

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
Lansing Center
Governor's Room
333 E. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48933

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2007

PRESENT:

James Byrum, Chair, Commission of Agriculture
Dale Norton, Vice Chair, Commission of Agriculture
Ann Jousma-Miller, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture
Don Coe, Commission of Agriculture
Todd Regis, Commission of Agriculture
Phyllis Mellon, Acting Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Byrum called the Special Meeting of the Commission of Agriculture to order at 10:01 a.m. on Monday, August 13, 2007. Commissioner Jousma-Miller called the roll with Commissioners Byrum, Norton, Jousma-Miller, Coe, Regis and Acting Director Phyllis Mellon present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Byrum requested an amendment to the agenda. One of the interviewees, Alex Stemme, withdrew from consideration. Therefore, only two candidates remained: Jamie Clover Adams and Donald Koivisto.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO APPROVE THE
AUGUST 13, 2007 AGENDA AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER NORTON. MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS

Commissioner Byrum noted a resolution before the Commission to recognize Joseph Minier upon his retirement from the Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division after 34 years.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED THAT THE
RESOLUTION FOR JOSEPH MINIER BE ADOPTED WITH BEST
WISHES FOR A LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT.
COMMISSIONER REGIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Jousma-Miller recommended a resolution be passed recognizing the first Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) certified farm in the Upper Peninsula. If approved, a presentation will be made to Rob and Leigh Getzloff of Getz-Milk Dairy at the Upper Peninsula State Fair Governor's Luncheon.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED THAT THE RESOLUTION FOR GETZ-MILK DAIRY BE ADOPTED. COMMISSIONER REGIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None noted.

REVIEW OF PROCESS FOR CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS FOR DIRECTOR OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commissioner Byrum reviewed the procedure for the interviews using questions that had been previously circulated to the Commission members. All members received resume packets for each candidate. He briefly reviewed the process used to determine qualified candidates.

The Commissioners asked questions of each applicant in the same rotational order.

Commissioner Byrum noted that it was anticipated a decision on the selection of a candidate would take place later in the day.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

The following candidates were interviewed with a brief recess between the two candidates:

10:05 a.m. Jamie Clover Adams
10:55 a.m. Donald Koivisto

RECESS:

The meeting was recessed at 11:30 a.m. for a five minute break then recessed for lunch.

RECONVENE:

The meeting was reconvened at 12:33 p.m.

Commissioner Byrum stated the purpose of the afternoon was the consideration of the candidates for the director's position. He asked the Commissioners for their comments on the candidates.

Commissioner Norton stated that he appreciated the quality of the candidates and the thoroughness of their applications. He thought each handled the tough questions that were put to them. He noted that based on his background work and the interviews held, he felt Jamie Clover Adams would be his choice for the position because of her experience in Kansas and depth of agricultural background.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller agreed that both candidates were excellent and that the questions are not easy to answer. She stated that her choice for the position would be Don Koivisto, based on personal knowledge of Mr. Koivisto's management style, working relationships with legislators and individuals.

Commissioner Coe stated that we are fortunate in the State of Michigan that there two very qualified candidates come forward for the position. He felt that both candidates have strong points. He noted that Ms. Clover Adams could bring a lot to the position with her previous experience in Kansas. However, having listened to both candidates, he was persuaded for the need of someone to work effectively with the Governor's Cabinet for the remaining term and be able to work effectively immediately within that cabinet. He stated that he would therefore select Mr. Koivisto.

Commissioner Regis noted that seven people applied and the Commissioner appreciated each person's effort to fill this important position. He felt it important that the person selected have the experience, knowledge and ability to be a strong advocate for agriculture. He stated that after reading the background on both candidates and listening to their interviews, both candidates were qualified in many ways. He also felt that based on the need for someone to advocate for agriculture, and the need for someone to be able to step in immediately, be able to walk into the Executive Office, walk both the halls of the Senate and House and work immediate with all partners, he leaned toward Don Koivisto as his selection.

Commissioner Byrum stated that the process was open and transparent. All applicants were viable and legitimate candidates. Any state could be proud to have both candidates interviewed being considered for this role. Both have great experience, though different. Ms. Clover Adams has the experience of being a director of agriculture in Kansas and Mr. Koivisto has the legislative experience and has relationships built across lines. It is very important that the director of the Department of Agriculture be able to advocate for the industry in the Governor's office immediately. There are

major issues facing agriculture that will require instant credibility. Those issues moved his judgment toward Mr. Koivisto.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED THAT A UNANIMOUS BALLOT BE CAST FOR DONALD KOIVISTO AS THE NEXT DIRECTOR OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. COMMISSIONER JOUSMA-MILLER SECONDED. VOTING YES: COMMISSIONER NORTON, COMMISSIONER COE, COMMISSIONER REGIS, COMMISSIONER BYRUM AND COMMISSIONER JOUSMA-MILLER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Byrum thanked all who had applied, especially Ms. Clover Adams.

Commissioner Byrum noted that he would be meeting with Mr. Koivisto soon to determine a start date.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER REGIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Attachments:

A – Agenda

B – Resolutions: Joseph S. Minier (retirement), Rob and Leigh Getzloff (first MAEAP Certification in the Upper Peninsula)

C – Interview Packet (Interview Questions, Unclassified Position Description, Competencies of Applicants for Director of the Department, Director Interview Process, Application from Donald Koivisto, Application from Jamie Clover Adams, Application from Alex Stemme)