



## West Central Michigan Horticultural Research, Inc.

*Board Meeting 9/2/20*

### Board Members:

Andy Riley  
Mike VanAgtmael  
Nichole Wilcox  
David Rennhack  
Caleb Coulter  
Richard Raffaelli  
Gerrit Herrygers  
Doug Buhler  
Chris Alpers – Via Phone Conference

### Non-Voting Attendees:

Patricia Parsons - Administrator

**Location:** PFI

**Start/Finish:** Call to Order 6:31pm / Motion to Close 8:51pm

**Attendance Called:** Attendance taken / Motion Approving Attendance 6:32pm

**Agenda Approved:** Board Confirmation email received of 8/31/20 meeting agenda and accepted. / Motion to approve Agenda 6:33pm

**Previous Meeting Recap:** Board Confirmation email received of 8/31/20 meeting minutes and electronic motions and accepted 7 approvals 1 abstain. / Motion to approve minutes 6:33pm

### Topics of Discussion & Old Business:

1. Financials
  - A. Profit & Loss Summary sent out to board 8/31/20
  - B. Dave to go back to GreenStone and have categories specifically detailed no Miscellaneous Expense Category
    - a. Breaking Up Custom Hire Expense
      - i. Custom Labor
      - ii. Custom Harvesting
      - iii. Equipment Rental
  - C. Discussion of full donation amount since start – Total \$1,339,470.70
2. MDARD 1<sup>ST</sup> Submission
  - A. Patricia has put the submission packet together for first reimbursement payment
  - B. Apply for 70% of the Grant – Totaling \$70,000
  - C. Submission will go in this week for MDARD review
  - D. Will be going for full amount by end of year if construction project is completed
3. Funding
  - A. Richard informed board that currently \$75,000 short
  - B. Monday or Tuesday Andy and Patricia will be going to the bank to assign full access to Patricia to audit funds and give Project Manager a detailed daily update on current funds and debits.
  - C. 3 Change Orders were rejected this week – Prefer to try for Energy Grants instead of using raised funds
    - a. HCV \$16K for air removal from kitchen for cooking
    - b. Electrician wanting to increase the amount of exterior plugs
    - c. Automated lighting in Barn
  - D. Bunkhouse externally will be completed tomorrow. Internal will be delayed until beginning of 2021.
  - E. Chemical Cost discussed – Possible Donation Opportunities
    - a. Submit a detailed chemical list proposal to the Michigan Tree Fruit Committee by February 2021 for potential chemical donation.
    - b. Discussion about the Tree Fruit Commission on other station donations for operating cost.



1. Chris Alpers to get with contact and plea the stations position and expenses to the committee member for possible funding.

## New Business:

1. Board Members Coming to End of Term
  - A. Caleb Coulter – October 2020 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 2021.
    2. Board made a motion to extend the seat term to 2 years starting Oct. 2020.
  - B. Doug Buhler – December 2020 End of Term
    1. Due to the collaboration agreement of 5 years MSU will have a representative on the board and the progress in the Research Center & Crop Research board feel the need to continue the position.
    2. Board made a motion to extend the seat term to 3 years starting Dec. 2020.
2. USDA Grant Funds
  - A. Estimated cost or project \$115,000
  - B. Grant covers \$95,000 for Spray Barn, Pollinators (Acre & ½), Driveways, & Sprayers
  - C. Looking into getting \$10,000 in tanks donated.
  - D. Already have pump and looking for concrete donation
  - E. Currently doing the engineering. Then to do an archeologist survey conducted.
  - F. Motion giving Richard authorization to spend \$98,000 of the USDA Grant Project when approval for USDA grant comes in.
3. Field Design Committee
  - A. From survey results Tree Fruit Research priorities draft created.
  - 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.)
  - C. Deer Fence – First Priority (By Next Fall) 30 ft lanes around property, (3) 30ft lanes East & West (5) 30ft lanes North & West.
  - D. (2) Main Irrigation East & West central of the property – Irrigations 2<sup>nd</sup> parallel center property
  - E. 20 Research blocks – Outline a need map of irrigation along with a want. Break out into 2 years
    1. Number a unique number for the quadrants
    2. 2 or 3 year phase irrigation plan
  - F. Peach not a good choice for fruit to research PFI is the only processor in Michigan. Farms are moving out of processes Peach. Only if researching is for Peach fresh market.
  - G. Evercrisp apples was questioned on validity of research.
  - H. MAIA – 2022 Donating 6 different varieties, cultivating 3 rootstocks – 60 trees
  - I. Motion of Board Support of number 1-5 on the Preliminary Priorities for New Planting @ WCMHR
  - J. Motion to authorize the committee to use up to 5 acres for the use of vegetables research in 2021. (Not to use any herbicide that will negatively affect Fruit Tree in rotation)
 

\*Side Discussion – Committee identify a good candidate for nematoid work. Area mention is the same location designated for the Youth Farmer Program. Will look to see if another area would suit research.
4. Farm Equipment Purchasing
  - A. Andy furnished a needs list of equipment needed at the research center.
  - B. Skid Steer was donated
  - C. Auction coming up next month that we would like to purchase equipment.
  - D. Working with Precise for tank & trailer portion being donated.
  - E. Motion giving approval to buy a tractor for \$42,000 and can use any remaining money if purchase is under the limit for additional equipment.
5. Building Update
  - A. Building construction is behind due to Covid.
  - B. Mechanicals are going in now & rough plumbing is almost done.
  - C. Total construction \$890,000 allowance currently.



## Follow Up/Updates:

1. Richard – Position Dave Jones Held
  - A. Letter to the director
  - B. Chris A. to reach out to contact
  - C. Look for 24-36mth Extension Person
  - D. 50/50 partnership may get the position filled
2. Richard – Farm Managing
  - A. Big thanks to Andy and Gerrit on all the work & sacrifice on the property this year.
  - B. Identified a need to better equip Lane S. in managing the farm in 2021.
3. Chris – Northern Perception
  - A. Many northern people are excited to see what we are doing. They are blown away with what has already been done.
4. Dave – How many evercrisp trees needed
  - A. MAIA – Donating 60 evercrisp trees
  - B. Jim to find out the number of evercrisp need
  - C. Dave to go back to MAIA as request the needed number of trees for research
5. Patricia – Sail Program Center Usage Inquiry
  - A. Non-profit program asking to use the facility for classes from May – Sept. 3 – 5 days a week
  - B. Board decided at the next meeting to outline the protocols (Core Values) & develop a sub-committee that will govern events
  - C. Sub-committee (Nichole & Doug) Develop Policy & Procedures for Core Values
  - D. Sub-committee for Farm Managing Structure Plan & Procedures
    1. Andy & Gerrit – Create Standard Operating Procedures drafts for daily, weekly, monthly, & annual assignments & expectations
    2. Patricia to formalize SOPs

## Motions Voted On:

1. Motion of Extension of Term – Motion to extend the seat term for MSU representative board member to a term of 3 years starting December 2020.  
*Moved: Richard – Support: Mike – 8 yes votes–1 Abstained (Doug) - passed 7:08pm*
2. Motion of Extension of Term – Motion to extend the seat term for Caleb Coulter to a term of 2 years starting October 2020.  
*Moved: Gerrit – Support: Doug – 8 yes votes – 1 Abstained (Caleb) - passed 7:11pm*
3. Motion of Authorization – Motion to authorize Richard to spend \$98,000 for the USDA Grant Project when approval for USDA grant comes in.  
*Moved: Caleb – Support: Doug – 7 yes votes –1 Abstained (Richard) - passed 7:17pm*
4. Motion of Support – Motion of Board support for number 1-5 on the Preliminary Priorities for New Planting at the WCMHR outlined by the Field Design Committee.  
*Moved: Caleb – Support: Richard – 9 yes votes(unanimous) – passed 7:39pm*
5. Motion of Approval – Motion of approval for the field design committee to use up to 5 acres for the use of vegetable research in 2021. (With understanding not to use any herbicide that will negatively affect Fruit Trees in rotation)  
*Moved: Gerrit – Support: Caleb – 9 yes votes(unanimous) – passed 7:48pm*
6. Motion of Authorization – Motion to authorize the organization to spend up to \$42,000 to buy a tractor and can use remaining money if purchase is under the limit for additional equipment.  
*Moved: Richard – Support: Doug – 9 yes votes(unanimous) - passed 8:08pm*
7. Motion to Adjourn  
*Moved: Gerrit – Support: Richard – 9 yes votes(unanimous) – passed 8:51pm*