

MINUTES
MICHIGAN ASPARAGUS ADVISORY BOARD
April 21, 2021
West Central MI Hort Research Center
5185 N Oceana Dr
Hart, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Greiner, John Williams, Dwight Fuehring
Tom Oomen, Jordon Walsworth, Kyle Weber

MEMBERS OBSERVING on ZOOM: Tracey Butler, Vic Shank

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Oomen

OTHERS PRESENT: John Bakker – Executive Director, Joy McDevitt – Executive Assistant, Norm Myers-
MACMA

PRESENT on ZOOM: Heather Throne-MDARD, Ben Werling – MSUE

Chairman, Dwight Fuehring noted the 6 members were present and called the meeting to order at 11:00 am

EXPLAIN PROCEDURES

Dwight turned the meeting over to John to address the current meeting rules. John explained that only those counties or municipalities who are under an “Emergency Order” can meet virtually or hybrid at this time. Oceana County and /or Weare Township are not under an Emergency Health Order today. Thus, only Board members who are physically present at this location count towards a Quorum or are entitled to vote. Board members that are participating remotely will be given the opportunity to comment on candidates or motions prior to those present voting.

John thanked the Hiring Committee of Dwight Fuehring, Nick Oomen, John Williams, Sarah Greiner and Ryan Malburg (from the Michigan Carrot Committee); this process began back in January and has resulted in today’s 3 candidates to be heard. All 3 candidates were asked to address the same question: Describe how you would address the cost and availability of workers needed to produce the Michigan asparagus crop.

CANDIDATE #1 – NANCY NYQUIST

Nancy Nyquist gave her presentation and answered questions posed by the Board members.

LUNCH BREAK

Before breaking for lunch discussion took place as to how quickly to start the new person. John asked the Board to consider this and suggested to start them before/during harvest. Will discuss more later.

CANDIDATE #2 – JAMIE CLOVER ADAMS

Meeting resumed at 1:00 pm; Jamie Clover Adams gave her presentation and answered questions asked by the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS: JOY McDEVITT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

John explained that Joy was an employee for both MAAB as well as CIAB (Cherry Industry Administrative Board); but that we were all paid under an “umbrella” company of CMI (Cherry Marketing Institute.) Recently CIAB has been discussing pulling their payroll away from CMI; which would mean Joy would no longer be a fulltime employee of either organization. John proposes to make Joy a fulltime employee of MAAB, though still split her time and then MAAB would bill at the end of a month back to CIAB for her time.

Motion No. 1 Motion by Sarah Greiner supported by Jordon Walsworth for MAAB to secure Joy McDevitt as a Regular, Full Time employee (as defined in the CMI Employee Handbook, Sec 1, A-2, adopted 10/1/96 and updated Jan. 2020) effective on or around May 1, 2021. MAAB will offer Joy’s services, as available, to CIAB at MAAB’s actual cost and bill CIAB for her time.
All Ayes. Motion passed.

CANDIDATE #3 – JOEL JOHNSON

Joel Johnson gave his presentation and answered questions of the Board.

BOARD DISCUSSION /SELECT CANDIDATE

Discussion amongst the Board members and John Bakker on the 3 Candidates took place.

Motion No. 2 Motion by Jordon Walsworth supported by Sarah Greiner to offer Jamie Clover Adams the Executive Director position. All Ayes. Motion passed.

It was decided that we will wait for Jamie Clover Adam’s decision (accept or decline) before informing the other two candidates. Bakker agreed to type up an Offer of Employment letter and present it to her. Upon her and Chairman Fuehring’s signatures, he will inform the search firm who, will in turn, inform the other candidates.

Further discussion occurred regarding salary and benefits.

Motion No. 3 Motion by Tom Oomen supported by Kyle Weber to offer the salary of \$125,000 with benefits made available (CMI Employee Handbook, Sec 1, A-2 Salary Employee), including dental, vision, short term and long-term disability, 401 (k) and reimbursement for use of personal car.
All Ayes. Motion passed.

Discussion continued regarding the starting date. John Bakker commented that it would be beneficial to have Jamie begin during this crop year so she can see asparagus harvest in progress. John suggested May 10th, and then he would begin the use of his accumulated vacation days around May 17 which will take him through the end of June. He indicated that he would be available anytime during this period to aid in the transition.

Motion No. 4 Motion by Sarah Greiner supported by Tom Oomen to establish May 10 as Jamie’s new start date and pay Bakker for all accumulated vacation days. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Discussion occurred regarding the transference of John Bakker’s computer, printer, mobile phone, I Pod and car. It had been established under the Mar 9, 2021 meeting, Motion no 7 that the Executive Committee would be empowered to address John’s exit package, this decision will stand.

Motion No. 5 Motion by Tom Oomen supported by Sarah Greiner to adjourn the meeting. All Ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Bakker
Executive Director