

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE  
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: The first meeting of the January 12-13, 1989, session of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture was called to order by Chairman George A. McManus, Jr., at 3:58 p.m. The meeting was held in the Thornapple Room of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Pearl at Monroe Street, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

MICHIGAN  
ASSOCIATION  
OF FAIRS &  
EXHIBITIONS  
(MAFE):

Mr. Floyd Laudenslager, president of MAFE, welcomed the Commissioners of Agriculture to the convention and introduced the the members of the MAFE board who were present. Mr. Laudenslager also announced that Pat Rumery had accepted a position with the states of Florida and South Carolina and was leaving MAFE. Mr. John Baldy will be nominated for executive secretary of the association during the convention.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman McManus thanked the MAFE board for the invitation to participate in the convention.

Mr. Rumery expressed his appreciation for the fine associations he has had with the Commission and the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).

ROLL CALL:

**Commissioners Present:**

George A. McManus, Jr., Chairperson  
Elwood Kirkpatrick, Vice Chairperson  
Vernon L. Kretzschmer, Secretary  
Dr. S. Leon Whitney  
Rita M. Reid

**MDA Staff Present** (during portions of the afternoon):

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, Director  
Dr. Burton D. Cardwell, Chief Deputy Director  
Ralph Kirch  
James Manning  
S. M. Tomaszewski  
Jean Valley

Others Present (during portions of the afternoon):  
Dan Creyts, Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show  
Caroline Davis, Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show  
Jeanne Hawley, Michigan Farm Unity Coalition  
Howard Wetters, Governor's Office  
Mary Tomaszewski  
See Attachment A for listing of members of the Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions attending Commission meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
MOTION:

Commissioner Kirkpatrick moved that the minutes of the December 9-10, 1988, session of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture be approved. (Seconded) Motion carried.

ELECTION OF 1989 OFFICERS:

Commission officers elected for 1989 are:

Secretary: Dr. S. Leon Whitney was nominated for secretary.  
MOTION: Commissioner Reid moved that nominations be closed and an unanimous ballot be cast for Dr. Whitney. (Seconded) Motion carried.

Vice Chairperson: Vernon L. Kretzschmer was nominated for vice chairperson.  
MOTION: Dr. S. Leon Whitney moved that the nominations be closed and an unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Kretzschmer. (Seconded) Motion carried.

Chairperson: Elwood Kirkpatrick was nominated for chairperson.  
MOTION: Commissioner Reid moved that nominations be closed and an unanimous ballot be cast for Commissioner Kirkpatrick. (Seconded) Motion carried.

Commissioner McManus relinquished the chair to Chairman Kirkpatrick.

Recognition of Past President. Director Kindinger, on behalf of the Commissioners and MDA staff, presented Commissioner McManus with a gavel in appreciation and recognition of his service as the 1988 Commission Chairperson.

Commissioner McManus expressed his thanks to the Director and Commissioners for their cooperation and assistance during the past year.

PUBLIC  
APPEARANCES:

**Dan Creyts, Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show.** Mr. Creyts's summary report of the 1988 Michigan-Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show is attached (Attachment B). A copy of the 1988 program for the show is on file in the Commission office.

The show was held at the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit on October 13-16, 1988, and was the largest ever held in the United States and Canada. Owners of the 936 horses in the show were from 18 states and Canada. Judges came from the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

The quality of the horses participating in the show has improved over the years and the show now attracts the very best heavy horses. Premium funding problems of previous years have been resolved. The major problem experienced this year was the lack of stable space (only 740 stalls are available at the fairgrounds). The show committee will work with the department, the State Fairgrounds Board and others to explore ways to alleviate the stabling problem.

The stabling problem is critical because the show is growing and there are a number of other horse groups that would like to hold shows at the Michigan State Fairgrounds or become part of this show; e.g., International Shire Horse Show, the mule organization, and others.

Mr. Creyts invited the Commissioners and staff to attend the 1989 show.

MISCELLANEOUS: **Invitation to Commissioners and Director.** In order to accept an invitation to the North American Strawberry Growers Association banquet on February 14, 1989 (at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids), the Commission meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 14.

MOTION: **Director's Out-of-state Travel Expenses:** Commissioner Whitney moved that out-of-state travel expenses be approved for Director Paul E. Kindinger to participate in the following:

- March 5-8, 1989--NASDA Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C.;
- March 19-21, 1989--Futures Team 2020 Meeting in Washington, D. C.; and
- April 20-21, 1989--U.S.-Canadian Accord Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia.

(Seconded) **Motion carried.**

**MOTION:**

**Commissioners' Per Diem and Travel Expenses:**

Commissioner Reid moved that per diem and travel expenses be approved for the following:

- George A. McManus--Speech at Michigan Raw Products Conference, Lansing--January 9, 1989;
- Elwood Kirkpatrick and George A. McManus, Jr.--"Farmer MAC" Meeting, Lansing--January 12, 1989;
- Rita M. Reid--Speech at Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Meeting at Iron Mountain--January 28, 1989;
- All Commissioners--Governor's Conference on Agriculture, Lansing--February 5-7, 1989; and
- Elwood Kirkpatrick--Futures Team 2020 Meeting, Washington, D. C., March 19-21, 1989.

(Seconded) **Motion carried.**

**MOTION:**

**Commission Resolutions.** Commissioner Whitney moved that resolutions be prepared honoring the following employees upon their retirement from the Department of Agriculture:

- Virginia A. Thorpe, Laboratory Division
- Douglas S. Turini, Animal Industry Division

(Seconded) **Motion carried.**

**PROGRAM  
REPORTS:**

**Financial Services Division.** Commission Budget: S. M. Tomaszewski distributed copies of the Commission of Agriculture's Expenditure Status Report dated December 31, 1988; see Attachment C. There were no questions on the report; therefore, it was received for the file.

MDA Budget: Mr. Tomaszewski reported that the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) is preparing the budget and DMB staff have met with the Governor; to date no final decisions have been announced.

As requested MDA made a 12.5 percent reduction in its proposed general fund budget; however, reductions were not made in the horse race revenue programs in order that requirements of the racing law could be met. The MDA budget is about .4 of 1 percent of the entire state budget.

Mr. Tomaszewski reported DMB has indicated it will add \$750,000 to the department's budget for the groundwater protection program (a study of the effects of agricultural chemicals on groundwater).

The Director emphasized the importance of developing guidelines for groundwater protection, irrigation, chemigation, pesticides, animal welfare, and agricultural labor using a process similar to that used to develop the animal waste guidelines; that is, having a group of industry leaders request that Michigan State University gather the research and scientific data and provide MDA a report that can be developed into guidelines which will be incorporated into the right to farm law.

Dr. Kindinger also reported that Consumers Power Company is providing some finances for irrigation systems. He suggested the president of Consumers Power be invited to speak to the Commission on Consumers Power programs related to agriculture.

Miscellaneous: Mr. Tomaszewski reported that construction of facilities at the new racetrack in Muskegon will be completed and racing will begin on May 25. Also, reports indicate that handles, state revenues, and attendance were down for Standardbred racing for all Michigan tracks except Jackson during 1988. Thoroughbred racing is not experiencing the same losses.

Copies of the 1989 Racing Schedule were distributed (see Attachment D).

RECESS:

Chairman Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.; session to be reconvened at 10:00 a.m., January 13, 1989.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kirkpatrick called the second meeting of the January session of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture to order at 10:07 a.m. and asked Secretary Kretzschmer to call roll.

Commissioners Present:

George A. McManus, Jr., Chairperson  
 Elwood Kirkpatrick, Vice Chairperson  
 Vernon L. Kretzschmer, Secretary  
 Dr. S. Leon Whitney  
 Rita M. Reid

MDA Staff Present (during portions of the afternoon):

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, Director  
 Dr. Burton D. Cardwell, Chief Deputy Director  
 Ralph Kirch  
 James Manning  
 Richard Ostrander  
 S. M. Tomaszewski  
 Sandra L. Young  
 Jean Valley

Others Present (during portions of the afternoon):

Raymond L. Errer, Errer Farms  
 Jeanne Hawley, Michigan Farm Unity Coalition  
 Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau  
 Emily J. Schmidt  
 Howard Wetters, Governor's Office  
 See Attachment A for listing of members of the Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions attending Commission meeting.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Director's Report: Dr. Kindinger referred the Commissioners to the Director's Report and provided additional information on some items within the report. There were no questions on the Director's Report; therefore, it was received for filing and a copy is attached (Attachment E).

Chairperson Kirkpatrick commended the MDA Dairy Products Division on its development of a program for proper storage of medicine and drugs on grade A dairy farms. This Michigan program has served as a model for other states.

Commissioner McManus asked the Director to comment on the MDA's proposed groundwater testing program for agricultural pesticides. Dr. Kindinger reported that this pilot project is a cooperative effort among the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Public Health and

MDA. The intent is to verify what is happening to agricultural chemicals.

Commissioner Kretzschmer asked for an update on the Tobe Strong confined-hog operation. The Director has not received any further information from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The director will check with DNR on this matter and report to the Commission at a later date.

**Correspondence:** Dr. Kindinger reviewed correspondence received and copies are on file in the Commission office.

**Report on Asian Trip:** Purposes of the trip were (1) to promote exports of Michigan products; (2) recruit buyers for the NASDA Food Show in Boston in May 1989; (3) visit the U.S. Products Show in Taipei (25 Michigan companies participated in this show); and (4) attend the biennial economic summit between Taiwan and the United States. A major topic of the economic summit was the formation of an alliance between the United States and Pacific-rim countries similar to the EEC alliance. This could lead to a free-trade agreement among these countries.

It is anticipated that about 465 U.S. companies will be exhibiting products at the NASDA Food Show to be held in Boston, approximately 60 nations will participate; and about 2,500 foreign buyers will attend. It is predicted that \$15-20 million worth of products will be sold off the floor during the show.

There is a tremendous demand for U.S. products in the Pacific-rim countries. Quality and price are key factors. The supermarket concept is exploding in that part of the world and it provides tremendous opportunities for Michigan agriculture. There is interest in some of Michigan's unique commodities such as cherries, blueberries and dry beans. If Michigan is to compete with the western states, it must find methods to reduce transportation costs.

One way to reduce transportation costs may be through the Michigan Export Development Authority negotiating with freight forwarders for more favorable rates. Also, the state's new export trading company may be helpful in negotiating freight rates for a group of exporters.

Consolidated shipments of smaller orders from Michigan and the availability of private warehousing overseas may be helpful in making our products more competitive pricewise.

RIGHT TO FARM  
GUIDELINES--  
VIDEO:

The Commissioners viewed a video program developed to inform the public about the content, pros, cons, and liabilities addressed in the guidelines for generally accepted and recommended good livestock waste management practices adopted by the Commission in June 1988. This video was prepared by the Committee on Animal Agriculture, Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Also a brochure is being prepared for use in conjunction with the video program. A draft of the brochure was distributed to the Commissioners and is on file.

The video is not intended to interpret or present the guidelines in detail. Questions regarding interpretation should be directed to the county Cooperative Extension Agents.

The Commissioners requested that the title of the guidelines be discussed further to assure that it reflects the permanency of the guidelines.

The Commissioners complimented the Animal Agriculture Committee, the University and the department on the excellent video.

RIGHT TO FARM  
GUIDELINES  
MOTION:

Commissioner Reid moved that Michigan State University be requested to compile and submit to the Commission of Agriculture available information on research and statistics for (a) water usage, (b) animal welfare, (c) agricultural labor, and (d) pesticides. Further, this information is for the Commission's use in developing right to farm guidelines. (Seconded)  
**Motion carried.**

LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT:

**Year-end Review of Legislation Enacted during the 84th Session of the Michigan Legislature.** Copies of the Legislative Report had been distributed (see Attachment F). Mr. Manning reviewed the report emphasizing legislation having the greatest impact on the department and agriculture industry. The report was received for the file.



Chairman Kirkpatrick asked if HB 4909 (recommended uniform state seed law) affected our certified seed process. Mr. Manning said HB 4909 does not change the state's certified seed regulation.

The Director reported that Larry Copeland from Michigan State University has been asked to convene a group to review Michigan's seed industry, the seed law and related factors, and to make recommendations to the department on the state's certification process.

RECESS AND  
RECONVENE:

Chairman Kirkpatrick recessed the meeting at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
(Continued):

Commissioner McManus referred to SB 534 on the Legislative report and the requirement that the Commission annually review the right to farm guidelines. Further, Commissioner McManus asked the Commission secretary to place this matter on the agenda for consideration at each June Commission meeting.

**Commission Policies.** Copies of the updated and revised Commission policies were distributed to the Commissioners for review and comment. The policies have been reviewed by the Director. Mr. Manning suggested that after the Commissioners have opportunity to review, modify, and ratify the new policies, the old policies be repealed and an explanation entered into the new policies detailing the procedure and reason for repealing the old and adopting new policies. In addition, it was suggested that the policies be reviewed and updated biennially.

The Commissioners will review the policies and be prepared to take action on them at the February Commission meeting.

**Miscellaneous:** Mr. Manning announced the new Legislative Session will begin February 4 and that Representative Lewis Dodak is the Speaker of the House.

RIGHT TO FARM  
GUIDELINES  
(Continued):

Commissioner McManus moved that the word, interim, be deleted from the title of the guidelines for generally accepted and recommended good livestock waste management practices and future publications refer to the guidelines as the Michigan Commission of Agriculture's Right to Farm Guidelines for Animal Waste. (Seconded) **Motion carried.**

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture will be held February 14-15, 1989, in the MDA Hearing Room, North Ottawa Building, Lansing, Michigan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Whitney moved that the Commission meet in Executive Session. (Seconded) Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.