

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
MSU Pavilion
Classroom C & D
4301 Farm Lane
East Lansing, MI 48823**

**MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2007**

PRESENT:

James Byrum, Chairperson
Dale Norton, Vice Chairperson
Ann Jousma-Miller, Secretary (via teleconference)
Don Coe, Commission of Agriculture
Todd Regis, Commission of Agriculture
Mitch Irwin, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Byrum called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture to order at 9:42 a.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2007. Commissioner Jousma-Miller called the roll with Commissioners Byrum, Norton, Coe, Regis, Jousma-Miller (via teleconference) and Director Irwin present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Byrum proposed adding a separate agenda item related to specific language that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) suggested for each of the Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices (GAAMPs).

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED APPROVAL OF THE
JUNE 12, 2007 AGENDA WITH THE NOTED MODIFICATION.
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NORTON. MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF APRIL 12, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL
12, 2007 MEETING MINUTES AND APRIL 12, 2007 JOINT MEETING
MINUTES WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION (NRC).
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NORTON. MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Irwin discussed a technical correction to the Joint Meeting Minutes pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order. The issue was in regard to the Feral Swine Resolution that was voted on at the Joint Meeting. The original minutes reflected an abstention from the vote by Commissioner Coe; however, the record should reflect that the motion was carried with Commissioner Coe not voting as the abstention was not noted prior to the vote.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON REQUESTED THE MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 12, 2007 MEETING MINUTES BE RECONSIDERED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER REGIS. MOTION PASSED

Commissioner Byrum noted the proposed change in the April 12, 2007 Joint Meeting Minutes with the Michigan Commission of Agriculture (MDA) and the Natural Resources Commission. A discussion ensued with it being noted in the future, a Commissioner must abstain verbally on the record to be recorded. The proposed change indicated in the vote on the Feral Swine Resolution that Commissioner Coe would be noted as not voting.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER REGIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 12, 2007 MEETING MINUTES AND APRIL 12, 2007 JOINT MEETING MINUTES WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION WITH THE NOTED CHANGE ON THE FERAL SWINE RESOLUTION VOTE INDICATING THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER COE NOT VOTING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NORTON. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held July 17, 2007 in East Lansing.

COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL

June 11, 2007, Senators Stabenow and Harkin's Farm Bill session in Detroit - Commissioner Coe

June 12-13, 2007, Michigan Farm Market and Agriculture Tourism Association, Great Lakes Agriculture Tourism Experience, Benton Harbor – Commissioner Coe

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER REGIS. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Coe commented on the great weather in northern Michigan and that the fruit industry is in good shape. He noted interviews he participated in with Michigan Farm Radio on May 3 concerning agriculture tourism and agriculture jobs and an interview with Interlochen Public Radio Points North on the same issues. On May 18 he joined a task force conducting interviews for the Leelanau County Extension Agent and that has been successfully concluded. May 24 he attended a program at the Leelanau County Extension Office of a state coalition of state fruit and vegetable growers to educate the public on the

necessity of an ag jobs bill and stable work force. He also attended an Ag Alliance meeting in Traverse City. The Ag Alliance is a group of non-government agencies that have formed a working group to work on ag jobs related issues.

Commissioner Coe is working with the National Cherry Festival organizing committee on a proposal to Traverse City to incorporate a cherry and grape museum and heritage center into the former zoo property on the Traverse City waterfront.

He also attended a meeting with Dr. Steve Halstead and state veterinarians on June 5 to learn more about the feral swine issue.

On June 19-20, he will be in the Upper Peninsula (UP) with the Michigan State University (MSU) Experiment Station Council meeting.

Commissioner Regis commented that he has spent the month of May becoming oriented with MDA and met with division directors and representatives from Agriculture Statistics. He participated in a farm tour in Jackson County hosted by the Michigan Farm Bureau. He attended a lunch hosted by the Jackson Farm Bureau and Rep. Griffin. He has also met with all members of the Senate Agriculture Committee and the House Agriculture Committee Chair. Commissioner Regis also attended the Food Bank Hunger Conference.

He has also met with representatives from the Michigan Grocer's Association, Meijer, and Kroger.

Commissioner Norton noted that he attended the retirement party for Keith Creagh on April 18. He was pleased to attend and appreciated being able to hear how well respected Keith is in the industry and in the Lansing community.

He attended a meeting in Washington, DC on June 1 relative to how the pork industry will handle the announcement by Smithfield that they are phasing out gestation stalls and how the industry will respond. He noted that the Humane Society of the United States has threatened to introduce legislation that would ban sow housing stalls. The National Pork Producers Council wants to have an alternative form of legislation ready or have significant defense capabilities to defend that.

He traveled to the World Pork Expo in Des Moines, Iowa on June 6-7. There was a sow housing forum at that meeting that looked at the issue and potential alternatives. It was extremely well attended.

He attended Dr. Hawkins retirement party (from MSU). He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Hawkins for his years of service to the livestock industry and MSU.

Crops in the Bronson area are particularly good. There has been adequate rain fall. The week ahead is to be dry, a good time to make hay; there may be a shortage of hay. Alfalfa took a hit with the cold snap in May. Tomatoes, green beans and corn are right on schedule.

Commissioner Norton noted over the next two months he will be attending meetings in St. Louis, San Antonio and Dallas related to the pork industry.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller noted it is a busy time in the UP and the weather has been beautiful. Agriculturally, everything is moving forward and on schedule.

She thanked Director Irwin for responding to the reindeer issue with a letter to the constituent. She is concerned about other letters that were received over the last month regarding feral swine. She noted that had she been in attendance at the joint MDA-NRC meeting last month, she would have voted no on the feral swine resolution.

Agriculture tourism is on the rise. She noted the attention from the article that appeared in the Townships Association magazine and that she attended a township meeting as part of their roundtable discussion on economic development and agriculture forestry. She received tremendous comments on the article.

She briefly commented about sustainable agriculture. They have a farm locally where 20 people have paid for their vegetables and home grown items the farm can provide and the farm is sustaining 20 families.

A new winery has opened in the UP, the first that produces the grapes and cherries on-site.

The incubator kitchen is moving forward with the assistance of MSU and the UP State Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Byrum noted he has been traveling, South Africa, Europe and Mexico.

At the meeting with Senators Stabenow and Harkin, he had the opportunity to discuss releasing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land when it is not highly erodeable land and not environmentally sensitive. Sen. Harkin agreed it was a reasonable thing to consider. They also discussed some type of country

of origin labeling and the opposition to monetizing food aid. There is an interest group that wants to give money out of the federal treasury to people and let them buy locally, rather than give commodities to meet food aid demand. For example, rather than shipping navy beans from the United States, buy Ethiopian navy beans in Africa and ship them to the Sudanese. Some groups support this change and some oppose.

He attended the Detroit Chamber of Commerce Conference on Mackinac Island and heard a lot about renewable fuels. The Michigan Agri-Business Association, commodity groups, Michigan Farm Bureau, Greenstone Farm Credit and others are stepping up to help fund some of the statistics programs that had the potential of being lost, at least for one year, due to budget reductions.

Crops across the state currently look great. Markets will be moving aggressively. We have the potential of a great year with a couple of more timely rains.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Irwin gave a brief update on the current budget situation. He noted that MDA is continuing to present information to the appropriate legislative committees at every opportunity.

He noted that MDA has been consistently asked to be a part of the ongoing Melamine investigation Rapid Response Teams through inspections and laboratory work.

He highlighted several items from the May and June Director's Reports including: Great feedback from the well-written Michigan Township Association Journal article by Jeanne Lipe; an increase of Michigan companies at the Food Marketing Institute Show in Chicago thanks to Jamie Zmitko-Summers; MAEAP Annual Report and its importance; Farm Produce Insurance Authority payments supporting grain producers due to dealer failure; two Michigan cheese manufacturers were honored at the US Cheese Championships; Eastern Market (Detroit) changes and renovations; industry partnerships for Michigan Agriculture Statistics; Welcome Centers using Michigan wine industry video ads at no charge; Farmland Preservation participant extensions and 100 percent increase in new applications; and rapid response activities related to food safety and melamine.

He noted work with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) on the viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) program and how it will affect the aquaculture industry.

A resolution was received by the Muskegon community requesting a phosphorus pre-emption. The resolution was sent back for further work.

A Plum Pox quarantine has been issued.

He thanked Commissioner Coe for being the official liaison for MDA with the Governor's office for the National Governor's Association conference on July 20-22, 2007. MDA will be leading the effort on a Taste of Michigan luncheon for news media attending. He also thanked Governor Granholm for her support in showcasing Michigan products.

The Renewable Fuels Commission will be issuing its report in the next few weeks. It is important to note that have been inundated with calls for requests for participation and are working within the budget constraints to identify a staff person to work full time on energy, biofuels and bioproducts.

He noted recent Executive Orders and Directives affecting travel and expenses.

He commented briefly on the meeting with Senator Harkin and how important it was to have an opportunity to put forth key issues.

He noted meetings with commodity executives to discuss agriculture policy and reviewing priorities; potential expansion at Packerland; Migrant Labor Housing Interagency Workgroup to promote additional opportunities for housing, cooperation and coordinating inspections; and recognition of employee appreciation week.

He congratulated Tonia Ritter who has been appointed as Manager of State Governmental Affairs for Michigan Farm Bureau, replacing the retiring Ron Nelson.

Commissioner Byrum noted an announcement for another ethanol plant to be built in Niles, Michigan.

Commissioner Norton noted that the livestock industry continues to be quite concerned about feed costs especially relative to corn. There is considerable movement within the livestock industry to try and get some form of assistance, whether it is the release of additional CRP acreage or removal of the subsidy that goes along with refining.

DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL

- No new out of state travel planned.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridget Leach, a farmer from Kalamazoo County and representing Michigan Farm Bureau District 1 (Cass, VanBuren, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo and Berrien

Counties) provided the following comments: Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the annual review process of the GAAMPs. As producers, we don't often take the time to express our appreciation for the work that has been done in order to bring us to this point in time, where Michigan's Right to Farm Act and the associated GAAMPs undoubtedly position Michigan as a leader in not only creating a place where agricultural producers have a better climate in which to do business than is typical in other states. And because the system is voluntary, afford farmers real opportunities to not only meet but exceed standards, to implement practices that actually evoke change and have positive environmental impact versus a bureaucratic system of permits and punitive enforcement actions so typically seen in other states. This system, our system, is proven to make very real environmental improvements.

The review process currently being conducted is a critical component in the continuing effectiveness of the process, and the importance of meaningful input from producers cannot be overlooked. Farmers are most directly impacted by these GAAMPs and their real work experience with the GAAMPs is invaluable. The April-May timing of the review process fails to recognize what most of Michigan's farmers are focused upon during the months of April and May. Winter months would likely be a more effective time to gather input from farmers, growers and producers.

To continue to be effective, GAAMPs must remain science based, voluntary and consistent. Any confusion between the voluntary nature of GAAMPs and law should be avoided. Having said that, it is also imperative that Michigan's farmers have a legal and regulatory framework to function in that is clear, consistent, and not subject to political manipulation. A thriving business climate, which the economy of Michigan so desperately needs, must be stable, and is dependant upon clearly defined laws, regulations, and guidelines. This applies to agriculture just as it does manufacturing or any other segment of the states economy. Businesses, regardless of size and type, cannot be expected to make financial commitments when the regulatory "target" is moving. Right to Farm and GAAMPs have positively improved practices, yet Michigan's farmers are still puzzled as to when their operations are actually considered to be "in compliance" with applicable environmental laws. Support of legislation that would require the Department of Environmental Quality to develop and publish the requirements that operations must meet to be considered in compliance, would be a positive move. Production agriculture simply must have the means to know how to comply.

When I speak of consistency, I am also referring to the need for a producer in Climax Township in Kalamazoo County to abide by the same standards as any other farmer, in any other governmental jurisdiction in the state. Allowing local

units of government to preempt statewide standards certainly does not contribute to a stable, consistent climate for businesses to function within.

The evolution of GAAMPs to include potted plants and greenhouse production is much appreciated.

Michigan's agricultural producers, by and large, want to, intend to and will practice in a manner that is consciously considerate, and protective, of the natural resources of the State of Michigan. Provide us with the tools...science based, consistent, and stable. We do recognize the value of the Right to Farm Act and GAAMPs, and support efforts to continue refinement and improvement of the standards.

Thank you.

Pat Albright, pork producer from Branch County and member of the Michigan Farm Bureau as a director at large, thanked the commission for their time for input about proposed changes and updates to the Michigan Right to Farm (RTF) Act and GAAMPs and offered the following comments: The Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices are a valuable tool that farmers such as myself use to gain the confidence of consumers, neighbors and local officials, that the practices that we use on our farms are environmentally and socially acceptable. They serve as a guide to farmers so that they can voluntarily earn and gain the protections afforded them by Michigan's Right to Farm Act. I feel that the GAAMPs have served farmers well, and it is important that they have input on their development and review. In order to get this input I think that we should look at a change in the time of year that this review takes place. April and May are extremely busy months on most farms, I think that an off season time (winter months) would be better.

Farmers have learned over the years since RTF began, that if they used the GAAMPs as a guide, they would not only protect them from nuisance suits, but would also help them become better stewards of the land and also better neighbors. I hope that we do not make any changes that would serve to confuse farmers about what protection the GAAMPs provide. We would not want to do anything that would confuse the voluntary provisions and thus rewards of RTF with compliance with federal, state, or local laws. I would suggest that all the legal references be added as an appendix to the document and not a part of the voluntary incentive driven program. I also think that this would be a great point to use in encouraging the commission to support current proposed legislation that would provide for the publication of a document that explains all of the existing statutes and regulations.

As a livestock producer who operates a facility in a somewhat populated area, I have been able to use the RTF GAAMPs to gain the confidence that I am doing the right thing. After going through two unfounded and baseless RTF complaints on my farm, I have the confidence in my actions that the GAAMPs provide. Those incidents have proven to me the need and importance of the GAAMPs, but also the need to make sure that the practices that are discussed keep pace with new technology. Changes such as the use of vegetative filters, clarification of the term incorporation, the flexibility in soil testing frequency, and new storage systems reflect this attempt to keep up with current technology. Again I would like to thank the Commission for this time and your attention to these very important items.

FINAL DRAFT GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs): Gordon Wenk, Director, Environmental Stewardship Division; Wayne Whitman, Right to Farm Program Manager, Environmental Stewardship; and Professor Bill Bickert, Site Selection & Manure Task Force Chair; Professor Lee Jacobs, Nutrient Utilization Task Force Chair:

Mr. Wenk introduced Mr. Whitman, Professor Bickert and Professor Jacobs. He noted that there has been an ongoing conversation regarding change the time period for the GAAMPs review moving it to a time so it would be completed prior to the beginning of the calendar year to allow for good public comments, participation and time for the task forces to do the work. He praised the contribution of the GAMMPs committees and the contribution of MSU staff. He noted that Dr. Larry Olson, Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control was in attendance, but would not be speaking as there were no changes in that GAAMP.

Mr. Wenk noted the language that MDEQ has recommended be added to the preface for each GAAMPs. This recommendation came from the Agriculture Environment Committee, a joint committee between MDA and MDEQ developed through the current Memorandum of Understanding between the two departments. The language was sent to the GAAMPs task forces. There was not unanimous acceptance by the GAAMPs task forces.

Mr. Whitman discussed the annual review process of the GAAMPs, the public input process and directed attention to the summary memo that had been previously been sent to the Commissioners. He briefly discussed the MOU and answered questions regarding the make up of the task forces and how information is communicated among the groups and organizations represented on the task forces.

Dr. Bickert reviewed the changes in the Manure Management and Utilization and the Site Selection and Odor Control for new and Expanding Livestock Facilities GAAMPs.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MANURE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION GAMMPs WITH PROPOSED CHANGES. COMMISSIONER NORTON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dr. Bickert reviewed the proposed changes to the Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities GAAMPs. He noted a checklist that has been developed to help throughout the verification process. He also noted a request from Senator Cameron Brown that all new manure structures be subject to Site GAAMPs verification. The request was received late in the process and will be on the agenda for next year's review. MDA staff will correspond with Senator Brown regarding the referral.

A citizen from Ferndale submitted a lengthy comment asking that the separation distances for 1,000 animal units or more be increased. This was also referred to the review committee for next year. Commissioner Coe concurred with that recommendation.

Commissioner Norton commented about work being done in Iowa.

Dr. Bickert introduced Dr. Wendy Powers who will be assuming the duties of chair for both the Manure Management and Site Selection Task Forces due to Dr. Bickert's retirement. Dr. Powers came to MSU from Iowa State University.

In response to a question from Commissioner Coe, Dr. Bickert commented that the annual reviews are statutorily required.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE SITE SELECTION AND ODOR CONTROL FOR NEW AND EXPANDING LIVESTOCK FACILITIES GAMMPs WITH PROPOSED CHANGES. COMMISSIONER REGIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Byrum thanked Dr. Bickert for his work over the years for all of the agriculture industry.

Dr. Jacobs reviewed the proposed changes in the Nutrient Utilization GAAMPs.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER REGIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE NUTRIENT UTILIZATION GAMMPs WITH PROPOSED CHANGES. COMMISSIONER NORTON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There were no proposed changes to the Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control GAAMPs.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PESTICIDE UTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL GAMMPs WITHOUT CHANGES. COMMISSIONER REGIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Wenk reviewed the proposed changes to the Care of Farm Animals GAAMPs.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE CARE OF FARM ANIMALS GAMMPs WITH PROPOSED CHANGES. COMMISSIONER COE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Wenk reviewed the proposed changes to the Cranberry Production GAAMPs.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER REGIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CRANBERRY PRODUCTION GAMMPs WITH PROPOSED CHANGES. COMMISSIONER NORTON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Wenk reviewed the proposed changes to the Irrigation Water Use GAAMPs.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO APPROVE THE IRRIGATION WATER USE GAMMPs WITH PROPOSED CHANGES. COMMISSIONER NORTON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Byrum noted that the following language was proposed by the joint MDA/MDEQ Agriculture Environment Committee to be added to the preface of each GAAMPs: "A determination of conformance with GAAMPs is not a determination of compliance with applicable federal, state, regional and local environmental statutes, regulations or orders." There was not support from the Commission to add the language to each GAAMPs.

BODIES OF DEAD ANIMALS ACT, PUBLIC HEARING RESULTS: Kevin Kirk, Animal Industry Division

Mr. Kirk reviewed the results of the public hearing held April 10, 2007 to receive comment on the proposed rule changes to the Bodies of Dead Animals Act. There were seven comments received in favor of the proposed changes from agriculture industry organization and one written comment received in opposition to the proposed changes from the Sierra Club Mackinac (Michigan) Chapter.

In general, the livestock industry supports the proposed changes. There was concern about the 20,000 pound limit for composting on bare ground as being too restrictive for many operations. However, this limit was reached based on current understanding of scientific research. If it can be proven that different ratios can protect the environment, MDA would initiate action to amend the rule.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO CONTINUE WITH THE RULE MAKING PROCESS FOR THE BODIES OF DEAD ANIMALS ACT. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COE. MOTION CARRIED.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Liesl Eichler-Clark, Legislative Liaison

Ms. Clark updated the Commissioners on recent legislative activity. There has not been much movement on agriculture policy given the recent budget activities. The House has continued with informational committee meetings, along with resolutions. The Senate has met about the MAEAP legislation. They have also spent some time talking about horses and horse racing. The House and Senate each passed a resolution for June 2007 Michigan Horse Racing Month.

The five sunset bills should be moving soon. They equal about a half million dollars for MDA.

She briefly discussed the 2007 budget bills and related cuts.

The legislature is primarily occupied with the replacement business tax.

The federal Farm Bill mark-up continues. They are through most of the titles.

Ms. Clark agreed the conversation with Senators Harkin and Stabenow was a good policy discussion.

She distributed a Congressional Research Service report on the Country-of-Origin Labeling for Foods issue.

Director Irwin thanked the members of the Commission for their help with local legislators with legislation.

There was a brief discussion about the replacement business tax and how it might affect the farm community.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) TUBERCULOSIS (TB) PROGRAM REVIEW – UPDATE: Dr. Steven Halstead, State Veterinarian and Director, Animal Industry Division; Dr. Nancy Frank, Deputy Director, Animal Industry Division

Director Irwin noted that over \$50 million has been spent on the TB problem in Michigan. Good foundations have been laid; there has been positive progress and some set backs.

The USDA team came to Michigan and reviewed progress in March 2006 and produced a report that was previously distributed to the Commission.

Director Irwin commented that MDA takes the report very seriously and is working toward resolution of those issues. A new project manager has been appointed and MDA will be going back to the federal legislature for support.

Dr. Halstead commented that staff is striving to make Michigan a model for the rest of the United States. He noted the discovery of TB in other states and those states are now looking at Michigan's program to apply in their states.

USDA has made it clear that Michigan must be treated the same as foreign trading partners.

Dr. Halstead reviewed the report and noted several tasks to be completed including the current Memorandum of Understanding with USDA. He commented on several issues including communications.

Dr. Halstead introduced Dr. John Tilden who will be managing the response to the USDA review and the large scale project to have the program in place, meet deadlines and make sure there is no fault at the MDA level. The expectation is that there will be no option for failure. Dr. Tilden has experience in project management and setting up workable structures.

In response to a question from Commissioner Norton, Dr. Halstead noted that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has significant responsibilities related to the wildlife component. They are also included in the MOU.

Commissioner Coe commented that in federal reports, he finds it objectionable that they note the few times when something was not in compliance, but not the greater number of times when things were in compliance. He encouraged staff to relay to the federal inspectors that when they document issues and problems, they also need to document successes that have been achieved. He noted that it is demoralizing for those trying to deal with the issues when there is no recognition for the work being done.

Director Irwin agreed and noted that all parties have responsibilities. Dr. Tilden will be working to document communications issues and other issues with partners. Many staff members are being pulled together to address these issues. There will be a weekly update report from Dr. Tilden.

Commissioner Byrum asked that the Commissioners be kept up-to-date on any deadlines, receive a copy of the MOU and the weekly update.

Director Irwin apologized on behalf of Dr. Halstead and Dr. Frank for information provided to Commissioner Jousma-Miller and other Commissioners related to the animal tagging by a cervid operator in the UP. Dr. Halstead noted they are working with the operator to get an acceptable plan in place and are working on changes to the program that will satisfy the reindeer farmers.

Dr. Halstead distributed the Spring 2007 issue of the Bovine Tuberculosis Michigan Update.

COMMISSIONERS' ISSUES

Commission Resolution – Eugene Kenyon Retirement
Commission Resolution – Neil Nitschka Retirement
Commission Resolution – Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau
Commission Resolution – June 2007 Michigan Horse Racing Month

MOTION: COMMISSIONER NORTON MOVED THAT THE RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS FOR EUGENE KENYON, NEIL NITSCHKA AND RON NELSON AND THE RESOLUTION FOR JUNE 2007 MICHIGAN HORSE RACING MONTH BE ADOPTED. COMMISSIONER COE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Director Irwin invited Commissioners to the Exporter of the Year Award ceremony being given to the Cooperative Elevator Company of Pigeon, Michigan at the Ag Club Breakfast, the largest east of the Mississippi and only woman-managed cooperative. The Governor will also be making a presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

E.J. Brown, Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions, noted that the first two fairs of the season are coming up in Croswell (the first harness racing fair) and the Marion fair. There are six in June then go full swing into July and August. Mr. Brown invited all the Commissioners to visit fairs across the state including the Michigan State Fair and the UP State Fair.

Tonia Ritter, Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB), noted that MFB is very engaged with Bovine TB issues. MFB is very appreciative of the good work that MDA has

done toward eradicating Bovine TB over the past 10 years and appreciate the partnership with MDA. They are very concerned about the recent outcome of the TB program review. The issues must be resolved. The industry in the state cannot afford to backslide relative to TB status. This must be done diligently and in a cooperative spirit. MFB appreciates the efforts of MDA to get industry involved in the discussions and looks forward to working with MDA to maintain TB status and work toward advancing Michigan's status.

ADJOURN

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER JOUSMA-MILLER MOVED TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER COE SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Attachments:

- A – Agenda
- B – Agriculture Commission Meeting Minutes April 12, 2007 and Joint Agriculture Commission and Natural Resources Commission Meeting Minutes April 12, 2007.
- C – May Director's Report and June Director's Report
- D – Public Comment – written comment from Bridgett Leach and written comment from Pat Albright
- E – Memo dated June 4, 2007 from Gordon Wenk regarding the annual review of Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices (GAAMPs); Public Input Meeting Report; memo dated May 25, 2007 from Wayne Whitman regarding a summary of significant proposed changes to the 2007 Right to Farm (RTF) GAAMPs; copies of each RTF GAAMPs.
- F – Agency Report to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules – Bodies of Dead Animals Act
- G – Legislative Status June 2007; Report #97-508 Country-of-Origin Labeling for Foods
- H – USDA Tuberculosis Program Review for March 12-16, 2007; Bovine Tuberculosis Michigan Update Spring 2007
- I – Resolutions
 - Retirement Resolution for Eugene Kenyon
 - Retirement Resolution for Neil Nitschka
 - Retirement Resolution for Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau
 - June 2007 Michigan Horse Racing Month