



## West Central Michigan Horticultural Research, Inc.

*Board Meeting 12/16/2020*

### Board Members:

Andy Riley  
Mike VanAgtsmael  
Nichole Wilcox  
David Rennhack – Not Present  
Caleb Coulter  
Richard Raffaelli  
Gerrit Herrygers  
Doug Buhler  
Chris Alpers – Not Present

### Non-Voting Attendees:

Patricia Parsons – Administrator  
Tim Harvell – Technical Support  
Jim Kells – MSU Ag. Extension

**Location:** PFI

**Start/Finish:** Call to Order 6:04pm / Motion to Close 8:10pm

**Attendance Called:** Attendance taken / Motion Approving Attendance 6:05pm

**Agenda Approved:** Board Confirmation email received of 12/10/20 meeting agenda and accepted. / Motion to approve Agenda 6:05pm

**Previous Meeting Recap:** Meeting Minutes were approved by board on 10/4/2020. Electronically recording meetings going forward.

### Topics of Discussion & Old Business:

1. Financials – Motion to Accept Financial / Motion Approved 6:12pm
  - A. Donation Log
  - B. Founders Club ended beginning Defenders Club for donations
  - C. Upcoming Grant Submissions
2. Daly Parcel land purchase agreement
  - A. Down payment \$31,000
  - B. Future obligations May 2021 - \$31,000 & Dec. 2021 - \$31,000

### New Business:

1. Board Members Coming to End of Term
  - A. Gerrit Herrygers – Jan 2021 End of Term
    1. Due to the impact of Covid and the progress in the Research Center board feel the need to continue the position is important and unable to sustain vacancy until member's vote at the beginning of 2022.
    2. Board made a motion to extend the seat term to 2 years starting Jan. 2021.
  - B. Dave Rennhack – Jan 2021 End of Term
    1. Due to the impact of Covid and the progress in the Research Center board feel the need to continue the position is important and unable to sustain vacancy until member's vote at the beginning of 2022.
    2. Board made a motion to extend the seat term to 3 years starting Jan. 2021.
2. MSU Proposal Extension
  - A. Service Agreement for \$25,000 for the next 2 years
  - B. Discussion of leveraging half of the money with the Tree Fruit Commission
  - C. Proposed ante the 25% ourselves – Talk to Jim Nugent to get a take on it
  - D. Motion of service agreement commitment of 25% for fund position in monthly installments to MSU to be revisited on year 3.
3. MSU MOU Update
  - A. Requested meeting for Jan 3, 2021
  - B. Operating Agreement – Protection and organic flexibility for both the organization and MSU.



C. Will be a living document of a 5yr agreement with autorenewal if agreement is not terminated (Base Agreement).

4. Rental Procedure and Application

- A. Narrowing down policies and service fees
- B. Tier system for renters
  - 1. Foundation Rental Policies (Framework for Renter)
  - 2. Lease Agreement
- C. Expectations – Liability, Cost, Alcohol (Allowed or Not)
  - 1. Service Fees Tiers
    - a. Non-Ag Member
    - b. Ag Related Donor
    - c. Ag Industry Related Non-Donor
    - d. Founders Club
- D. Check on temporary liquor licensing and requirements
- E. Making Property available
  - 1. Inspection and Monitoring to avoid property damage and to keep non-approved guests from entering gated crops
- F. Lane's finance will give the board dollar grid rate for events the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan. 2021.
- G. Sub-committee of 2 people for tier leveling for events. – John and Richard

3. Field Design Committee

- A. Numbering the quadrants
- B. Board reviewed and recommend a small group (up to 8 people) consisting of growers and research for further discussion. (Andy, Gerrit, Mike S., Greg L., John W., Jim, John D.) – Minutes to be sent to Richard and Andy
- C. Deer Fence – Will be installed in the very near future
- D. (2) Main Irrigation East & West central of the property – Drill wells need to be done in 2021 for 2022
- E. Plant Plan
  - 1. No new plant 2021 – But will need to get the ground ready in 2021 for 2022 planting
  - 2. (2) Apples – 1 Process & 1 MAIA 2022
  - 3. Cherries, Pears, & Apples 2023
- F. Research of existing trees opportunity sent to Researcher Faculty
  - 1. Early 2021 Jim will personal communicate with Faculty

\*Side Discussion – Board wanted to recognize Jim Kells on all the commitment and effort put in to get the field laid out and kicking off the research.

4. Farm Equipment Needs for Spring

- A. Andy furnished a needs list of equipment needed at the research center.
  - 1. Disc – \$8,000 - \$9,000
  - 2. Weed Sprayer – Caleb working on it
  - 3. Irrigation Well – 8 inch well - \$90,000 by Fall
    - a. Well may be able to be purchased under a 2yr request agreement with the Tree Fruit Commission.
- B. Growers of the board to put together a wish list with timeline and cost to budget for equipment needs.
- C. Advisory committee to review and present equipment and planting cost timeline and budget due Mid-Jan
- D. John Bakker will be applying for the MDARD specialty GRANT – Special Block Grant rules and show deliverable requirements – Patricia Parsons to assist as needed

**Follow Up/Updates:**

1. Building Update

- A. Late Jan 2021 – Finish Date
- B. Furniture ready, HVAC done, Coolers going live next week, Doors to Spray barn being installed, 90% done painting, Overhead doors going in next week
- C. Concrete can not be poured until Spring – Parking lot will be complete Spring – Sign application (Weare)
- D. Lane will start storing equipment inside
- E. Mini Museum prints are almost done and Corporate sponsor signs will be ready next week



- F. Fred Tubbs Memorial wall - \$3500 sign
  - 1. Memorial Wall for donors?

- 2. Position Description for John & Lane

- A. Meeting with Lane to discuss expectations and requirements – Clarification of position function
  - B. Committee of Andy, Richard, John, & Jim to outline position role and expectations

**Motions Voted On:**

- 1. Motion of Extension of Term – Motion to extend the seat term for Gerrit Herrygers board member to a term of 2 years starting January 2021.  
*Moved: Richard – Support: Caleb – 6 yes votes (Mike, Doug, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole) –1 Abstained (Gerrit) - passed 6:15pm*
- 2. Motion of Extension of Term – Motion to extend the seat term for Dave Rennhack to a term of 3 years starting January 2021.  
*Moved: Caleb– Support: Gerrit – 7 yes votes (Mike, Doug, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit) passed 6:17pm*
- 3. Motion of Commit – Motion of service agreement commitment of 25% for fund position in monthly installments to MSU to be revisited on year 3.  
*Moved: Richard – Support: Gerrit – 6 yes votes (Mike, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit) –1 Abstained (Doug) - passed 6:30pm*
- 4. Motion to Adjourn  
*Moved: Gerrit – Support: Caleb – 7 yes votes(Mike, Doug, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit) – passed 8:10pm*