

Vegetable AoE Meeting
Jan. 27, 2009
MSU Crops Barn
9:30 a.m – 10:00 a.m.

I. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am.

Those present were Fred Springborn, Curtis Talley, Bernie Zabndstra, Roger Brook, Dan Brainard, Mathieu Ngouajio, Hannah Stevens, Daryl Warncke, Phil Tocco, Bill Steenwyk, Mary Hausbeck, Norm Myers, Dave Smith, Dan Pavuk, Ron Goldy, Larry Olsen, Bruce MacKellar, Vickie Morrone

II. 2009 Meeting Schedule

We decided our next meetings to be March 17th (Norm needs to book the pavilion), June 11th, August 27th.

III. Review of Great Lakes Expo (Dave Smith, Roger Brook and Mathieu Ngouajio)

Roger reviewed and distributed the synoptic report of Expo. Numbers were up from previous years. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. A discussion ensued about submission of handouts. Full evaluation results will be available by next meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding measuring the impact of our work at Expo. Several options were discussed including, redoing Murari's survey, offering prizes for those filling out the evaluations, tweaking the survey, hiring other campus units to do a new evaluation. Dave shared attendance numbers. We set a record for attendance and attracted from 36 states and 9 Canadian Provinces. Bulletin sales were a record as well.

IV. Annual Report

Due April 1st. Mathieu and Norm will write a draft and circulate it to the membership. The report is still ten pages or less. Anyone who has programs that have taken place from Jan 08 to December 08 should submit them to Norm. Norm wants them by Monday February 2nd.

V. MVC Report (Dave)

Dave gave us a report from the Veg Council. Topics included the status of the Vegetable Entomologist position, legislative updates and new members to the Veg Council. There was also a discussion about updating the industry priorities.

VI. Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group Annual Meeting

The meeting will take place on February 24-26th. There are 5 - 7 total AoE folks going. One van rented will cover the group. After much discussion, the consensus was to rent a van from a rental agency for the trip.

VII. Budget (Funding of Field or Campus Staff travel i.e. Phil and Hannah)

Mathieu gave us an update of our budget. We have about \$3000 left after all payments are made.

A discussion ensued regarding the leftover funds from cover crops and organic farming management training. (Scott Swinton - cover crop economics) Curtis volunteered to create a partial budget for using cover crops to assess the cost of using cover crops per acre. Vickie will be asking for an extension for this grant. A subcommittee, including Vickie and Mary, will be put together to find good/creative ways to spend this down.

VIII. PREF Program for 2008/2009

Manure came up as a topic for a PREF Program. In addition, food safety came up as a potential topic. Creation of Standard Operating Procedures as a possible topic (collaborate w/ MIFFS and Hamish Gow as well as Bernie and Hannah and Bill.) Composting was another topic discussed.

IX. Specialist's Research Update

The specialists gave us an update of their work over the last year.

X. Guest Speaker - Matthew Hayes of Szent Istvan University in Hungary Manager of their Organic Research Farm

XI. Adjourn.