

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The first meeting of the June 6-7, 1989, session of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture was called to order by Chairperson Elwood Kirkpatrick at 4:15 p.m. The meeting was held in the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Hearing Room, North Ottawa Building, Lansing, Michigan. The Chairperson asked Commissioner McManus to call roll.

Commissioners Present

Elwood Kirkpatrick, Chairperson
Vernon L. Kretzschmer, Vice Chairperson
George McManus

Commissioners Absent

Dr. S. Leon Whitney, Secretary
Rita M. Reid

A quorum was present to do business.

MDA Staff Present (during portions of the afternoon):

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, Director
Dr. Burton D. Cardwell, Chief Deputy Director
Margaret Cooke
James Manning
Vincent Parris
Dr. David Wade
Jean Valley

Others Present during portions of the afternoon):

Jann Ryan Baugh, Attorney General's Office
Carol Linteau, Governor's Office
April Clark, Department of Management and Budget
Patrick Driscoll, Michigan Farm Radio Network
Al Miller, Gongwer News
Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau
David Weinstock, Michigan Farmer
Howard Wetters, Governor's Office

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:

Commissioner Kretzschmer moved that the minutes of the May 10-11, 1989, session of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture be approved. (Seconded)
Motion carried.

RESIGNATION
OF DIRECTOR:

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger officially notified the Commission of Agriculture that he was resigning his position as Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture on or about mid-July

1989, to accept a position with the United States Department of Agriculture. The date of the resignation will be determined by mutual agreement among the Director, the Commission of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

MOTION: Commissioner McManus moved that the Commission accept, with regrets, the resignation of Dr. Paul E. Kindinger from his position as Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture on a date to be mutually agreed upon by the Director, the Commission and USDA. (Seconded) **Motion carried.**

Chairperson Kirkpatrick, speaking on behalf of the Commission, expressed appreciation to Director Kindinger for the excellent job he has done over the years and the direction he has provided to the department and the industry. Chairperson Kirkpatrick also expressed the Commission's best wishes to Dr. Kindinger in his new position.

A press release announcing the Director's resignation will be issued by the Commission on June 7.

PUBLIC
APPEARANCES:

Carol Linteau, Governor's Advisor for Environmental Issues: Ms. Linteau was recently appointed to the Governor's staff to replace David Dempsey and J. D. Snyder. She will advise the Governor on environmental issues and environmental health policy and legislation. In addition to his agriculture assignments for the Governor, Howard Wetters will be assigned responsibility for issues related to forest management, hunting and fishing, and nongame wildlife.

In areas where there is overlap, Mr. Wetters and Ms. Linteau will share responsibilities. However, Ms. Linteau will be the Governor's lead staff person for pesticide management, food safety issues and nonpoint source pollution programs; and Mr. Wetters will serve as the lead staff person for issues pertaining farmland and open space preservation.

Ms. Linteau reviewed her objectives and goals, briefed the Commissioners on current programs, and offered her assistance to the Commission.

Chairman Kirkpatrick expressed appreciation to Ms. Linteau for appearing before the Commission and

expressed the Commission's hope and desire that the Commission and Governor's office can work together for solutions to problems of concern that will not be detrimental to production agriculture.

Howard Wetters, Governor's Advisor for Agriculture Issues: Mr. Wetters expressed the Governor's and his personal congratulations to the Director upon his new appointment.

Mr. Wetters updated the Commission on the status of the legislation dealing with the Michigan Premium Program. A committee hearing on the bill is pending and it is hopeful that it will be through the Legislature prior to the end of session.

Regarding the Food Safety Program, efforts are continuing to obtain the funds needed to implement the program.

MISCELLANEOUS: Retirement Resolutions:

MOTION:

Commissioner Kretzschmer moved that resolutions be prepared honoring the following employees upon their retirement from the Michigan Department of Agriculture:

- Edward M. Glista, Dairy Products Division
- Clarence R. Valencourt, Laboratory Division

(Seconded) Motion carried.

Resolution Honoring USDA Poultry Research Laboratory:

MOTION:

Commissioner McManus moved that the following resolution honoring the USDA Poultry Research Laboratory on its 50th anniversary be adopted:

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture commends the United States Department of Agriculture's Regional Poultry Research Laboratory in East Lansing for its fifty years of dedicated service to the Michigan poultry industry.

The Regional Poultry Research Laboratory was dedicated on August 8, 1939, and research began immediately to develop scientific ways to reduce the high death rate of poultry from fowl paralysis, big liver disease, and gray eye--a group of diseases that eventually became known as avian leukosis complex.

Over the years the Regional Poultry Research Laboratory has received international recognition for its work in identifying a cancer-causing virus and for developing the first cancer vaccine, the vaccine which prevents Marek's disease in poultry.

In recent years the laboratory has designed a method for controlling lymphoid leukosis, created the first genetically engineered chickens which are resistant to avian leukosis virus, and isolated the endogenous virus associated with the sex-linked, slow-feathering gene of White Leghorns.

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Agriculture commend the Regional Poultry Research Laboratory for its outstanding scientific accomplishments which have directly benefited the Michigan poultry industry and the people of this state. Further, the Commission and the Department extend their heartiest congratulations to the Regional Poultry Research Laboratory on its fiftieth anniversary and wish it continued success in the future.

(Seconded) Motion carried.

Commissioners' Per Diem and Travel Expenses:

MOTION: Commissioner McManus moved that per diem and travel expenses be approved for Commissioner Rita M. Reid to participate in the June 6, 1989, meeting of Upper Peninsula leaders to review a recently completed analysis of the Upper Peninsula's economy. (Seconded) Motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Kretzschmer moved that per diem and travel expenses be approved for Commissioner Elwood Kirkpatrick to participate in the Futures Team 2020 meeting to be held June 26-27, 1989, in Traverse City, Michigan. (Seconded) Motion carried.

1990 NASDA
MEETING IN
MICHIGAN:

Commissioner McManus asked the Director if the Michigan Department of Agriculture will be hosting the 1990 NASDA meeting due to his resignation. The Director said the matter has been discussed with J. B. Grant, Executive Director of NASDA, and it is not likely that MDA will host the NASDA meeting; however, we may still

host the U.S.-Canadian Accord meeting to be held in September on Mackinac Island. Mr. Grant will notify the department when a decision is made.

APPOINTMENT
OF ACTING
DIRECTOR:

MOTION:

Commissioner Kretzschmer moved that the Commission appoint Dr. Burton D. Cardwell acting director of the Department of Agriculture during Dr. Kindinger's interim absences and acting director upon Dr. Kindinger's departure. (Seconded) Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Kirkpatrick called the second meeting of the June session of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture to order at 9:11 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Elwood Kirkpatrick, Chairperson
Vernon L. Kretzschmer, Vice Chairperson
George A. McManus
Rita M. Reid

Commissioner Absent:

Dr. S. Leon Whitney

A quorum was present to do business

MDA Staff Present (during portions of the day):

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, Director
Dr. Burton D. Cardwell, Chief Deputy Director
Debbie Day
Christine Lietzau Vince Parris
James Manning Jean Valley

Others Present (during portions of the day):

Dr. James Anderson, Michigan State University
Dr. Jon Bartholic, Michigan State University
Jann Ryan Baugh, Attorney General's Office
James Byrum, Michigan Bean Commission
Patrick Casey, Governor's Office
April Clark, Michigan Department of Management
and Budget
Dr. Maynard Hogberg, Michigan State University
Charles Kline, Northern Michigan Fairs and
Racing Association
Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau
David Weinstock, Michigan Farmer
Howard Wetters, Governor's Office
Dan Wyant, Senator Nick Smith's Office
Virginia Zeeb, Senator Nick Smith's Office

CHANGE OF
MEETING DATES
FOR SEPTEMBER
MEETING:

MOTION:

Commissioner Reid moved that the dates of the September Commission of Agriculture meeting be changed to September 25 and 26, 1989. The Commission meeting will be held on Mackinac Island in conjunction with the U.S.-Canadian Accord meeting. (Seconded) Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE
REPORT:

Director's Report: Director Kindinger reviewed the June Director's Report (Attachment A) with the Commissioners. The report was received for the file.

The Director commended MDA staff on the exemplary manner in which it responded to the aflatoxin contamination problem.

Chairman Kirkpatrick asked if the department had Charm II testing equipment. Dr. Cardwell explained that money had been set aside to purchase the equipment; however, the purchase had not been made because USDA has not approved the test. It was agreed that the MDA Laboratory should have the Charm II equipment for evaluation purposes. Dr. Cardwell will authorize the release of funds to purchase the Charm II equipment.

Referring to the aflatoxin contamination problem, Chairman Kirkpatrick commended the MDA staff for its response in the field, its control and reaction to the problem, and the release of information to the media which together put the industry in a positive position and consequently avoided a negative impact on the dairy industry.

Commissioner McManus asked about USDA's research and development of a virus which genetically destroys the gypsy moth and requested staff to report on this at the next Commission meeting to be held in Lansing.

Correspondence: The Director reviewed correspondence received and copies are on file in the Commission office.

The Director called attention to a letter from NASDA, in which the directors of the departments of agriculture were requested to submit comments regarding global warming. The Director asked the Commissioners to submit to him their comments or suggestions relating to this issue.

Regarding a letter from the Governor notifying the department of the Executive Intern to be assigned to MDA, Dr. Cardwell said Cheryl Baur has been assigned to MDA for the summer and will be working with Dr. David Wade on the food safety program.

The Director complimented the Press and Public Affairs Division for the positive image it has created for the department through the excellent quality, design and tone of the MDA publications it prepares.

Dr. Kindinger commended the MDA staff for their hard work, their willingness to work beyond their job descriptions on numerous occasions, and their positive attitude. Dr. Kindinger encouraged the Commission to maintain the focus and leadership on the key issues discussed in recent months. He also thanked the Commissioners and MDA staff for their support over the years.

The Commissioners again expressed their regrets that the Director is leaving; however, they wished him much success.

LEGISLATIVE
REPORT:

Mr. Manning reviewed the Legislative Report (Attachment B) for the Commissioners.

Commission Policy on Employee Conduct and Discipline: Mr. Manning reviewed the policy. In addition to the image, type of employee, and goals an MDA employee should strive for and achieve, the policy authorizes the Director to establish a procedure for employee conduct and discipline within the department. The Director has instructed staff to develop an employee handbook including guidelines and procedures for employee conduct and discipline.

Copies of the employee handbook will be distributed to all employees. New employees will be provided a handbook at time of hiring and their agreement to comply with the policies and procedures will be a condition of employment.

MOTION:

Commissioner Kretzschmer moved that Commission Policy 9, Employee Conduct and Discipline, be adopted as presented. (Seconded) Motion carried.

Update of Fair Enhancement Funds: Mr. Manning reported that 68 fairs had submitted applications

for Phase I funds prior to the May 31 deadline. As of this date 59 proposals have been approved and one denied. Attachment B identifies the applicants.

As of June 6 approved applications under Phase I total approximately \$375,576; and the remaining Phase I funds will be carried over to Phase II of the project.

As of June 7, the Legislature had not clarified the language in the legislation covering the disbursement of the fair enhancement funds. It is possible the subcommittee may take action on it when it considers the MDA budget.

Michigan Premium Program: Amendatory language has been submitted to incorporate the new premium seal program into the 1961 Seal of Quality law. Efforts are being made to have this legislation enacted prior to close of session for the summer. The Director asked Mrs. Zeeb to relay to Senator Smith and other legislators his and MDA's offer to assist them in clarifying language or in any other way to expedite the enactment of the legislation.

House Bill 4725: Mrs. Zeeb asked if there were comments or questions regarding the legislation relating to the Bean Commission.

Mr. Manning said HB 4725 changes the districts for representation on the Bean Commission, adds members and authorizes the commission to seek approval from its membership to change the method for assessment from a fixed dollar rate to a percentage rate.

Because of problems encountered by other commodity groups with percentage assessments, the Director recommended the bill specify the percentage to be collected at the time of sale.

The Commission consensus was that it supported provisions in the bill to redistrict the state, increase the number of persons on the Bean Commission and allow the membership flexibility to determine the rate assessed as well as choose the type of assessment it desired. However, the Bean Commission was cautioned to consider the problems other commodity groups have encountered when assessments were made by percentage.

RECESS AND
RECONVENE:

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

PROGRAM
REPORTS:

Financial Services Division: Mrs. Debbie Day distributed copies of the Commission Appropriation Status Report as of May 31, 1989 (Attachment C). There were no questions regarding the report; therefore, it was received for the file.

MDA Budget: There was no information to report on the FY 1990 budget because the conference committee has not met.

Materials and information needed to begin the preparation of the fiscal year 1991 MDA budget have not been received from the Department of Management and Budget (DMB). To the extent possible without the DMB information, the department has begun to prepare the 1991 budget.

ALAR:

The Commission viewed a videotape of the May 14, 1989, 60-Minutes report on Alar.

RECESS AND
RECONVENE:

The meeting was recessed at 11:20 a.m. and was reconvened at 11:22 a.m.

PUBLIC
APPEARANCE:

Jim Byrum, Michigan Bean Commission. Mr. Byrum distributed copies of an analysis of HB 4725 (copy is on file in Commission office) which amends the Bean Commission Law.

Mr. Byrum said the Bean Commission did consider changing from a fixed rate to a percentage rate. However, as it has considered the problems encountered by other commodity groups, it was now reconsidering the change of method for assessments. The Bean Commission believes the program to be funded is far more important than the method. In recent years the commission has reduced its overall administrative expenses by 50 percent to address income shortfalls and to put money into programs.

The Bean Commission desires to have the legislation through the Legislature, signed by the Governor, and in place prior to harvest of the 1989 crop.

Mr. Byrum invited the Commissioners to visit a bean farm to view new varieties of off-ground beans.

RECESS AND
RECONVENE:

Chairperson Kirkpatrick recessed the meeting at 11:47 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

PUBLIC
APPEARANCES:

Dr. James Anderson, Dr. Jon Bartholic and Dr. Maynard Hogberg, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University:

Dr. Hogberg reviewed the animal waste management guidelines which were adopted a year ago. Dr. Bartholic reported on the university's activities regarding groundwater contamination and pesticides.

Dr. Anderson said sufficient data are available at the present time to prepare initial pesticide management guidelines. Dr. Bartholic said it may be possible to develop broad guidelines but insufficient data were available to prepare comprehensive guidelines for groundwater management. Referring to the groundwater and pesticide guidelines, Dr. Kindinger said it was appropriate to begin now to develop policy and transfer that into the right to farm guidelines; and during the annual review process, the guidelines can be updated as new information becomes available.

A copy of the verbatim remarks of Dr. Anderson, Dr. Bartholic and Dr. Hogberg is on file in the Commission office.

The Commissioners requested Dr. Anderson and his staff to begin the development of the guidelines as soon as possible.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture will be held July 25-26, 1989, at the Holiday Inn, Traverse City, Michigan.

PUBLIC
COMMENTS:

Annual Review of Right to Farm Guidelines: Copies of written comments regarding the guidelines were distributed. The documents will be held and considered at the next meeting when the Commission reviews the guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.