



## West Central Michigan Horticultural Research, Inc.

*Board Meeting 9/9/2021*

### Board Members:

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

### Non-Voting Attendees:

**Patricia Parsons – Administrator**  
**Lane Stotler – Farm Manager**

**Location:** West Central Michigan Research Station

**Start/Finish:** Call to Order 6:00pm / Motion to Close 6:57pm

**Attendance Called:** Attendance taken 6:00pm

**Agenda Approved:** *Board Confirmation email received of 9/8/21 meeting agenda and accepted. / Motion to approve Agenda 6:01pm*

### Topics of Discussion & Old Business:

1. Financials – Motion to Accept Financial / Motion Approved 6:11pm
  - A. General Ledger of expense & deposit presented.
  - B. Defenders Club for donations, Agreements, & Events/Meeting – Itemized Funds Log presented.
  - C. Dave – checkbook balance as of 9/7/2021 \$303,518.47 with \$100,000 in immediate expenses. \$27,000 has been dedicated to the cost of the power to be ran to the drilled well on middle portion of the property. Based on the water withdrawal capacity.
  - D. Patricia to look into People Fund Grant.

### New Business:

1. Erin Stotler Representing Org on all rentals
  - A. Rentals classified as in paid events ie: Weddings, Graduations, Family Reunion, Birthday
  - B. Patricia came up with an agreement draft for Event coordinator
    1. Nichole will review and revise the agreement and review with Erin.
    2. Revise to 40% her and 60% station of facility rental monies split to Erin instead of 50%.
    3. Erin to market and cover all the rentals.
    4. Cleaning done by Stovall.
    5. Responsible for booking and looking after the assets.
    6. She will pay for her own expenses.
    7. Erin to get brochures and marketing material and expense break 40% her 60% station.
  - C. Devote so more resources to market events.
    1. Put together a brochure
    2. Outdoor Signage – Nichole may be able to get it donated. Nichole to approve signage.
  - D. Motion for Nichole Wilcox to create and sign off on the document to sign up Erin Stotler and come up with a Program action plan for the facility not to exceed \$2,000 for materials.
2. Joe Daly Payment
  - A. Joe Daly has opted to be paid on 1/1/2022.
  - B. Patricia to draw up a document that will be signed by Joe Daly stating his elected choice of 1/1/2022 for final payment date.
  - C. Closing cost estimated \$32,000 for final payment. Owner policy
  - D. Andy to execute on 1/1/2022 to discharge the mortgage for the Daly Property.



3. Field Design Committee Recommendation
  - A. C&O Nursery donated 1000 galas
  - B. VenWell working on possible donations of 1000 apple trees.
  - C. MAIA donating 360 trees for own section for trials.
  - D. How many acres will be apple planted – Enough for a general block
  - E. Sweet Cherries – All trees paid for. Need to cover cost for managing crop. Got to put aside money for 4 acres of labor for cherries.
  - F. Challenge Farm Managers to create a budget cost per tree using various methods of tie. Experiment with Gala & Honeycrisp.
  - G. Motion to approve for the Farm Managers to not to exceed \$42,000 to establish 3 acres of apples and 4 acres of Cherries planting and the farm team to document all the cost associated with various trellis to be posted to growers.
4. Fund Raising
  - A. Keep fundraising talking to groups, growers, and companies for donations.
  - B. Send an end of the year Station update reflecting on highlights of the year and ask for donations.
  - C. Start working on a Grower's Portal on the website to link to trials, live cams, drone footage, trimming Workshops.
  - D. Clarify Station is open to general researchers from the industry
  - E. Possibly hosting a Horticultural Day at the station annually to bi-annually.
5. Budget Team
  - A. Nichole, Patricia, & Richard to develop a true budget for Dave Rennhack to review.
  - B. Develop a solid budget for 2022 and present to board for approval prior to the end of the year.

## Follow Up/Updates:

1. Farm Manager Updates
  - A. Brian donated all the trucking and thinning cost along with ½ the labor cost. Purpose Point Harvesting donated the other half of the harvest labor cost. \$500 labor for harvest. Oct, 10<sup>th</sup> payment in roughly \$10,000. 90-95% Tart Cherries grades. 46 bins Peaches 20 - 100%, 20 bins - 99.46%
  - B. GAP Audit Results – Approved - Passed audit received Section 1- 100%; Section 2- 100%
  - C. Working with Cover Crop field Mark on next year
  - D. Funding east & west lanes with gravel
  - E. Equipment rental pricing – Caleb and Andy to work with Lane to iron out rental fee for Seeder Drills
  - F. Larry – SWD research passed away

## Motions Voted On:

1. Motion to Accept – Motion to accept agenda as written.  
*Moved: Richard – Support: Mike – 7 yes votes (Mike, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) - passed 6:01pm*
2. Motion to Approve - Motion to approve financial as presented subject to audit.  
*Moved: Gerrit– Support: Caleb – 7 yes votes (Mike, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) passed 6:11pm*
3. Motion to Approve - Motion to approved for Nichole Wilcox to create and sign off on the document to sign up Erin Stotler and come up with a Program action plan for the facility not to exceed \$2,000 for materials.  
*Moved: Richard – Support: Caleb – 7 yes votes (Mike, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) passed 6:20pm*
4. Motion to Approve - Motion to approved Motion to approve for the Farm Managers to not to exceed \$42,000 to establish 3 acres of apples and 4 acres of Cherries planting and the farm team to document all the cost associated with various trellis to be posted to growers.  
*Moved: Richard – Support: Mike – 7 yes votes (Mike, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) passed 6:41pm*
5. Motion to Adjourn  
*Moved: Dave – Support: Gerrit – 7 yes votes (Mike, Andy, Caleb, Richard, Nichole, Gerrit, Dave) – passed 6:57pm*