



## West Central Michigan Horticultural Research, Inc.

*Board Meeting 4/28/2021*

### Board Members:

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

### Non-Voting Attendees:

Patricia Parsons – Administrator  
Jim Kells – MSU Ag. Extension  
John Bakker – Interim Farm Manager

**Location:** West Central Michigan Research Station

**Start/Finish:** Call to Order 6:01pm / Motion to Close 8:10pm

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

**Agenda Approved:** Board Confirmation email received of 4/21/21 meeting agenda and accepted. / Motion to approve Agenda 6:03pm

**Previous Meeting Recap:** Meeting Minutes were electronically approved by board on 4/9/2021.

### Topics of Discussion & Old Business:

1. Financials – Motion to Accept Financial / Motion Approved 6:05pm
  - A. Donation Log
  - B. Defenders Club for donations, Agreements, & Events/Meeting – Funds Log to be itemized by category.
  - C. 18k Agreement for Irrigation
2. Station Events/ Meeting Update
  - A. Went over Reservation Request Form
  - B. Will have a separate category for Event/Meeting details

### New Business:

1. Board Members Coming to End of Term
  - A. Nichole Wilcox – May 2021 End of Term – New term to 2024
    1. GreenStone to name their representative and term length.
  - B. Chris Alpers – June 2021 End of Term – New term to 2024
    1. Michigan Horticultural Society to name their representative and term length.
2. MSU Agreement
  - A. Agreement presented to Board from MSU for both.
  - B. Motion of service agreement commitment of 25% for fund position in monthly installments to MSU to be revisited on year 3.
  - C. New Tree Fruit Educator still in process. A separate agreement with the extension and will be presented to the Board.
  - D. Motion to accept MSU Operations Agreement and Main Working Agreement as written.
3. MSU MOU Update
  - A. Operating Agreement – Protection and organic flexibility for both the organization and MSU.
  - B. 1-year agreement with an AG summer program and different programs during the year with expert farmers.
  - C. Org put on a waiver with WSES covering the liability of the children.
  - D. Have WSES change WMRS to WCMHRI. Also, acknowledge of restricted access.
  - E. Motion to approved the agreement between the WCMHR, Inc. & WSES education department.



4. Credit Card for Station
  - A. Discuss spending limit for card.
  - B. Was instructed to go through Shelby Bank for card. One account 2 cards.
    1. Card for Treasurer – Dave Rennhack
    2. Card for Farm Manager – John Bakker
  - C. Motion to approval for David Rennhack to go to Shelby Bank and apply for a credit card with a \$1000 limit with receipts being turned into the Treasurer
5. Hiring Labor at the station
  - A. No payroll program or workers comp insurance with the WCMHR, Inc. at this time.
  - B. Asparagus group will make payments to employees for the station under their Payroll program and worker's comp insurance since their group is already established. Then bill the station for the cost.
  - C. This would be for direct hire on a short-term status.
  - D. John Bakker will get an agreement drawn up for payroll coverage.
4. Well & Irrigation
  - A. To pipe straight to the Spray Barn with an 8inch pipe is 85k.
  - B. This will be the capacity to irrigate the whole station. Should irrigate 31 acres on the farm area.
  - C. This will be support at least 5yrs of scheduled research.
  - D. Motion to Approve to spend 85k for well & irrigation piping installation based on the recommendations of the field planting committee.

## Follow Up/Updates:

1. Building Update
  - A. 95% Done with MSU expedited lab equipment. Working on outside projects.
  - B. WiFi modules going into the ceiling.
  - C. Gazebo – Platform and Stairs then all structural projects will be complete.
  - D. Landscape is being worked on and established with native Michigan grass and plants.
  - E. Will be able to schedule a Grand Opening in the near future.
2. Proposed Budget
  - A. Horticultural Society 10k will not come until October.
  - B. Went through agreement amounts and this year's still expected income. Think about start hitting people smaller donations.
  - C. Weddings is where the money is for events & planning. Start spreading the word throughout the community that the station is available to host weddings.
  - D. Motion to approve the Research Station Budget presented by Richard.
3. Farm Manager Updates
  - A. Chemical budget in control – Had donations of product from chemical businesses.
  - B. Have not applied fertilizer help up due to freeze potential. John to work with Gerrit with fertilizer plan.
  - C. Projects on station
    1. John Wise – Pears Gerber funded.
      - i. Demo Project injection to control insecticide pear psylla.
      - ii. Grow Standard & Kaylan Clay application.
    2. Peaches – New thinner.
      - i. Experimental permit. Got in on the UNP.
      - ii. Divided by No thinner, 1 application, & 2 applications.
    3. Tart Cherries – Larry Gout health issues nothing on SWD this year
      - i. How effective is No Bravo comparison & half got Captan
    4. Order trees. Got final numbers of tree order to fill out the row.
    5. Newsletter is distributed by MSU extension
    6. ESD – Mark Willis Ag Science Advisory Board. Working this summer.
      - i. Lila Akle is coming in a few hours a week.
    7. Wild Flowers – North side Daly for wild flower planting need 1.1 acres
      - i. Was previously a building with a basement and can't plant trees. Flowers would be ideal.



4. Jim Kells - Updates

- A. Research committee met and next meeting will be in July to finalize planting for next year.
  - 1. Replant trial Sweet Cherry (Specialty Crop Grant) & Apple Variety trial
  - 2. Jim & MAIA to discuss apple variety. (5 varieties from 3 different root stocks)
  - 3. Research for Trials need photos.

**Motions Voted On:**

- 1. Motion to Accept – Motion to accept MSU Operations Agreement and Main Working Agreement as written.  
*Moved: Richard – Support: Caleb – 7 yes votes (Mike, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) –1 Abstained (Doug) - passed 6:22pm*
- 2. Motion to Approve - Motion to approve the MOU – Memorandum of understanding agreement between the WCMHR, Inc. & WSES education department.  
*Moved: Richard– Support: Caleb – 8 yes votes (Mike, Doug, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) passed 6:29pm*
- 3. Motion to Approve - Motion to approved for David Rennhack to obtain a credit card for the organization through Shelby Bank with a \$1000 limit and 2 physical cards with receipts going to David Rennhack when purchases are made.  
*Moved: Gerrit– Support: Mike – 8 yes votes (Mike, Doug, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) passed 6:34pm*
- 4. Motion to Approve - Motion to approved for Richard Raffaelli to spend \$85,000 for the well and irrigation piping installation on the property based on the recommendations of the field planting committee.  
*Moved: Caleb– Support: Mike – 8 yes votes (Mike, Doug, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) passed 6:51pm*
- 5. Motion to Accept – Motion to accept the Research Station budget as presented by Richard.  
*Moved: Gerrit – Support: Dave – 8 yes votes (Mike, Doug, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) passed 7:07pm*
- 6. Motion to Adjourn  
*Moved: Dave – Support: Gerrit – 8 yes votes(Mike, Doug, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) – passed 8:10pm*