Hunt; motion carried by unanimous verbal consent.

Discussion regarding errors or omissions in First Handler reports or payments. A formal policy and procedure will be created and reviewed at a later meeting but in the meantime, the Treasurer will contact them for corrections.

No report from the Research Committee as they will be meeting immediately following this board meeting.

No report from the Policy/Procedure Development Committee.

New Business

Budget for next fiscal year: Chairman Clemons presented a draft budget (attached) for 2018 for review and discussion.

MOTION: Steven Hunt moved to adopt the budget as presented with support from James Sumners; motion carried with unanimous verbal consent.

MBC Logo: Kevin Robson presented MBC logo options for board selection and chose the following:



Year End Audit: Heather Throne stated that there is no need for a year end audit for 2017 since it was our first year.

Treasurer laptop and accounting software: It was noted that there is no need to act on purchasing these yet; Treasurer is to stay consistent.

Annual Report of Operation for Director: Heather will help MBC with the requirements needed for this report.

Next meeting date:

MOTION: James Sumners moved to have the next board meeting at 9am on January 16th, 2018 at Trevor Nichols Research Center with support from Creela Hamlin; motion carried by unanimous verbal vote.

Old Business/Open Issues

Specialty Crop Block Grant: Heather Throne emphasized that the public comment period for the SCBG ends Friday, December 8, 2017 and recipients will be announced in February 2018.

Project GREEN: MBC has 7 research priorities for Project GREEN grants. This spring, research priorities will be reevaluated, reestablished, and resubmitted. Dave Trinka went on record to say that “several MSU staff members are close to retirement which will affect Michigan blueberry producers including horticulture, plant pathology, and weed science. Board members need to meet with MSU administrators immediately to develop plan. This needs a response from the board. Board needs to meet directly with dept chairs, etc.”

Website: Discussion regarding the need for MBC website to be operating asap with the meeting minutes posted.

MOTION: Steven Hunt moved to purchase the domain name of Michiganblueberrycommission.org for \$12 annually with support from Dennis Vander Kooi; motion carried by unanimous verbal consent.

MOTION: Shelly Hartmann motioned to have Kevin Robson move forward with the implementation of the website with support from Dennis Vander Kooi; motion carried with unanimous verbal consent.

Bank Account Oversight & Financial Institution (Money Market): Discussion and acknowledgement that this is already established.

Rural Development Grant: Discussion of MBC research priorities.

MOTION: Creela Hamlin moved to form a committee consisting of Travis Carini in Holland, Tom Bodtke in Grand Junction, and an additional grower (TBD) from the South Haven area to discuss and evaluate priorities for breeding program, increase production yields, and organic growing opportunities with support from Dennis Vander Kooi; motion carried by unanimous verbal consent.

Gmail Suite Update: Discussion that there is no need for this.

Dennis Vander Kooi requested that Kevin Robson facilitate and update the MBC calendar.

Public Comments

Tom Bodtke stated the need to remember the importance of the organic market at some point during the meeting; not during the public comment period.

Travis Carini had also made a comment regarding fund expenditures, but not during public comment period. No comments were made during public comment period.

Next meeting will be at 9am on Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 at the Trevor Nichols Research Center in Fennville.

Adjournment

MOTION: Steve Hunt moved to adjourn meeting with support from Dennis Vander Kooi; motion carried by unanimous verbal vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08pm.

Respectfully submitted by Shelly Hartmann