

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
Ovid Township Hall
1015 Baese Court
Ovid, Michigan 48866**

**MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**

PRESENT:

Todd Regis, Chairperson, Michigan Commission of Agriculture
Don Coe, Vice Chairperson, Michigan Commission of Agriculture
Velmar Green, Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture
Jennifer Fike, Michigan Commission of Agriculture
Audrey Herioux, Michigan Commission of Agriculture
Gordon Wenk, Chief Deputy Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Regis called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture to order at 9:05 a.m. on September 15, 2010. Commissioner Green called the roll with Commissioners Fike, Green, Herioux, Regis, and Chief Deputy Director Wenk present. Commissioner Coe joined the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER FIKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2010. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HERIOUX. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 11, 2010, COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE MEETING, AND THE AUGUST 12, 2010, JOINT NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION AND COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GREEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2010, COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FIKE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GREEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 12, 2010, JOINT NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION AND MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FIKE. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on November 10, 2010, at Constitution Hall, Lansing.

COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL

Commissioner Fike traveled to Monroe Fairgrounds for their annual 4-H dinner, to Ypsilanti for their Farmers Market, to Lansing to participate in the Good Food Charter Commission Subcommittee, and for today's meeting.

Commissioner Herioux traveled to attend today's meeting and agriculture tours.

Commissioner Coe attended the August 27 session at Acme Township focusing on Farmland Preservation. On September 1, he made a presentation on Michigan agriculture to the League of Women Voters for Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. He attended the September 7 renewable energy session at the Horticulture Station, which included an excellent attendance from the farm community. Yesterday, he traveled to Lansing for a meeting with the Michigan Equine Foundation that is working on issues surrounding abandoned horses. And he traveled for today's meeting.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER HERIOUX MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GREEN. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Green welcomed everyone to the Ovid/Elsie area for today's meeting and agriculture tours. Although crops are very dry in the area, sugar beets are producing a good harvest. During a recent vacation, he attended the Alaska State Fair, which was a wonderful event with approximately 300,000 in attendance.

He noted the true cost of Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) to the State of Michigan is not really known. Their operation, Green Meadow Farms (GMF), personally experienced that cost recently. A Canadian dairyman wanted to purchase cattle from GMF, Ontario issued the movement permit, and GMF bore the expense of testing the 50 animals, only to have the Canadian agriculture officials refuse to recognize the split-state status for Bovine TB in Michigan, which prevented movement of the animals into Canada. This is evidence of the real impact of Bovine TB to the state.

Commissioner Fike attended the Monroe County 4-H dinner which was part of Congressman John Dingell's annual agriculture tour. She also attended workshops in Troy that were focused on metropolitan agriculture, which is part of a Michigan State University (MSU) initiative centered primarily on urban agriculture in the Flint and Detroit areas. She attended the recent launch of the Double-up Food Bucks Program held at the Ypsilanti Farmers Market in Washtenaw County. That program will match food stamp dollars redeemed at farmers markets for Michigan food. The plan is to expand the program to all farmers markets across the state, with the potential for making great change for food access and increased revenues for farmers selling at the markets. She recently met with Commissioner Green, Mike Hamm of the C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Agriculture at MSU, and Chief Deputy Director Wenk to discuss the Michigan Good Food Charter. She also attended the Home Grown Festival in Ann Arbor, a local food and beverage event that was very well attended. Coming up on September 19, is Hope's Harvest, a benefit for growing hope in Ypsilanti through urban

gardening. And coming on September 25, are the Greening of Detroit anniversary event and the D-Town Farm harvest festival.

Commissioner Herioux reported the Upper Peninsula (UP) State Fair was very successful this year with good weather and great attendance. She noted that due to budgetary constraints, the Delta County Parks Management will be turned over to the Delta County Soil Conservation.

Commissioner Regis acknowledged the hosts and hostesses for the Commission's travels in the UP last month. It was a great opportunity for the Commission to experience a variety of agricultural interests in the area.

Recently, he attended the Chelsea County Fair and the Old Fashioned Farmer Days in Prairieville. He also visited the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) in Battle Creek and met with Jerry Wojtala, formerly with MDA, who is now their Executive Director. IFPTI's focus is on developing a uniform set of food safety standards that can be used nationwide.

He also had the opportunity to meet with US Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, to discuss changes in the meat packing industry, with an emphasis on safety and regulations. It is critical that the food processing step is a safe, secure, and efficient industry.

The department's 2011 budget is being considered by the Legislative Conference Committee today and MDA's Budget Liaison, Amy Epkey, is covering that activity on behalf of the department. In the last few years, the department's budget has been reduced significantly and very tough decisions had to be made, including staff reductions and program eliminations. To allow for the continuation of MDA's critical programs, it is hoped that any future cuts will be minimal.

Commissioner Coe, in addition to the activities mentioned previously, noted the wine and grape industry enjoyed a wonderful beginning to the growing season and the harvest for the wine industry has begun. Although the fruit harvest will not be large, it should be extremely good quality, potentially the best in ten years.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chief Deputy Director Wenk reported that Director Koivisto is on annual leave and unable to join today's meeting. On August 31, the Director participated in a multi-agency migrant labor housing inspection tour, which included various aspects of the housing and provided a better understanding of MDA's role in migrant labor housing.

Several MDA divisions have been actively involved in the recent egg recall, working closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). The Food and Dairy Division (FDD) inspectors visited three distributors known to have handled recalled shell eggs and staff assisted in 39 recall audit effectiveness checks. In response to reports the recall is possibly linked to feed, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (PPPMD) staff are collecting poultry feed samples and submitting them to the Microbiology Laboratory

Section for testing. The Animal Industry Division (AID), FDD, Laboratory Division, and PPPMD are collaborating together as MDA evaluates its continuing role with the food, feed, and animal health components of egg production.

Preparations to ensure a smooth transition to a new administration have begun, and Chief Deputy Director Wenk attended the first Transition Team meeting on September 13. This will be the first major transition of leaders in the Executive Office, along with both the House and Senate. Agency-specific information is being gathered and compiled to assist the newly elected officials in the administration of their duties.

The 2010 Harvest Gathering kick-off event is scheduled Thursday, September 15 on the Capitol steps, in conjunction with the Farmers Market being held on the Capitol lawn that day.

The Gene Thompson Golf Outing held on September 10 raised \$1,200 for the event's scholarship fund that benefits MDA employees or their children attending MSU.

The MDA Employee Recognition Program will be held at 1:30 p.m. on October 15 and the Commission is invited to participate in that annual program. Staff will be honored for their years of service and several will be honored with specific awards in recognition of their outstanding service to the department and the citizens of Michigan. Commissioner Regis encouraged those who are available to attend the event that afternoon.

Pursuant to Commission Policy and as designated by Executive Order 2009-54, the Director is subject to an annual performance review by the Commission. The Commission shall also make a recommendation each year, not later than December 15, on an annual salary level for the Director for the subsequent year. The performance review shall be transmitted to the Governor, and the salary recommendation transmitted to the Governor and to the State Budget Director. Since this is the first year under the new procedure, performance standards for the Director Performance Review need to be established. A draft document, based on the Director's duties as delineated in Commission Policy, was recently sent to the Commission for review. Once the performance standards document is finalized, the review process will be initiated, with the goal of completion by the end of November. Commissioners will forward comments and/or changes to the Director Performance Review document to Chief Deputy Director Wenk by the end of September, as well as any suggestions for proceeding with the actual review process.

DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL

Chief Deputy Director Wenk reported that Director Koivisto has no out-of-state travel planned in the near future. However, Jamie Zmitko-Somers will be representing the department at the NASDA meeting in Delaware later this month.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

There was no public comment relative to agenda items.

BUDGET UPDATE: Gordon Wenk, Chief Deputy Director

Mr. Wenk reported that MDA's 2011 budget (House Bill 5875) was scheduled for discussion in the Conference Committee today at 8:30 a.m. The Administration and legislative leadership agreed upon a General Fund amount for the department of \$30,297,100, which is the same amount included in the Senate's original version of the budget. The department is anticipating minimal changes in detail from that version.

A few significant issues in the Senate version are that the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is only funded at 45 percent of the current year funding level and animal health programs will be reduced \$260,000. There also is no funding provided for the \$531,500 increase in General Fund costs for the 3 percent raise that union employees will receive. Therefore, the department will be dealing with approximately \$800,000 less than what was provided in the budget last year.

After the Conference Committee reports on the bill, both the House and the Senate need to vote on the budget. The bill will then go to the Governor for approval and/or vetoes.

Staffing impacts are under review and will become clearer upon finalization of the budget, as well as the pending retirement legislation. The proposed statewide retirement agreement includes the need to save \$60 million. MDA has approximately 80 of its 430 employees eligible for the retirement. The replacement rate is 1 for every 2 individuals, after which the department would need to develop strategies for delivering its various programs.

Additional communication will be sent to the Commission as budget information becomes available.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Nancy Nyquist, Legislative Liaison

Ms. Nyquist related comments just received from Budget Liaison, Amy Epkey, stating the MDA budget was reported out of the Legislative Conference Committee this morning. The meeting was very positive, with Representative Espinoza praising the department and Senator Brown speaking very highly of the industry.

The Legislature's primary focus has been the budget. There is no schedule yet for November and December.

This afternoon, she will miss the Commission tours to attend the Senate Economic Development Committee meeting in consideration of HB4663 regarding the random sale of cats and dogs for research. Also, this afternoon, SB1267, the Refined Petroleum legislation that would extend the sunset on that legislation, is being considered. That legislation needs to be completed by the end of the year, which is critical because the MDA and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) budgets are predicated on the extension of that fee.

A workgroup meeting on HB6205 is scheduled today also, which would require the licensure of sanitarians and would have a significant impact on the department as it is currently written.

She has been working with Representative Bledsoe on his requested changes to the Pesticide Notification Registry. It may be considered early in the next Legislative session.

Two bills that may see some activity yet this year include a bill that would allow prisoners to assist with construction of migrant labor housing, and the locally grown foods legislation that would ensure the integrity of locally grown labeling on foods sold at farmers markets. The proposed labeling definition would require food to be grown within a fifty-mile radius of where it is being sold. Commissioner Coe suggested that definition should include anything grown within Michigan and discussion ensued. It was determined that any action will be considered during Commissioner Issues later in the meeting.

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT (MDNRE)
FERAL SWINE TASK FORCE UPDATE: Dr. Nancy Frank, Assistant State Veterinarian,
Animal Industry Division, and Nancy Nyquist, Legislative Liaison**

In recognition of the feral swine concerns, Dr. Frank reported there is a great deal of interest in a regulatory program for the sporting swine industry, and because multiple groups are working on the issue, the department is trying to coordinate those efforts. MDA has a Feral Swine Working Group and a Legislative Subcommittee, which met on September 2 to review HB6384 in consideration of the Commission's recommendations of what should be included in a regulatory program. The group developed some high level strategies of how the bill could be modified to accommodate what the department views as an appropriate regulatory program.

In the meantime, MDNRE also convened the Feral Swine Bio-security Work Group on September 10, which also included MDA staff. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) does have before it for consideration the Invasive Species Order which would designate feral swine an invasive species. In lieu of that, the NRC is interested in the potential of a strong regulatory program which would preclude the Order. The charge for the MDNRE group is to develop recommendations for the regulation of hunting swine properties to prevent environmental and natural resource degradation. They will present a progress report at the October NRC meeting and a final report during the NRC's November meeting.

The issues being discussed are very similar between the groups. It was agreed at the MDNRE meeting that it would be best to combine efforts of the two groups and the next meeting is scheduled for September 27. Information is being shared between groups and MDA will ensure the Commission of Agriculture's recommendations are incorporated.

Ms. Nyquist reported the sporting swine industry legislation is a priority for Representative Bolger and she will be in contact with his office again next week.

In response to inquiry from Commissioner Coe, Dr. Frank confirmed the industry is well represented on the workgroups, although they do have a difference in opinion on how the industry should be regulated. The industry needs to resolve their differences; and their future lies in their united participation in the process.

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
PROCESS UPDATE: Brian Rowe, Section Manager, Pesticide and Plant Pest
Management Division**

Mr. Rowe provided a brief update on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. Requirements of the 6th Circuit Court decision designated the Clean Water Act will now regulate pesticide application to, over, or near water. The scope of the permit is to identify who actually needs to apply for the permit through submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI). The permit will regulate effluent limits and includes site monitoring, pesticide discharge management plan, corrective action plans, and recordkeeping and annual reporting.

The 6th Circuit Court gave a two-year extension to EPA for implementation, which comes due in April of 2011. In Michigan, the permit is developed by MDNRE, will be submitted by December 2010, and is subject to EPA Region 5 approval. MDA and MDNRE have convened a workgroup to discuss the four basic permits – mosquito, forest, aquatic weed, and aquatic animal applications. The affected parties are integral to building these programs. Some overlap of state programs exists and are being reconciled, with MDNRE recognizing and accepting many of the MDA processes currently in use. MDA has also been able to identify in the permit process its response to spills as a department and to incorporate that into the MOU with MDNRE for spill management response activities.

Initially, the permit process will require additional paperwork for an applicant; however, once issued, the permit will be good for five years. The issue now is how to bring people into compliance. The target date for permit finalization is December. MSU Extension and the associations are ready to assist MDA with communication and training for implementation by April 2011.

In response to question from Commissioner Coe, Mr. Rowe advised there is a risk of penalties for non-compliance. The larger question is the potential of civil litigation. However, it is anticipated there initially will be an effort to train and educate prior to heavy enforcement, and that should give parties a strong defensive posture.

**BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS (TB) PROGRAM REVIEW SUMMARY: Dr. James Averill, TB
Eradication Program Coordinator, Animal Industry Division; Stephen Shine, Section
Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division; and Randy Mellberg and Emily Sewell,
Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project (WRMP) Conservation Technicians**

Dr. Averill reported that, during the week of August 9, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services completed their 2010 MDA Bovine TB Program Review. The review is a very critical part of allowing the program to move forward and being able to apply for another split-state status application that would move the majority of the Lower Peninsula to free status. USDA reviewed the entire program, including activities coordinated by MDNRE, the Michigan Department of Community Health, and the MSU Diagnostic Center, as well as how all agencies work with USDA Veterinary Services and Wildlife Services. The USDA appreciated all of the dedication and efforts by the department in coordinating the program and gave a very positive review during the exit meeting. The final written report should be received during October.

Recommendations for improvement included: 1) technology – continue development of the USAHerds system; 2) inventory reconciliation, which is also tied to the use of USAHerds; and 3) communication – continue to enhance, internally and externally.

Areas of the program that were recognized as strengths included: 1) surveillance program; 2) level and capability of traceability; and 3) Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project. In response to inquiry from Commissioner Green, Dr. Averill advised that USDA recognizes Michigan as having the best identification system, and while criticizing our not being current in the inventory, realizes we will be current once the system is fully operational. In response to question from Commissioner Regis, Dr. Averill noted that USDA also recognizes the slaughterhouse readers in other states need to be functioning in order for Michigan's inventory to be reconciled and progress is finally being made in that area.

Commissioner Regis asked about recommendations for the Mackinac Bridge Inspection Station. Dr. Averill advised signage and lighting enhancement efforts would be a combined effort between MDA, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Bridge Authority.

USDA questioned the effectiveness of MDNRE's baiting and feeding ban. They also felt their surveillance system was inadequate and recommended efforts need to be directed outside the core area. In response to question from Commissioner Coe, Dr. Averill advised USDA did not verbally make specific recommendations regarding the baiting and feeding ban, but may do so in their written report.

Overall, USDA advised the entire TB Program team is to be commended. The staff in the northern Lower Peninsula is doing a great job and their commitment to stakeholders is appreciated. They noted the aggressive testing and progress made in wildlife risk mitigation is commendable.

Dr. Averill reported that MDNRE is coordinating Bovine TB education for their Natural Resources Commission (NRC) during the next few months. A Review Team member will join their November meeting to update the NRC on the recent USDA Annual TB Program Review; in December, a scientist from USDA Agriculture Research Services will talk about the potential use of vaccines in wildlife; in January, a statistical, mathematical modeler from New Zealand will present on how MDNRE could use modeling to bring the apparent disease prevalence in the free-ranging white-tailed deer down to an undetectable level; in February, a former MSU professor, now from the University of Tennessee, will present a review completed by a group of scientists from across the country who are considering MDNRE's management of the free-ranging white-tailed deer in Michigan; and, in March, Dr. Steve Schmitt will present the 2010 Deer Surveillance Report. This NRC education program was initiated by MDNRE Director Humphries.

Mr. Shine advised that four years ago, Kevin Kirk, John Tilden, and he visited with livestock producers in the Alpena area to discuss ideas to help make additional progress in the Bovine TB Program. As a result of several meetings with that group, the Wildlife Risk Assessment Tool was developed, and the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project followed.

Mr. Shine introduced Randy Mellberg and Emily Sewell, who were hired as Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project (WRMP) Conservation Technicians in the Alpena area to assist with the on-the-ground implementation of some of the practices identified as a result of the on-farm assessments.

Mr. Mellberg explained the WRMP focuses primarily on cost-share hoop barns and feed security fences. Data reviewed was based on applications received. There are numerous other producers who are interested in submitting applications; however, they are concerned about the potential of funding. The dairy industry represents 32 of the current applications and the remaining 68 are from the beef industry. In response to question from Commissioner Green, Dr. Averill advised that in the northern Lower Peninsula, there are just over 1,000 farms, with 500-600 in the northeast area.

The MDA cost-share coverage area for the project includes the priority area consisting of the counties of Alpena, Alcona, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda, Ogemaw, and Presque Isle. Hoop barns and other feed security measures can significantly reduce the risk of exposure to wildlife. Photos depicting the typical, traditional hay storage were reviewed, along with structures demonstrating the reduced risk of hay storage using hoop barn and feed security structures. The hoop barn facilities represent better storage, higher quality hay, and a labor savings, advantages that are being recognized and praised by the producers. In response to question from Commissioner Regis, Mr. Mellberg advised a smaller hay storage facility built for 350 bails costs about \$23,000-26,000. The cost-share amount to producers is to not exceed \$15,000.

There currently are 26 completed structures, 22 more will be completed by the end of the year, and 44 are pending receipt of funding. Details of allocated funding, stages of construction, and various configurations were reviewed. The WRMP simply requires some method of deterring the white-tailed deer from accessing the livestock hay and feeding areas.

Various challenges facing the project include: 1) most producers operate on limited resources and making changes to meet WRMP standards can be costly - producers are directed to apply for assistance through NRCS; 2) access to Farm Bill funding is difficult and applications only addressing TB-related issues are unlikely to be funded; and 3) a separate pool of funding is needed.

Commissioner Coe asked what type of support we could obtain from the USDA report toward this effort. Dr. Averill advised many positives are expected in the written report from USDA; however, funding issues were not discussed in detail. Program staff have worked with Senator Stabenow each year to establish earmarks for the TB Program; however, funding obtained last year did not funnel down to the program. Efforts through the Senator are being coordinated for next year with the goal of providing funds for all farms to be Wildlife Risk Mitigated. Mr. Shine advised having these practices available for those producers is a large part of the solution, however, funding assistance is needed.

Commissioner Green asked if there were a way for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of Michigan to raise the priority of Wildlife Risk Mitigation. Dr. Averill advised there have been numerous conversations along this line and they are hopeful progress will continue to be made.

Commissioner Regis suggested it would be good for the NRC to receive this Wildlife Risk Mitigation presentation. Commissioner Coe suggested cost information be added to the presentation, noting it would make sense for MDNRE to assist in the funding of feed security structure construction through revenue from the sale of hunting licenses.

Commissioner Regis requested that Director Koivisto communicate with MDNRE Director Humphries to request an opportunity for presenting the Wildlife Risk Mitigation report to the NRC in the near future. He asked Mr. Mellberg to add cost information to his presentation.

Mr. Melberg extended an invitation for Commissioners and staff to join the October 18 Wildlife Risk Mitigation/TB Update Day in northeast Michigan. It begins with a tour of four farms in the Alpena area and concludes with a public meeting at the Hillman Community Center.

INTEGRATED FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM (IFSS): Kathy Fedder, Director, and Kevin Besej, Food Program Manager, Food and Dairy Division; and Robin Rosenbaum, Plant Industry Section Manager, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Ms. Fedder reported there is a considerable amount of change underway in the food system through the concept of the National Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS). Recently, she, Kevin Besej, and Robin Rosenbaum attended the third national meeting to discuss IFSS, which was initially introduced by the state agencies in 1998 to better coordinate the work of over 3,000 different food safety agencies at the federal, state, and local levels.

In light of the recent problems in the food safety arena, it is time to seriously consider better coordinating efforts and resources. Two years ago, the Federal Administration adopted IFSS as the strategic plan for food safety nationwide. A review of the IFSS was presented, noting that current challenges include globalization, economic adulteration/intentional contamination, shifting demographics, changing consumption patterns, lack of resources, outdated laws, insufficient strategic planning, and inadequate coordination across multiple agencies and jurisdictions. There definitely is a priority at the federal level on improving food safety and for integrating the food safety system.

The vision of the system is preventing foodborne illness by developing prevention-oriented standards, responding effectively, and ensuring optimal use of all available resources through building on the various aspects of the current work completed. Standards will be the base of developing an effective uniform system. Michigan feels well positioned to meet those standards. Training and certification will be key to ensuring consistency across the nation. Federal, state, and local partners are joining forces to refine and implement a shared vision and various working groups will be

making a collaborative effort toward that vision. MDA is already considering how it can participate and have a voice in the design of the system.

Mr. Besey noted that nationally, the focus is on two sets of standards – the retail standards and the manufacturing process standards. Commissioner Coe noted there is a bigger picture that includes standards in the field through the Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices. Mr. Besey acknowledged there are numerous standards being reviewed and the goal is to create a system for shared data. Targeted outcomes of the national work plan are to: 1) improve targeting of resources and expand inspections and sample collection coverage; 2) a high level of scientific quality in data collection and inspections and consistent best-practice approaches through national training and certification systems; 3) consistent and meaningful data for compliance, surveillance, and environmental samples; 4) a coordinated, faster, and more effective response to food safety events; and 5) maintain program credibility. The overall main outcome is reduced incidence of foodborne illness.

Implications for MDA are a potential to increase / maintain food, feed, and Rapid Response Team federal funding through participating in national integration efforts, opportunities to train staff, and meeting retail and manufacturing standards.

Commissioner Green asked how IFSS affects globalization, with the U.S. being dependent upon the foreign countries to inspect that product. Ms. Fedder advised there is a significant difference between how FDA and the UDSA operate and the concept of integration has challenges at the national level. New legislation before Congress delineates new requirements for FDA to actually work with the countries importing food into the U.S.

In response to question from Commissioner Fike, Ms. Fedder advised the timeline includes a 5-year plan to build the system; and, working toward using our collective resources more advantageously will continue in any event. Commissioner Coe mentioned that food safety has been a topic for years and noted we will not be able to achieve food safety goals until the consumer is prepared to pay for that safety. Jeff Armstrong at MSU advised that a one percent sales tax on food would generate \$23 million in Michigan that could be applied to food safety programs. Funding must be considered in any discussions.

Ms. Rosenbaum advised that the feed representatives at the 50-state meeting continually pointed out that it is more than just a foodborne safety issue. Other concerns include pesticide residues, antibiotics in feed, and other related issues that are part of this integrated system.

Commissioner Regis advised he felt the Commission should include a visit to the Battle Creek International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) in their agriculture tour planning for next year. The work being coordinated by IFPTI is critical to future food safety and Michigan's footprint there is very obvious. Also noteworthy is the fact that MDA staff is heavily involved in helping to create the food safety vision at a national level.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Commissioner Regis reviewed retirement resolutions before the Commission recognizing Michael Corneil and Karen Ferner.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED THE RESOLUTIONS FOR MICHAEL CORNEIL AND KAREN FERNER BE ADOPTED WITH BEST WISHES FOR THEIR LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT. COMMISSIONER FIKE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Regis reported a Commission Subcommittee was formed to review in more detail the Michigan Good Food Charter. As a result, Commissioners Fike and Green met recently with Gordon Wenk and Michael Hamm of the C.S. Group for Sustainable Food Systems at MSU. They developed a proposed resolution in support of the Charter. Commissioner Fike expressed her appreciation for Mr. Hamm's developing the Michigan Good Food Charter and addressing some of the concerns that the department and Commission had relative to some of the initiatives. Commissioner Green expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Chief Deputy Director Wenk in capturing everyone's input to coordinate the draft resolution.

Commissioner Regis, noting that agriculture is a \$71 billion industry in Michigan, read the proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Good Food Charter is a starting point for discussion to build upon Michigan's food and agriculture system and the goal of advancing an integrated food system and growing our agricultural economy is necessary to achieve a healthier, more prosperous and equitable state; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's diverse \$71 billion agri-food economy creates unparalleled potential for economic development in Michigan's food systems; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the Commission encourages all aspects of the existing commercial farming and food processing systems, as well as emerging new farming operations, to participate in the discussion; and

WHEREAS, to make structural changes and long-term improvements sustainable, private sector involvement and support is crucial; and

WHEREAS, the following goals should be considered when developing/refining the Charter:

- Enhancing the ability of farmers to profitably supply food to Michigan residents, as well as regional, national, and international markets.
- Expanding existing agri-businesses and food processors in the state, and striving to reach a new generation of consumers.
- Increasing access to wholesome Michigan food for all residents.

- Increasing exposure to the food and agriculture industry for Michigan students in K-12, in addition to post-secondary education.
- Expanding institutional purchasing of Michigan-grown and processed foods.
- Considering financial implications and resources necessary for the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to fully participate and/or implement these concepts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Commission of Agriculture supports in principle the Michigan Good Food Charter and the efforts put forward to implement the Charter.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER FIKE MOVED THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE OF THE MICHIGAN GOOD FOOD CHARTER BE ADOPTED. COMMISSIONER GREEN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Regis brought forward for further discussion Senator VanWoerkom's legislation regarding locally grown food labeling. Commissioner Coe suggested it be communicated to Senator VanWoerkom that the Commission recommends changing language in the Locally Grown Labeling Bill from requiring products to be grown within a 50-mile radius of the farmers market at which they are being sold, to anything that is grown within the State of Michigan to qualify for use of the Locally Grown labeling. Commissioner Herioux expressed concern that because of logistics, the farmers markets in the northern UP carry a great deal of produce from Wisconsin.

Commissioner Fike confirmed the discussion concerns labeling of locally grown products sold at farmers markets. Ms. Nyquist advised the labeling bill would not preclude produce from other states being sold at Farmers Markets; it simply regulates who may use the locally grown labeling.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED IT BE COMMUNICATED TO SENATOR VANWOERKOM THAT THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS CHANGING LANGUAGE IN THE LOCALLY GROWN LABELING BILL FROM REQUIRING PRODUCTS TO BE GROWN WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS OF THE FARMERS MARKET AT WHICH THEY ARE BEING SOLD, TO ANYTHING THAT IS GROWN WITHIN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN TO QUALIFY FOR USE OF THE LOCALLY GROWN LABELING AT FARMERS MARKETS. COMMISSIONER GREEN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. E. J. Brown, Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, noted Michigan is in the middle of its county fair season and it has been a good year for the fairs. The UP State Fair was a successful event again this year. He thanked the Commission for their continued support. Commissioner Coe noted that press on the Northwest Michigan Fair commented on the fact that the booth run by the Local Food Network was extremely popular and ask Mr. Brown to communicate to his members that outreach could be

made for each of the fairs to the local farm community challenging them to feature fresh foods for the fairgoers. He also noted that New York recently passed legislation to allow a pavilion for New York wineries at their State Fair, which was very successful, and this perhaps could be another beneficial addition to Michigan's fairs. Mr. Brown reported the Association is moving in the direction of being able to feature Michigan-produced alcoholic beverages, and several fairs were able to offer beer as an alternative adult beverage this year. Also, the Association has worked with the Food Bank Council of Michigan and several of the fairs allowed them to have a booth on the grounds during the fair to educate the public and the agriculture community about the Council and how they can contribute to that effort.

ADJOURN

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER HERIOUX MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
COMMISSIONER FIKE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 p.m.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture Commission Meeting Minutes August 11, 2010*
- C) *Joint Natural Resources Commission and Michigan Commission of Agriculture Meeting Minutes August 12, 2010*
- D) *Legislative Status – September 2010*
- E) *NPDES Permit for Pesticide Applications PowerPoint Presentation*
- F) *Bovine TB Program – USDA 2010 Review Summary*
- G) *Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project PowerPoint Presentation*
- H) *Establishing a Fully Integrated National Food Safety System PowerPoint Presentation*
- I) *Retirement Resolution for Michael J. Corneil*
- J) *Retirement Resolution for Karen K. Ferner*
- K) *Resolution in Support of the Michigan Good Food Charter*