

STATE OF MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE MEETING MINUTES

January 1997

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Norman Veliquette called the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture (MCA) to order at 4:03 p.m., January 16, 1997. Commission Secretary Darling called roll; a quorum was present to do business. Meeting was held in the Thornapple Room, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan, in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE) Convention.

Commissioners Present:

Norman R. Veliquette, Vice Chairperson
Douglas E. Darling, Secretary
Jordan B. Tatter
David Crumbaugh

Commissioners Absent:

Shirley A. Skogman, Chairperson

Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Staff Present (during portions of afternoon):

Dan Wyant, Director
Robert G. Craig, Director, Agriculture Policy and Special Projects
Carol Carlson, Financial Services Division
Cinda Karlik, Financial Services Division
Marilyn Thelen, Financial Services Division
Jean Valley, Secretary to MCA

Legal Counsel:

Jann Ryan Baugh, Assistant Attorney General

Others Present (during portions of the afternoon):

Judy Benac, Montmorency County 4-H Fair, Hillman
Don Bildner, MAFE Festival Director
Terry Bonnell, MAFE Executive Secretary Treasurer
Carol A. Britten, MAFE Board
William L. Burns, MAFE Board
Joe and Joyce Burgdorf, Otsego County Fair, Gaylord
John Kronemeyer, Upper Peninsula (U.P.) State Fair Board
Wayne Loose, MAFE Board
Herb and Dianne Phelps (Mr. Phelps is MAFE Board President)
Beverley Robinson, MAFE Board

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

There were no additions or changes to the agenda and there was consensus to approve it as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION:

Commissioner Crumbaugh moved that minutes of the December 3-4, 1996, meeting of the Commission of Agriculture be approved. (Seconded)

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRECTION OF MINUTES.

Commissioner Tatter moved that page five, second paragraph, first sentence of the November 7-8, 1996, MCA minutes be corrected by adding the following information [underlined]:

Michigan State Technical Committee (Dr. Kurt Thelen and Christine Lietzau are representatives. . . .

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular MCA meeting will be held February 11-12, 1997, in the Dean M. Pridgeon Room, Ottawa State Office Building, Lansing, Michigan.

MAFE WELCOME:

Herb Phelps welcomed the Commission and Director to the 112th Annual MAFE Convention and introduced board members Wayne Loose, Carol Britten, William Burns, and Beverley Robinson; and Terry Bonnell, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and Don Bildner, Festival Director. Director Wyant expressed appreciation for the partnership MDA has with the fairs and MAFE.

INVITATION:

Clinton County Conservation District has invited the Commission to tour the Stony Creek Watershed Project on May 6 (in conjunction with the May MCA meeting). There was consensus to accept the invitation.

COMMISSIONERS' PER DIEM AND TRAVEL EXPENSES:

MOTION:

Commissioner Tatter moved that per diem and travel expenses be approved for:

- November 26, 1996--Public Hearing on Land Use, Lodi Township, Ann Arbor: Commissioner Douglas E. Darling;
- December 18, 1996--How to be a Successful Commodity Board Member, East Lansing: Commissioner Douglas E. Darling;

- January 7, 1997--Deer Management Focus Group Meeting, Michigan State University (MSU), East Lansing: Commissioner Jordan B. Tatter;
- January 11-12, 1997--Michigan Mega-Conference and Trade Show, Lansing: Commissioners David Crumbaugh and Douglas Darling; and
- February 7, 1997--Michigan Pork Producers Annual Banquet, Lansing: All Commissioners.

(Seconded)

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION RESOLUTION:

MOTION:

Commissioner Tatter moved that the resolution (Attachment A) honoring Chad Bischoff, recipient of the 1996 FFA American Star Agri-Business Award be adopted. (Seconded)

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Tatter reminisced about his and Commissioner Crumbaugh's first meeting as Commissioners six years ago [January 11-12, 1991] held in this room during the MFAE Convention. Since the December MCA meeting, he:

- Attended his final meeting as a member of MSU's Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center Advisory Council. He pledged his continued support to the council;
- Attended a number of holiday receptions and events including the Governor's Reception for Boards and Commissions (December 11), Michigan Frozen Food Packers Association dinner (December 12), Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's annual event for business and agricultural participants and Seventh District Federal Reserve Bank Officials (December 18);
- Participated in the January 7, 1997, Michigan deer herd management issues identification meeting sponsored by MSU and Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Process to identify issues was excellent; however, the resulting prioritization of issues was a disappointment. Crop damage and deer-vehicle accidents were not included in the top five issues. DNR staff was neutral during issue identification and prioritization process but observed, responded to questions, and presented information as requested.
- Met with the new director of Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Work Force Development Department to discuss role of agriculture, food processing, and agricultural support industries in job creation in that part of southwest Michigan.
- Attended the January 13 informational meeting on P.A. 116; Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB), and Rich Harlow, DNR, explained recent amendments. Approximately 80 rural residents and farmers were present; a polling of those attending indicated more

enthusiasm for P.A. 116 due to the amendments.

- Introduced Robin Rosenbaum, MDA's Pesticide Registration Program Manager, at the January 14 Michigan Food Packers meeting. Ms. Rosenbaum gave an excellent presentation on the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act, demise of the Delaney Clause, importance of Section 18 Emergency Pesticide Utilization Exemptions to Michigan agriculture, and MDA's role in this process.
- Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share with the Director in today's meeting with MDA regional staff and abbreviated visit to Simplot.

Commissioner Tatter hopes the student intern program can be continued in view of impacts of the early retirement program.

Commissioner Tatter congratulated Commissioner and Mrs. Douglas Darling on the birth of their second son, Dayton Joseph, on January 2, 1997. The other Commissioners also extended personal congratulations and best wishes to the Darlings.

Commissioner Tatter described the process for prioritizing the 50 deer issues. His priorities were: crop damage including woodlots and timber resources, vehicle-deer accidents, cross contamination of tuberculosis (TB) to domestic livestock from deer, quality deer herd, urban concerns (human health--Lyme disease, concentrated car-deer accidents--gardens, and ornamental plant damage). Priorities selected were: public education; flexible management and integrated goal setting; deer within a total ecosystem planning pool; scientific-based management; and feeding, baiting, and TB issues. This was the first of a number of meetings to be held statewide to gather information for the DNR.

Commissioner Darling reported his family is enjoying Dayton and everyone is doing very well.

In addition to farm activities, he has attended meetings and workshops. He relayed commendations he heard about the Director's speeches at the MFB Annual Meeting and the Mega-Conference and MDA's response to the feed contamination incident.

Commissioner Darling suggested Commissioners receive information distributed at the December workshop for P.A. 232 commodity board members which provides insight into the Commission's and MDA's responsibilities. He commended Jody Pollok, Katherine Fedder, and the others for providing this outstanding program. Tom Pierson's (from MSU) speech on the future of the food service and food delivery systems was excellent.

He also attended the Governor's reception and MFB Annual Meeting. Concern was expressed on how to get DNR to move quicker on the deer management issue and whether DNR knows the actual deer population in Michigan.

During the annual meeting, MFB asked if MDA checks meters used at well sites by oil and gas companies. Mr. Wyant said MDA will begin checking these meters on January 30.

Commissioner Darling referred to a letter from Larry Leach, President, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (copy on file in Commission office), regarding the January 21-22, 1997, Pollution Prevention Conference to be hosted by MDA, MFB, MSU, and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at MSU. An educational meeting will be held January 31 at 1:00

p.m. at Kellogg Center regarding purchase of development rights with the lien funds (joint program sponsored by MDA and DNR) and a meeting regarding possible changes in the Subdivision Control Act and their impact on agriculture and land use will be held in Monroe on February 24.

Commissioner Veliquette commended Commissioners Crumbaugh and Tatter for their six years of service to MCA. He hopes the tour through Simplot, which was cancelled due to inclement weather, can be rescheduled.

He reported a number of people involved in fruit and vegetable industries expressed regrets to him that they could not attend the commodity executives' workshop because there were too many meetings scheduled at about the same time; e.g. MFB Annual Meeting and Mega-Conference.

He commended MDA on its swift and decisive action regarding the recent feed contamination incident and apple cider safety issue. The only information he received on these issues was distributed by MDA..

Commissioner Veliquette attended the initial meeting of the board administering the new Tart Cherry Federal Market Order. Thirty-four of the 35 members and alternates were present; there is much concern and interest in this. USDA did well in planning the agenda; officers and committees were identified and numerous policy statements were made. The next meeting will be in February. The Market Order provides that the cherry supply may be regulated and money may be collected for promotion, research, and market development. Promotional activities will not begin the first year. Several states have existing promotional programs. Assessment was set at \$5 per ton. This, in addition to two assessments already in place, brings the total checkoff to about a penny per pound. He was impressed with the attentive work ethic that permeated the group, the understanding of what needs to be done, and how to do it.

Commissioner Crumbaugh added his congratulations and appreciation to MDA staff who worked on the feed contamination incident.

This year individual sugar beet growers agreed to not sign acreage contracts until their bargaining committee reached agreement with Monitor on price and terms. Contract was issued and growers benefited from the effort. The sugar company will share some of the costs for trucking from out-stations. Another piling ground will be established in Edenville. He believes there will be more out-stations in the future. Monitor is installing a new dry-wash system which will reduce handling and costs as well as protect the environment.

He also attended and enjoyed the Governor's reception and the MDA employees' holiday event.

Responding to a question about sugar beet contracts with Canadian growers for Michigan processing plants, Commissioner Crumbaugh reported beets did come from Canada but he did not know if the practice will continue. In 1996 Monitor Sugar had fewer acres under contract and not all acreage was planted. This, combined with low yields, resulted in Monitor receiving about half the usual crop for processing. He believes more beets will be planted in 1997 because other commodity prices are not pressuring producers to switch crops.

ELECTION OF 1997 OFFICERS:

MOTION:

Commissioner Tatter moved that 1997 MCA officers be:

Norman R. Veliquette, Chairperson
Douglas E. Darling, Vice Chairperson
David Crumbaugh, Secretary

(Seconded)

Vice Chairperson Veliquette ruled and there was consensus to delay voting on the motion until January 17 when Commissioner Skogman would be present.

INTRODUCTION:

Director Wyant introduced John Kronemeyer, a former member of MCA and a member of the U.P. State Fair Board.

ADJOURNMENT AND CALL TO ORDER:

No one wished to speak to the Commission; therefore, Vice Chairperson Veliquette adjourned the first session of the January meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Chairperson Skogman called the second session to order at 8:37 a.m., January 17, 1997.

Commissioners Present:

Shirley A. Skogman, Chairperson
Norman R. Veliquette, Vice Chairperson
Douglas E. Darling, Secretary
Jordan B. Tatter
David Crumbaugh

MDA Staff Present (during portions of day):

Dan Wyant, Director
Keith E. Creagh, Deputy Director
Ernest Abel, Acting Director, Food Division
Dr. H. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian
Dr. Debbi Donch, Animal Industry Division
Katherine Fedder, Director, Market Development Division
Dr. Larry Granger, Animal Industry Division
David Pike, Director, Financial Services Division
Wayne Whitman, Right to Farm Program, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division
Dr. Dan Wilson, Animal Industry Division

Legal Counsel:

Jann Ryan Baugh, Assistant Attorney General

Others Present (during portions of the day):

Sue Bila, Michigan Festivals and Events Association (MFEA)
Jeff and Brenda Bristle, Manchester Community Fair
Billy and Carolyn Crego, Michigan Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show (MGLIDHS)
Dan and Jean Creyts, MGLIDHS
Brad Deacon, Governor's Office
Scott Everett, Associate Legislative Counsel, MFB Public Affairs Division
Steve Gazdag, Kalamazoo County Fair
Barbara Heyboer, Michigan Horse Council
Raymond and Thelma Jacobs, Corunna
Ron Nelson, MFB
Janet and Bob Perry, Sanilac County 4-H Fair
Tom Prusakiewicz, Gaylord
Hugh Smith, MFEA
Connie Valliere, Midland

1997 COMMISSION MCA OFFICERS:

Chairperson Skogman called up the motion addressing the election of officers.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Skogman relinquished the chair to Chairperson Veliquette at 8:40 a.m. The Commissioners extended their thanks to Commissioner Skogman for her excellent leadership during the past year.

Commissioner Skogman presented Commissioner Darling with a gift from the Commission for the Darling's new son.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL:

Director Wyant presented Commissioner Skogman with an engraved gavel in recognition of her year of outstanding service to the Commission, MDA, and the agricultural industry.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Attachment B is the written Director's Report.

Legislative Report. The Director reported Vicki Pontz-Teachout is recuperating from surgery and is anticipated to return to work in February. Ms. Pontz-Teachout has been coordinating a review of agriculture-related laws to identify those that are inconsistent, obsolete, or not uniform. The Drain Code will be a legislative priority this year.

The Director and Ms. Pontz-Teachout will schedule meetings with the new members and leadership of the Legislature. House committees have not been appointed. The House Fiscal Agent handling MDA's budget is Craig Thiel who was with EPA and has background in pesticide programs.

Director Wyant reviewed the 1996 MDA Legislative Accomplishments report (Attachment C).

MDA Reorganization. Eighty-five MDA employees qualify for the special retirement program. The Director appointed a nine-member committee chaired by Keith Creagh to develop recommendations to reorganize MDA. Division directors will be briefed on the committee's recommendations on January 24. The Director will meet with the impacted divisions on January 27 and 28, and an all-employee meeting will be held January 30.

Federal Issues. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Response: Commissioner Tatter complimented the Director on the detailed analysis and explanation of MDA's position in this matter. A copy of Director Wyant's letter to USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service is on file in the Commission office.

Clean Air Act: On January 15 Robert Craig was to provide testimony to the US-EPA regarding impact on agriculture of federal rule changes to the Clean Air Act; however, Mr. Craig, Russell Harding (DEQ), and representatives of Michigan Department of Transportation (M-DOT) and the Governor's Office were unable to travel to Chicago due to inclement weather. Mr. Harding's testimony was relayed in time to be read into the record for that hearing. Mr. Craig's testimony was mailed (copy included in Attachment B). As the rules move through the process, Mr. Craig, Dr. Charles Cabbage, and Ms. Sandra Hill will review the impact of changes and report to the Commission and Governor's Office.

Director's Activities. Mr. Wyant reviewed his activities during the past month (list included in Attachment B). Regarding the Kellogg Food Nutrition and Research Institute meeting, Kellogg built a new research and development facility in Battle Creek to consolidate research and development from around the world into one facility. Kellogg intends to develop a system where products will be run through a miniproduction process and finished products will be shipped to foreign countries for test marketing. Building construction has been completed and an application submitted to USDA to import grain. USDA has not approved the application as it has concerns about pest control because of the volume of grain to be shipped in for research and its inability to monitor this in Battle Creek.

Mr. Wyant has met with Kellogg leadership and once MDA can accept the program/system proposed, it will serve as a liaison to USDA to solicit EPA's approval of the proposed program.

Chlordane in Feed. MDA's response was exceptional, especially the cooperation and coordination among divisions. The Director commended MDA employees for their prompt response that kept this from becoming an issue in Michigan. Newspaper coverage was light; MDA did hold one TV interview on the issue. Followup will continue.

MDA Employee Meeting Comments. Report was distributed (copy on file in the Commission office) and Mr. Wyant reviewed responses to issues and comments from employees.

MDA 1996 Highlights Report to Governor Engler. Copies were distributed (Attachment D) and briefly reviewed. The Commission suggested some minor changes which will be made. As in 1996, MDA's annual report will be incorporated into the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Annual Report.

Upcoming Events.

- Employee Recognition Ceremony--January 23

- Governor's State of the State Message--January 28

Questions on Written Director's Report. Commissioner Tatter referenced the Animal Industry Division's report on TB in deer and noted that five counties are involved now. He asked if finding infected deer in Presque Isle County will require more tests on domestic animals. Since these deer were within a radius of less than the 19-mile migratory range of deer, it is not anticipated additional tests will be needed.

Commissioner Tatter asked for an explanation of the Somatic Cell Count Report attached to the Director's Report. There are no problems with the milk supply. MDA initiated the new policy to address FDA's requirements. Mr. Wyant met with the Independent Milk Producers Board and the industry is supportive of the new policy. Commissioner Tatter asked who is on the Exclusion Review Committee and what is its authority. Commissioner Darling asked how many producers will be affected by the policy and if these are primarily Grade B producers. This information will be sent to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Skogman asked about the Deer Herd Management Issues meeting. Mr. Wyant reported Vicki Pontz-Teachout represents MDA on the committee and during her absence Ron Spenski and Commissioner Tatter attended the first meeting. A brief review of Commissioner Tatter's earlier comments was provided.

Commissioner Crumbaugh asked the Director if he maintains communication with grassroots agriculture. Mr. Wyant said he spends approximately two days each week out of the office primarily listening to people. He believes there will be a major new initiative introduced in the near future addressing agriculture education, leadership development, and agriculture in the classroom.

Commissioner Crumbaugh asked if MDA has made efforts to curb local zoning ordinances against animal industry development. Mr. Wyant reported Dr. David Skjaerlund is MDA's lead on this; MDA, MFB, and MSU meet regularly on the issue. MSU provided technical assistance to develop model zoning ordinances, MFB is taking the lead to communicate these to local communities, and MDA is providing leadership to change current laws or policies as needed. He pointed out this is a concern as local governments are zoning agriculture out of business. Commissioner Darling suggested including the Michigan Township Association in developing model ordinances.

FOOD DIVISION:

FDA Juice Safety Meeting. Ernest Abel and Gerald Wojtala attended the US-FDA meeting on apple cider held December 16, 1996. Mr. Abel distributed and reviewed information related to the meeting. Attachment E includes an outline of his comments to the Commission, summary of the meeting on fresh juice safety, and the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) report. The AFDO report encompasses problems with fresh or minimally processed agricultural products, risk, how to communicate risk, and how to deal with risk (AFDO's policy for handling fresh apple cider). Other information regarding the meeting and the membership list of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods--Fresh Produce Subcommittee are on file in the MCA office.

RECESS AND RECONVENE:

Chairperson Veliquette recessed the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened it at 11:03 a.m.

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION:

Right to Farm. Report on Complaints related to Procedures for Care of Farm Animals (Attachment F): Report summarizes the 11 complaints received and investigations conducted during past calendar year related to care of farm animals. Dr. Chaddock reviewed the report. Seven of the 11 complaints have been closed or referred to other agencies; monitoring continues on four. Most complaints were for alleged improper amount of feed; one was for animals roaming and two related to lack of shelter.

Annual Review of Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Care of Farm Animals. Wayne Whitman reported Dr. Margaret Benson, MSU, will reconvene the task force to review the practices. Little criticism or comments on the practices have been received. Major change will be the addition of a section to address ratites (ostriches, emus, and rheas, etc.). Proposed changes will be presented to the Commission for review and approval.

Commissioner Tatter suggested the Task Force be asked to review the shelter portion of the practices. He is concerned that practices not be made excessively restrictive by requiring barns.

Northeastern Michigan Surveillance Activities for Bovine TB in Livestock and Free-Ranging Deer Populations. Copies of the January 1997 report (Attachment G) were distributed. Information for report is provided by DNR, MSU, USDA, MDA, and the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Dr. Chaddock reviewed information regarding testing of livestock in the four-county area; no domestic animals have TB. Three captive deer herds in the area are being monitored; there is no activity reported in these herds. If a deer is shot or dies, tissues will be tested. The department's short-term goals and activities are listed on page two of Attachment G. A statewide committee was created to provide input and advice in the development of a procedure to respond to recommendations in the USDA risk assessment.

During the 1996 hunting season, 3,665 deer from the four-county area were examined; two were designated suspects and 48 positive. DNR also checked other animals susceptible to *M. Bovis* (coyote, red fox, opossum, raccoon, badger, and bobcat) and TB was not found in these. Deer that tested positive were from the area where the four counties meet with the exception of one deer in Presque Isle County.

Two deer in northern Montmorency County and one in Presque Isle County were found positive for TB. Deer were approximately 15-19 miles from the concentration of infected deer in the DNR Deer Management Unit #452.

To date more than 3,000 head of livestock have been tested in the area where there has been a concentration of deer with TB and the disease has not been found in these domestic animals. Until data and risk assessment are thoroughly reviewed and proposals developed and submitted to the Director, there are no plans to test livestock in a five-mile radius of the three

deer found in northern Montmorency and Presque Isle counties. An active surveillance program is in place as all cattle slaughtered at a USDA plant are examined for TB.

Chairperson Veliquette complimented Dr. Chaddock on the report. DNR provided the maps and Dr. Debbi Donch develops this report.

Commissioner Tatter noted that during the recent deer management issues meeting, Michigan State Police indicated it could not provide specific locations of deer-vehicle accidents but had only the county where accident occurred. He asked the Director to raise this at the next Cabinet meeting as specific accident site information would be helpful to DNR.

MGLIDHS

Dan Creyts and Bill Crego distributed copies of the October 10-13, 1996, MGLIDHS program (copy on file in the Commission office) and 1997 calendars.

Mr. Creyts expressed his appreciation for the fine relationship that exists among his organization, MDA, and MCA. At the 1996 show there were 214 exhibitors from 26 states and two provinces of Canada; a total of 735 head of horses and mules were shown. This is the largest heavy horse show in North America. Michigan exhibitors did well--two were judged supreme champions and there were numerous other awards and championships.

Some drug problems were experienced in 1995. MGLIDHS worked with MDA to improve the drug testing procedure. There were two cases this year, both involved out-of-state horses. Everything went well in gathering and testing samples, communicating with owners, and enforcing the state's and Michigan Dynamometer Association's rules and regulations.

Mr. Creyts announced the 1997 show will be held at the new animal pavilion at MSU. Primary reason for the move is attendance has decreased over the years due to location of the fairgrounds (Detroit) even though the fairgrounds facility has been greatly improved. This was a business decision as this show's market and audience is not in Detroit.

Mr. Creyts emphasized the need for this show to continue receiving the state grant. Corporate sponsorships have been sought; however, it is difficult to get these for livestock shows and events that are not on national television. He requested MDA's and MCA's support to secure the grant for the future.

MGLIDHS has agreed to purchase additional partitions for the MSU pavilion which will double its capacity for horses. MSU is working to make this a great event. Efforts are being made to involve students through the university judging teams and horse program. MGLIDHS will compensate these programs in exchange for the students' help.

Mr. Creyts invited the MCA to hold its October meeting in conjunction with the MGLIDHS (October 16-19).

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: (Continued)

Commissioner Skogman attended a potato seed seminar in California in December. Seminar was excellent and she met many interesting growers including some from Russia.

She was a delegate to the MFB convention in mid-December. Convention was very good and issues discussed are important to agriculture in Michigan.

The potato market is sluggish; nothing is moving. Skogmans anticipate their virus-free test results to be back from Florida within a week and hope they will begin shipping potatoes soon after that.

Agriculture (cattle, dairy, potatoes and hay) in the U.P. is depressing at this time. Last year was difficult for farmers and there is little enthusiasm now. She is looking forward to spring, a better year with better financial conditions.

An area, family-owned, potato packing business will close this spring partially due to financial problems that prevent it from getting a dealer's license. This is the only packaging dealer in the area which means growers will have to use Wisconsin or Lower Peninsula brokers. This will make it more difficult to market fresh U.P. potatoes.

Winter has been good for those enjoying snowmobiling. Recent rains created a crust on the snow so deer are having difficulty moving about and this has led to a massive feeding program which defeats nature's control of deer populations. There are many car-vehicle accidents which are exacerbated by feeding. At a recent meeting, she learned if drivers involved in deer-vehicle accidents can prove a property owner is feeding deer near a major highway, the driver may sue that person for vehicle damage.

RECESS AND RECONVENE:

Chairperson Veliquette recessed the meeting at 11:57 a.m. and reconvened it at 1:35 p.m.

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION:

Pseudorabies Eradication Program. Drs. Larry Granger and Dan Wilson had distributed graphs indicating progress of the pseudorabies eradication program (copies on file in the Commission office).

Dr. Granger reviewed the program which began late in 1989. Presently there are 76 herds under quarantine; 50 of these continue to have infected animals. MDA would like all herds to test negative by the end of 1997 or no later than April 1998. If this is achieved, Michigan can move into Phase IV (less than one percent incidence) of the pseudorabies program. After two years in Phase IV, Michigan can move into Phase V (final phase) and be recognized by other states as free of pseudorabies.

Dr. Wilson reviewed the "Pseudorabies Virus Eradication Update" (Attachment H). MDA and the Pseudorabies Advisory Committee developed a program with incentive to roll over the remaining positive sows at a rapid rate (Rapid Rollover Program [RRP]) to eliminate the threat of reinfection. If initiated and disease is eliminated, producers will experience considerable savings due to increased litter size and health, weight gain, and elimination of vaccination costs. Also, this will effect a savings for the department. A surveillance program will continue after eradication, but this is considerably less costly than the eradication process.

No new money is requested for RRP. Funding has been set aside in the Animal Industry Division budget plus some funding in the pseudorabies and eradication control fund established

by the 1992 law may be used.

Director Wyant supports the proposed RRP.

MOTION:

Commissioner Tatter moved that to accelerate the state's efforts to eradicate pseudorabies in swine in Michigan, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture authorizes the Michigan Department of Agriculture to implement the following Rapid Rollover Pseudorabies Eradication Program (RRP).

1. Any person¹ or owner of infected breeding swine in any quarantined herd may submit an application to the Michigan Department of Agriculture to participate in the RRP. Application shall be on a form prescribed by the director².
2. Persons that do not apply to participate in the RRP by June 1, 1997, will be required to come before the Technical Advisory Committee prior to August 1, 1997, to receive technical assistance in meeting herd plan end dates and avoid forced depopulation of the entire herd.
3. Any person applying to participate in the RRP must agree to eliminate infected breeding swine after weaning litters consistent with the concept of rapid rollover of the breeding herd.
4. Breeding swine¹ owned by the person submitting such application must be prevalence tested by official pseudorabies test² prior to application approval.
5. The director shall approve such application prior to participation in the RRP.
6. Participation in the program will be limited to one time only for each person making application as owner of any infected quarantined herd.
7. Thirty percent (30%) of the total breeding swine in a quarantined herd will be eligible for a \$35 per head incentive payment up to a maximum of 200 animals. Only infected breeding swine six months of age or older are eligible for the RRP incentive payment.
8. Any person approved for participation in the RRP will receive payment only upon release of quarantine(s) from all swine herds under such person's control or management.
9. The RRP will be implemented immediately and end September 30, 1997, or sooner if funds are exhausted. Application must be made by August 30, 1997.
10. No RRP incentive payment will be made to persons who do not qualify their herds for quarantine release by September 30, 1997.

¹As defined in Animal Industry Act, P.A. 466 of 1988, as amended.

²As defined in Pseudorabies and Swine Brucellosis Control and Eradication Act, P.A. 239 of 1992.

Additionally, implementation of this program will result in savings of approximately \$1.5 million to Michigan Department of Agriculture and several million dollars in improved revenues for the

hog industry.

(Seconded) Motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE COMMENDATION:

Director Wyant acknowledged Dr. Debbi Donch who had joined the meeting and expressed to her the Commission's compliments on the excellent reports she prepared on TB in deer.

FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION:

Commission Budget. Attachment I is the MCA Fiscal Year (FY) 1996- 97 Appropriation Status Report as of December 31, 1996. David Pike reviewed the report. Commission expenditures are somewhat higher at the end of the first quarter than in the two previous years.

MDA Budget. Mr. Pike reported MDA was the first department to close its books at the end of FY 1995-96. General fund lapse (budgeted funds not spent) was \$295,000.

Nothing unusual is happening in the current year's budget. Focus within Finance Division is to help divisions better manage through better financial reporting. Better reports are being developed to help with this process. It is anticipated the Governor will introduce the Executive Budget early in February. If available, it will be shared with the Commissioners at their next meeting.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA:

There was consensus to amend the agenda and discuss Mr. Creyts's invitation and consider the Commission Excellence Awards.

MEETING DATE CHANGE:

Regarding the invitation to hold the October Commission meeting in conjunction with the Michigan Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show, three Commissioners have commitments for October 16-19; therefore, the meeting dates will not be changed. Regrets will be sent to Mr. Creyts.

EXCELLENCE AWARDS:

MOTION:

Commissioner Darling moved that Ivan L. Bradley and Jeffrey E. Friedle, P.E., be awarded Commission Excellence Awards (Attachment J) in recognition of their outstanding service to MDA. (Seconded)

Motion carried unanimously.

Awards will be presented during the MDA Recognition Ceremony on January 23, 1997.

LAND USE:

Subdivision Control Act, S.B. 112. Scott Everett distributed a copy of a newspaper report (copy on file in Commission office) about three farms listed on the National Historic Register

which may be affected by the proposed beltway route (US 31) near Petoskey. Article conveys the issues facing farmland owners and preservation of farmland.

Mr. Everett reviewed the positive and negative aspects of S.B. 112 (Attachment K) specifically those related to land exempt from the platting process. MFB's recommendation for a reasonable and balanced land division policy for this state is included in the attachment. MFB believes if S.B. 112 becomes law, problems will be experienced in 10 or more years and changes will be difficult to make at that time.

Mr. Everett responded to questions regarding depth-to-width ratio and the ten-year time period prior to additional parcel divisions.

S.B. 112 is on the Governor's desk for signature. In its present form, MFB would like the Governor to veto it. MFB recognizes changes are needed in the act, but believes the approach to change must be balanced and reasonable.

Connie Valliere requested to speak on S.B. 112 and said bill is the result of a two-year effort to rewrite the Subdivision Control Act. Bill passed the Senate and the House of Representatives either unanimously or with a wide margin. She believes MCA needs to recognize S.B. 112 had much support. Bill provides incentives to preserve farmland and there are significant other issues to be considered. She believes it is unfortunate that efforts are being made to prevent enactment.

Steve Gazdag asked to comment on S.B. 112. As a member of a planning commission for 18 years, he has concern about future splits that essentially result in platting farmland without going through the platting process and the resulting developmental price outstripping the amount a farmer could afford to pay for land. He was encouraged by the reduction in parcel size, but he has concern about lack of controls and removal of local government from the development process.

MFEA:

Sue Bila and Hugh Smith distributed copies of the "F.B.I. Report" and a brochure about MFEA's April 18-19, 1997 Spring Seminar (copies on file in the Commission office). Ms. Bila reported the 1997 MFEA grant has been signed and in process. Forty-thousand dollars of the \$50,000 grant will be used for the association's brochure, \$5,000 will be used for an ad on two-to four-billion state maps. MFEA will coordinate a Welcomefest Weekend at Clare (May 29-30 and June 1). Approximately 30,000 people visit the Clare Welcome Center on Memorial Day Weekend.

Ms. Bila attended a meeting on January 15 at which Travel Michigan (formerly Michigan Travel Bureau) was formally moved to the Michigan Jobs Commission (MJC). Richard Czuba is the director of Travel Michigan.

She reported the Ernst & Young study indicates Michigan's Welcome Centers are the most viable place to initiate tourism and generate welcome to visitors to this state.

MFEA is expanding its partnerships with M-DOT, DNR, and MJC, as well as MDA. Membership increased by 100 to 650 since last year. There are more than 1,500 festivals and events in the

state. As soon as all festival/event dates are released, information will be on the Worldwide Web Site for MDA and Century Telephone as well as "Ring on Line."

Ms. Bila displayed a mockup of the new brochure which has been greatly expanded for 1997. Seventy percent of Michigan festivals are agriculture related. Partners have made significant contributions providing finances needed in addition to the grant for printing 700,000 brochures.

Ms. Bila extended an invitation to the Commission to hold its November meeting in conjunction with the November 6-9 Fifth Annual MFEA Convention in Kalamazoo.

Director Wyant commended the efforts made by Ms. Bila and MFEA to showcase Michigan agriculture. MDA will continue its partnership with MFEA and expand efforts to include agricultural tourism, farm markets, U-Pick operations, bed-and-breakfast facilities, etc. as means to reinforce the rural experience. Michigan has great opportunity in this area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Brad Deacon distributed copies of the Governor's press release regarding the NAFTA Decision on Canadian Imports of U.S. Dairy and Other Agriculture Products (Attachment L).

In response to a question about a tariff being levied under NAFTA, Mr. Deacon explained this action was taken prior to Canada's signing NAFTA and the ruling was on technicality of action, not what was fair. The tariff will be in place until 2008.

DEER ISSUE:

Mr. Everett was asked to comment on the January 7 deer issue identification and prioritization session. Approximately 50 people were present and represented sportsmen's organizations, Sierra Club, and forestry and agricultural interests in addition to DNR staff. He, too, was frustrated with the prioritization of issues because agriculture has great concerns (crop damage and TB) in addition to deer-vehicle accidents, and these were not ranked as top priorities.

MFB desires to work with DNR to implement an aggressive policy to decrease the deer herd. MFB is also interested in accountability--if farmers are doing things that are appropriate and within reason to manage overpopulation, where does accountability lie?

Responding to a question about MFB's support of elevated deer hunting stands being allowed during firearms season, Mr. Everett reported this is a measure to increase the take of deer and for hunter safety (downward trajectory is less dangerous). Commissioner Tatter expressed his opinion that more hunters may be injured by falls from elevated stands than from gunfire.

ADJOURNMENT:

No one wished to speak to the Commission at this time; therefore, Chairperson Veliquette adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m. Commissioner Skogman participated in MAFE Convention activities during the afternoon and on January 18 and represented the Commission at the MAFE Banquet.

I, David Crumbaugh, Secretary of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, do hereby certify that I have read the minutes of the January 16-17, 1997, Annual Meeting of the Commission of

Agriculture and they are a true and accurate description of the proceedings thereof.

David Crumbaugh, Secretary

I, Daniel J. Wyant, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, do hereby certify that I have read the minutes of the January 16-17, 1997, Annual Meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and they are a true and accurate description of the proceedings thereof.

Daniel J. Wyant, Director

| [Back](#) |