

**State of Michigan  
Michigan Commission of Agriculture  
Michigan State University, The University Club**

*(Held in conjunction with the Educational Conference on  
Bovine Tuberculosis in Michigan)*

**Lansing, Michigan**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 6-7, 1999**

**Present:**

Douglas E. Darling, Chairperson, Commission of Agriculture  
Deanna Stamp, Vice-Chairperson, Commission of Agriculture  
Jordan B. Tatter, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture  
Shirley Skogman, Commission of Agriculture  
James Maitland, Commission of Agriculture  
Dan Wyant, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

**Others Present:** *(all of part of the meeting)*

Ron Zellar, Assistant Attorney General  
Michigan Department of Agriculture Staff  
Dr. Margaret Benson, Michigan State University  
Gary Boersen, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Steve Davis, United States Department of Agriculture  
Brad Deacon, Governor Engler's Office  
Scott Everett, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Mike Frederick, Senator George McManus' Office  
Jim Goodheart, Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
Richard Harlow, Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Kevin Kirk, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Bill Knudsen, Senate Republican Staff  
Peggy Kohring, Conservation Fund

Dr. Mark Longstroff, Michigan State University

Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau

Don Nugent, Michigan State University

Dr. Robert von Bernuth, Michigan State University

Virginia Zeeb, Bath, Michigan

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

Chairman Darling called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., January 7, 1999. Secretary Tatter called the roll with Director Wyant and all Commissioners present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Skogman asked that the sentence on page 4, paragraph 2, third sentence, read *"...possibility of having four or five of the larger Wisconsin potato growers construct their own storage facility."*

Commissioner Tatter asked that the sentence on page 5, paragraph 2, third sentence read *"...the sale of the facility to Packerland should be finalized soon."*

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9-10, 1998, MINUTES AS CORRECTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture will be held February 10, 1999, in the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Ottawa State Office Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pidgeon Conference Room, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, Michigan.

**APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR'S OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR'S OUT- OF-STATE TRAVEL TO ATTEND THE JANUARY 22, 1999, MIATCO EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, AND THE FEBRUARY 20-22, 1999, NASDA MID-YEAR MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION RESOLUTION:**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE RESOLUTION HONORING AMIR ZARA BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Jordan Tatter said that the cold temperatures could be expected to cause bud and wood injury to fruit crops, considering the unusually warm weather that preceded the cold snap and the lack of plant tissue winter hardiness.

He reported that he attended an Economic Development Rail Transport Forum in Niles, Michigan, at which the conversion of Conrail trackage to Norfolk & Southern throughout Michigan was described and explained. The

speaker made remarks supportive of Michigan's agriculture transportation issues under the new ownership group. Commissioner Tatter also attended the Michigan Frozen Food Packers Association holiday party in St. Joseph, Michigan, an annual event attended by southwestern Michigan frozen food processing participants. He took part in the reception and dinner event that was part of the MSU Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition's departmental review and spoke on the positive interaction of the university with the food processing industry of our state and MDA.

Commissioner Tatter discussed the two-day educational conference on bovine tuberculosis of which he and the other Commissioners have been a part. He feels that the Commission should move immediately toward a statewide ban on artificial feeding of free-ranging deer and elk. He also feels that the Commission should encourage its counterparts and colleagues in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to revisit the baiting issue. He feels it should immediately consider extending the deer hunting season in the TB quarantine area and allow the taking of deer that are within confined areas with TB susceptible domestic livestock present at any time of year and any time of day within the TB quarantine area as it may be defined from time to time.

**Commissioner Deana Stamp** agreed that the TB issue is foremost on everyone's minds. She reported that dairy prices will most likely remain strong through the winter and continue throughout March and April. Milk price projections for the year are around \$14.75. She said that the National Milk Producers Federation has offered its assistance to Michigan in its bovine tuberculosis situation. It is willing to work with those in Washington D.C. on the designation of a split-state status.

Director Wyant added that John Adams of the National Milk Producers Federation has been a tremendous resource to MDA and has had many helpful strategic suggestions.

**Commissioner Shirley Skogman** reported that she recently attended a reception held for retiring Soil Conservationist, Walt Summers. She stated that there are many projects that have been started in the U.P. and there is a need to fill that position as soon as possible. These projects need to be finished in order to qualify for state and federal funding.

**Commissioner James Maitland** reported that the cherry inventories in the Traverse City area are moving and, because of the marketing controls and tools currently in place, the price is more stable than it has been in the past. He added, however, the price still does not give a return to the grower commensurate with production costs. He added that the weather might take care of some of the over production problems in the cherry industry for next year. Commissioner Maitland commented that the two-day bovine tuberculosis conference has been very informative and very well organized.

**Commissioner Douglas Darling** expressed concern about suppressed commodity prices. He said that hog prices are lower than they have been in 57 years or more. He feels that creative marketing ideas need to be developed.

Commissioner Darling said that after last month's Commission meeting he had the opportunity to stay and participate in the Michigan Farm Bureau's delegate discussion where there was a lot of discussion about land use and farmland preservation

He also reported that he and Commissioner Tatter attended a bovine tuberculosis stakeholders meeting that offered an opportunity to talk with commodity and animal industry representatives. He said that he has learned that only 10 percent of the land mass in the quarantine area is actually in production farm use. A large portion of that area is either state-owned, owned by hunt clubs or recreational property owners. He feels it is important to have all property owners involved in the solution.

#### **APPROVAL OF RATE SCHEDULE FOR RENTAL OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS AT THE UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR – Barbara Hensinger, Director, Michigan Fairs and Expositions Division**

David Charney, Commission Liaison, reviewed the "*Rate Schedule for Rental of Buildings and Grounds*" submitted by the Upper Peninsula State Fair staff for Commission approval. The Upper Peninsula State Fair Board has reviewed and approved the recommendations.

The Commission and Director raised the following questions:

1. What would be the potential total estimated revenue generated from these increases?
2. Is the State Fair competitive with local private enterprise in its rental fees?
3. Is there a timeline or strategic plan available from the Upper Peninsula State Fair Board about its plan to have the fair self-sufficient by the year 2000?
4. What is the budget year for the fair?
5. Why is there a difference in the minimum requirements between agricultural and industrial space?

It was agreed to continue the discussion after Barbara Hensinger arrives at today's meeting.

Commissioner Skogman asked for an update on the contract dispute between Bayland Motor Sports and the U.P. State Fair.

Ron Zellar replied that the issue is currently under negotiation and should be resolved soon.

### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Vicki Pontz-Teachout**

Vicki Pontz-Teachout distributed copies of the current legislative summary detailing the bills passed relating to agriculture. She reviewed the summary and highlighted the bills signed by the Governor.

She also distributed and reviewed a "*Summary of Senate Bill 1282.*" She said the bill was introduced by Senator George McManus and there are essentially five major changes to the Animal Industry Act. She said that the bill raises the indemnification cap to 90 percent of the market value, not exceeding \$3,000 per animal.

Director Wyant added that Dr. Michael Chaddock and his staff are in the process of formulating the surveillance plan. They are working with the Department of Natural Resources to develop a plan that will meet the legislative intent, as well as the split-state status requirement by USDA.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Jim Goodheart, Executive Director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)**, said that the MUCC is willing to work with MDA and USDA in the areas of farmland preservation, open space and land use policy, and in the bovine tuberculosis situation. He said his goal is to strengthen the relationship between farmers and sportsmen in Michigan. MUCC represents approximately 120,000 members, primarily hunters, and MDA can view those members as assets and tools in helping to accomplish certain processes in the bovine tuberculosis problem in Michigan.

Director Wyant responded that MDA looks forward to working with the MUCC on these issues.

**Ron Nelson of the Michigan Farm Bureau** distributed copies of Michigan Farm Bureau 1999 Policy #14 (*Bovine Tuberculosis*) and 1999 Policy #40 (*Wildlife Management*). He also distributed copies of President Jack Laurie's comments made on January 6, 1999, during the Educational Conference on Bovine Tuberculosis.

Mr. Nelson commended Vicki Pontz-Teachout for her efforts in Senate Bill 1282.

Mr. Nelson referred to the Policy No. 14 and reiterated that the Michigan Farm Bureau is urging that "an aggressive program be conducted by MDA and DNR to eliminate TB from the deer herd and prevent any further transmission of the disease." He said the key word is "eliminate." This is the basis for President Laurie's comments yesterday.

Director Wyant said that he appreciated the opportunity he and others had before the Bovine Tuberculosis Education Conference to sit down with industry and talk about where we need to go from here. He said that enforcing the feeding ban and maintaining what is already in place is fundamental. It is important to look at a statewide feeding ban. He suggested that this issue will be part of the Commission of Agriculture's February 10 meeting agenda for serious review. The question of whether or not there is a reduction in deer numbers, the

entire surveillance effort, the reduction of the population in accordance with the eradication strategy are all issues that need to be discussed. He said there is consensus that those things need to be done, but a discussion needs to occur on how those things are accomplished.

Director Wyant stated that it is critical that the correct information gets to the producer. He feels that it is MDA's responsibility, with the assistance of other organizations, to communicate what went on during this two-day conference; about the change in the indemnification to 90 percent, about the process in place whereby if an operation is shut down it can sometimes be back in business within 30 to 60 days. It is important to help take the anxiety out of the situation.

Commissioner Tatter suggested that both the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs write articles for each other's newsletter discussing the need for farmer/hunter cooperation and talking about the successes as well as failures.

Mr. Nelson said that the two-day conference has provided some excellent discussion and information. He said that the Michigan Farm Bureau is committed to working with MDA and others in the communication and education efforts.

Director Wyant said that it is important that what has been learned at this conference be recreated to give producers the same baseline of understanding. It is only through mutual understanding that mutual cooperation can be achieved.

### **APPROVAL OF RATE SCHEDULE FOR RENTAL OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS OF UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR – Barbara Hensinger, Director of the Michigan Fairs and Expositions Division**

The discussion continued on the approval of the "*Rate Schedule for Rental of Buildings and Grounds*" at the Upper Peninsula State Fair with Barbara Hensinger, Director of the Michigan Fairs and Expositions Division.

Ms. Hensinger responded to the questions that had been raised earlier in the meeting.

What would be the potential total estimated revenue generated from these increases? Currently all of the space has been rented for this year, generating approximately \$38,000.

Is the State Fair competitive with local private enterprise in its rental fees? The fair does rent space at or below current private sector rates. However, because of the concern raised today, she will work with Joseph McDonnell, Manager of the Upper Peninsula State Fair, to survey local rental rates to ensure that the state is not in competition with the private sector. Adjustments will be made if necessary. This information will be provided to the Commission.

Is there a timeline or strategic plan available from the Upper Peninsula State Fair Board about its plan to have the fair self-sufficient by the year 2000? There is a plan in place and that information will be shared with the Commission.

What is the budget year for the fair? The state fiscal year is October to October.

Why is there a difference in the minimum requirements between agricultural and industrial space? The agricultural square footage minimum is larger because most agricultural displays are larger than industrial displays and require a larger space designation.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED APPROVAL OF THE RATE SCHEDULE FOR RENTAL OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS AT UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. in order that the Commission could continue its participation in the Educational Conference on Bovine Tuberculosis.

## **RECONVENE**

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

## **APPROVAL TO REFER RIGHT TO FARM COMPLAINTS – Wayne Whitman, Environmental Stewardship Division**

Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division reviewed two Right to Farm complaints. Each of these dairy operations was not in compliance with GAAMPs. The Ray Cook dairy facility complaint in Newaygo County concerns groundwater contamination of manure runoff. Mr. Whitman explained that after contact with the owner, it does appear that extensive cleanup has occurred. However, a follow-up inspection in the spring would need to take place to ensure that the problem has been corrected. He recommended that the Commission place this matter on hold until after the spring inspection. The Commission agreed.

Mr. Whitman reviewed the complaint involving manure and milkhouse wastewater runoff to a roadside ditch from the Leonard Kolberg dairy facility in Mecosta County. It was Mr. Whitman's recommendation that since Mr. Kolberg has refused to implement MDA recommendations, this matter be referred to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for further action. He presented a letter of referral for Chairman Darling's signature.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED THAT THE RIGHT TO FARM COMPLAINT CONCERNING THE LEONARD KOLBERG DAIRY FACILITY IN MECOSTA COUNTY BE REFERRED TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR FURTHER ACTION. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Tatter asked if the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) keeps MDA informed of the resolution of Right to Farm referrals.

Mr. Whitman responded that MDA does not receive copies of correspondence from DEQ on a regular basis. However, he will discuss this matter with DEQ at its next meeting. He said that there have been only 11 referrals to DEQ in 10 years out of 1,339 complaints.

## **ANNUAL REVIEW OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CRANBERRY PRODUCTION – Dr. Mark Longstroff, Michigan State University and Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division**

Dr. Mark Longstroff, District Extension Horticulturist for Southwest Michigan, Michigan State University, reviewed proposed revisions to the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Cranberry Production. Mr. Longstroff and Mr. Whitman recommended that the Commission approve the revisions as presented.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED THAT THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CRANBERRY PRODUCTION BE APPROVED WITH AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED. SECONDED.**

**DISCUSSION:** Director Wyant referred to page 21 and asked why there is a need to refer to the current litigation since it does not apply to the standards.

**It was agreed that paragraph 2 of page 21 "The Michigan Court of Appeals has recently ruled that this exemption applies only to established agricultural uses, and not to activities necessary to create new farmland. Moreover, this exemption does not include construction activities that are not specifically listed in the Wetland Protection Part," be deleted from the practices.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **ANNUAL REVIEW OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE CARE OF FARM ANIMALS – Dr. Margaret Benson, Michigan State University and Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division**

Dr. Margaret Benson of Michigan State University reviewed proposed revisions to the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals. Dr. Benson and Mr. Whitman recommended that the Commission approve the revisions as presented.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED THAT THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE CARE OF ANIMALS WITH AMENDMENTS BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT ON USE VALUE FARMLAND ASSESSMENT—A COMPARISON STUDY OF 50 STATES – Dr. David Skjaerlund, Executive Director of the Rural Development Council of Michigan**

Dr. David Skjaerlund, Executive Director of the Rural Development Council of Michigan, distributed and reviewed the Michigan Department of Agriculture report "*Use Value Farmland Assessment—A Comparison Study of 50 States*," dated October 1998.

Dr. Skjaerlund said that Michigan is the only state that does not have a use value assessment program. Currently, 48 other states have use value systems in place. Thirteen states have a blanket approach, 35 states have programs whereby certain criteria must be met in order to be eligible. Nebraska is currently revising its use value assessment process. There are three methods currently in use: capitalization of income; state standards based on soil productivity, and values established based on comparative sales. He explained that Michigan's neighboring states all have similar use value programs. He also said that some states have differences in terms of taxation rates for agriculture so not only is there use value assessment, but also a differential of what the taxation rate is based on.

He explained that there are five options for Michigan: constitutional amendment; broad application; open space agreement; agricultural security areas, and conservation easement. He said the real question is whether it is mandated to local units of government; whether it is local option; or whether the state reimburses local units of government.

Director Wyant stated that MDA executive staff would be reviewing this report with the Michigan Department of Treasury and then presenting it to the Governor with recommendations.

Commissioner Tatter agreed that now is the time to take this to the Governor and Legislature. He said that it is important that appropriate meetings be held in advance with the Department of Treasury and others who will have a role in the process.

Commissioner Maitland stated that it is also important that the information and data contained in the document be updated on a regular basis.

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**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**Don Nugent, former Commission of Agriculture member, and Michigan State University Trustee**, talked briefly about the survival of agriculture in this state and country. He said that there are renaissance zones in Michigan to encourage economic development and he believes it would be worthwhile to create a renaissance zone wherever a major food processor is located or expanding. This would encourage food processing in this state. Michigan should encourage a value-added commodity industry and that can only occur with further processing. Michigan must help the processor to further agriculture. He also complimented MDA on its ag export initiatives.

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**DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dan Wyant**

**Budget:** MDA has proposed some programmatic budget increases in the areas of tuberculosis testing and indemnification; comprehensive food safety initiatives; confined animal feeding operation regulations; the Asian Longhorned Beetle potential threat to Michigan, and additional technology needs.

**Project GREEN:** Keith Creagh explained that the request for proposals were due December 22, 1998. There were 142 proposals received, in four major categories: value-added, applied research and demonstration, extension and education, and basic research. The proposals received totaled \$6.1 million, with available funding of \$1.825 million. The breakdown is as follows: Value-Added, 34 proposals, totaling \$1.5 million; Applied Research and Demonstration, 67 proposals, totaling \$3.1 million; Extension and Education, 26 proposals, totaling \$817,000; Basic Research, 15 proposals, totaling \$715,000. There were 54 proposals that asked to be scored in a variety of categories.

Mr. Creagh said that there are committees currently reviewing the proposals. The overall chair is Dr. Edward Grafius, Chairman of the MSU Department of Entomology. Dr. Mark Uebersax chairs the Value-Added Committee, Dr. Boyd Ellis chairs the Applied Research Committee, Dr. Grafius chairs the Extension and Education committee; and Dr. Wayne Loescher chairs the Basic Research Committee. The committees are comprised of MSU personnel, industry and plant coalition members. Dr. Arlen Leholm and Dr. Ian Gray will make recommendations to committee chairs by January 29, 1999, and decisions should be made by February 15, with monies available on March 1.

**Michigan State Fair:** The Michigan State Fair received a \$2.4 million appropriation to upgrade and refurbish the coliseum at the fairgrounds. This includes an ice hockey facility for year round use and will allow Wayne State University to operate a Division 1 hockey program at the fairgrounds. There also will be an International Auto Sports Museum and Hall of Fame at the fairgrounds utilizing the poultry building. There has been a commitment by multiple agencies, primarily the Michigan Jobs Commission, to identify special maintenance dollars to upgrade this facility.

**Public Act 344:** David Charney updated the Commission on two specific issues currently before the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board (AMBB). The first is a lawsuit filed by Cherry Growers, Inc. in Grand Traverse County against the AMBB. A hearing is scheduled for January 11, 1999, in Grand Traverse County to hear the legal merits of the case. After expiration of a temporary restraining order issued in the lawsuit, an arbitration hearing was held with the arbitrator finding in favor of Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) and its pricing schedule. It is the position of MDA, with representation by the Attorney General, that Act 344 provides for an arbitration process and that provision was met. If Cherry Growers is unsatisfied with that process, it has a right to appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals, not to the Grand Traverse County Circuit Court.

The second issue is an unfair practice complaint filed by MACMA against New Era Canning. The complaint is currently under investigation by Mr. Charney, Administrator of the AMBB.

**Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs):** Director Wyant participated in the National Governors' Conference (NGA) policy development process on CAFOs. Michigan's Right to Farm program was used in the development of a draft NGA policy. A letter will be sent to Carol Browner, Administrator of the US EPA and to Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman requesting that the strategy provide an option for states to develop and implement functionally equivalent, performance-based state strategies in lieu of the federal strategy. A copy of the letter will be shared with the Commission.

**Bovine Tuberculosis:** Director Wyant suggested that any recommendations from the two-day educational conference be compiled and mailed to the Commission prior to its February 10 meeting. Time will be set aside on the agenda for discussion of those recommendations. Agriculture stakeholders will be invited to the meeting and asked to make further recommendations to the Commission on where we need to go to address this issue. This information will be helpful in the joint meeting that will be held in March with the Natural Resources Commission.

Director Wyant re-emphasized the importance of getting quality information to the producers. They need to be aware of what we know, about the two new herds and the current situation; about the change in Michigan's accredited status and what it means to producers; and about the change in indemnification. This information could be included in the next *Bovine TB Update* issued by MDA. The Michigan Farm Bureau also has offered to put an insert into its publication.

He added that MDA needs to summarize what has been discussed these last two days, then share that



summarization with producers. They need to be informed about the resources allocated to continue on-farm testing; about the commitment made by the Governor and the Legislature to provide what is needed; and about the flexibility in the program to work with the producers on on-farm testing so they don't have to be out of business for a year.

Commissioner Skogman raised the issue of a feeding ban and how it affects the potato farmer. She said that the Michigan Potato Industry Commission is willing to assist the department on this issue.

Dr. Kurt Thelen, director of the Environmental Stewardship Division, said that a meeting has already been scheduled with the Potato Industry Commission and he will provide a report on that meeting at a future Commission meeting.

### **Director's Written Report**

Commissioner Tatter referred to page 6, "*Rhizomania Quarantine*." He suggested that Canada be included in the quarantine requirements. He also said it may be a good time to discuss with them the quarantine problem with Blueberry Maggot.

Commissioner Darling referred to page 8, "*Food Quality Protection Act*," and requested that the Commission receive a copy of the final project summary report being written by MSU.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND BACKGROUND ON THE CURRENT PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS PROCESS – Dr. David Skjaerlund, Executive Director of the Rural Development Council of Michigan; Scott Everett, Michigan Farm Bureau; David Yankee and Richard Harlow, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Peggy Kohring, Conservation Fund**

Dr. David Skjaerlund, Executive Director of the Rural Development Council of Michigan, distributed copies and reviewed the "*Location of PDR Committee Recommended Applications for 1997 and 1998*."

Richard Harlow of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources distributed copies and reviewed the "*State of Michigan PDR Purchase Process*." He said that there were 768 applications in 1997, with 37 of those selected for acquisition. For 1998, there were 311 applications and 37 were selected for acquisition. There has been a request for a \$5 million appropriation, plus an additional \$5 million supplemental, for a total of \$10 million for 1998 applications. They are currently working on the 1997 group. Once a certified appraiser completes the appraisals, offers are made to the landowners. Mr. Harlow said that they have preserved 618 acres of property through the donation of development rights, with another donation currently pending of 111 acres. This brings the total donated acreage to 729 acres. With options and purchases currently made under the program, 879 acres of land were preserved. If the development rights are acquired on all parcels approved in both 1997 and 1998 cycles, 15,200 acres, including donated acreage, are expected to be preserved.

Peggy Kohring of the Conservation Fund stated that she works with 12 Midwestern states and Michigan is the only state that has really addressed this issue.

Scott Everett of the Michigan Farm Bureau distributed copies and reviewed the "*Report of the Farmland Preservation Committee*." The special Farmland Preservation Committee recommended the creation of a non-profit entity within the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) Family of Companies. Mr. Everett also distributed copies of the 1999 Michigan Farm Bureau Policy #36, "*Farmland Preservation*." He explained that in the MFB policy it identifies the following areas: PA 116; Agricultural Security Areas; Purchase of Development Rights, which includes structure, funding and agricultural conservation easements; Transfer of Development Rights; Economic Viability of Agriculture and Urban Revitalization. Mr. Everett explained that as part of the "structure" area, it was recommended that a separate farmland preservation division in the Michigan Department of Agriculture be created to administer all farmland protection programs, including PA 116, agricultural security areas and the Michigan Farmland Trust Fund. This division should have a formal working relationship with the DNR and provide guidance and assistance to local communities wanting to develop farmland protection programs.

Director Wyant asked if the range of values is of concern to farmers.

Commissioner Maitland expressed his support for the program; however, he is concerned about the appraisal process. He recommends the use of independent appraisers rather than using staff. He also believes that an oversight committee should be established to consider the property values and to support the appraisals. He also believes that once the process and appraisal are completed and decisions are made, a signed document should be on file that would indicate whether or not the landowner is or is not part of the program.

Commissioner Maitland suggested that MDA staff or other independent members be a part of the Purchase of Development Rights Appraisal Review Committee.

Director Wyant said that he would arrange a meeting with DNR executive staff to discuss the concerns raised today and report back to the Commission.

**UPDATE ON DRAFT UNIFIED USDA/EPA ANIMAL FEEDING STRATEGY—Dr. Robert von Bernuth, Michigan State University; Kevin Kirk, Michigan Farm Bureau; Gary Boersen, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; Steve Davis, USDA; Dr. Kurt Thelen, Michigan Department of Agriculture**

Dr. Robert von Bernuth of Michigan State University distributed copies and reviewed the *"USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations."* Steve Davis of USDA distributed and reviewed the *"Areas of Support and Areas of Concern."* He said it is important that USDA/EPA understand that Michigan's agricultural environmental policy requires zero discharge to the waters of the state and it has a strong Right to Farm Act , GAAMPs for manure utilization, and an effective complaint response program.

Director Wyant said that he appreciates the multi-agency cooperation on this issue.

Copies also were distributed of the brochure *"Your Guide to Managing Agricultural Wastes—Manure Management, MSU Extension Bulletin E-2683, November 1998."*

**ELECTION OF 1999 COMMISSION OFFICERS**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED THAT 1999 MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE OFFICERS BE:**

**DEANNA STAMP, CHAIR**

**JAMES MAITLAND, VICE CHAIR**

**JORDAN TATTER, SECRETARY**

**SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PRESENTATION:**

On behalf of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, Commissioner Stamp presented an honorary gavel to Commissioner Darling for serving as the 1998 chair of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture.

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Commissioner Maitland expressed his support for Mr. Don Nugent's comments relating to agricultural renaissance zones. He requested a staff report at the next meeting on the merits of such a proposal.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED THAT MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STAFF RESEARCH THE MERITS OF AGRICULTURAL RENAISSANCE ZONES IN FOOD PROCESSING AREAS IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.**

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**ATTACHMENTS**

**The following documentation is on file in the office of the Commission of Agriculture and can be obtained upon request:**

**Attachment A December 9-10, 1998, Commission of Agriculture Meeting Minutes**

**Attachment B "Rate Schedule for Rental of Buildings and Grounds" at the  
Upper Peninsula State Fair**

**Attachment C Legislative Summary – January 1999**

**Attachment D "Summary of Senate Bill 1282"**

**Attachment E Michigan Farm Bureau 1999 Policy #14 (Bovine Tuberculosis)**

**Attachment F Michigan Farm Bureau 1999 Policy #40 (Wildlife Management)**

**Attachment G 1/6/99 Comments by Michigan Farm Bureau President Jack Laurie**

**Attachment H Letter of Referral to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality,  
Regarding Mr. Leonard Kolberg Dairy Facility in Mecosta County**

**Attachment I Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for  
Cranberry Production**

**Attachment J Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for  
The Care of Farm Animals**

**Attachment K "Use Value Farmland Assessment—A Comparison Study of 50 States,"  
Dated October 1998**

**Attachment L Director's Report – January 1999**

**Attachment M "Location of PDR Committee Recommended Applications for 1997-98"**

**Attachment N "State of Michigan PDR Purchase Process," Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources**

**Attachment O "Report of the Farmland Preservation Committee"**

**Attachment P Michigan Farm Bureau Policy #36 (Farmland Preservation)**

**Attachment Q "USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations"**

**Attachment R "Areas of Support and Areas of Concern"**

**Attachment S "Your Guide to Managing Agricultural Wastes—Manure Management,**

**MSU Extension Bulletin E-2683, November 1998"**

I, Jordan B. Tatter, Secretary of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, do hereby certify that I have read the minutes of the January 6-7, 1999, meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and they are a true and accurate description of the proceedings thereof.

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Jordan B. Tatter, Secretary

I, Daniel J. Wyant, Secretary of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, do hereby certify that I have read the minutes of the January 6-7, 1999, meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and they are a true and accurate description of the proceedings thereof.

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Daniel J. Wyant, Director

Approved on February 10, 1999

Lansing, Michigan