

**Vegetable AoE Meeting  
January 29, 2008**

Meeting was convened at 10:05 am.

Those present were Dan Brainard, Bernie Zandstra, Ron Goldy, Matthieu Nguaijio, Norm Myers, Mark Trent, Hannah Stevens, Jim Breinling, Dave Smith, Abdul Abdulkari, Vickie Morrone, Daryl Warncke, Fred Springborn, Walter Pett, Phil Tocco and Roger Brook.

**Dave's MVC Report:** Dave gave us a report from MVC. MVC intends to continue to make undesignated grants as needed by field staff and campus staff. In addition, the endowment has grown enough to be able to offer competitive grants. The deadline was set at December 28, but has been extended to February 29. A small grant has been awarded to Matthieu on existing Phytophthora infections. The commitment is to funding programming along the MVC's priority areas, with preference given to projects that have received or applied for other grant funds to leverage the MVC's funding. The endowment is up to \$160K as of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 07.

Ralph Oomen is a new board member. Kent Karnemaat has moved off. President is Vic Shank. Dave Miedema is Vice Pres. The MVC will be sending representatives to Washington to encourage legislators to support earmarks on Phytophthora. They also had a good discussion on the water withdrawal assessment tool and water use legislation pending in the state house. The tool is going to have a big impact on the irrigators. The speaker at Expo raised a lot of concerns with folks. There are still a lot of unknowns.

**The two open Vegetable positions:** MI/OH joint position is posted to close in March. The position was offered to the candidate in the interview pool and he chose a different position. The Bay County Vegetable position (Chris Reisinger's position) has been posted. They want someone to program in pickles and potatoes.

Some discussion was created about the challenges to filling these two positions. One point brought up was the line the bi-state person will have to walk in dealing with grower perceptions of MI being "better" to the growers. When the Bay County Position is interviewed, Norm will let everyone know.

**Budget:** The main account balance is \$3823.09. This should have all the expenses from Expo and Beth Bishop's traps for '08 and '08 CAT alert subscription are fully expensed. Some discussion ensued regarding regional GREEN dollars for critter catchers and having a summer tour somewhere.

The University's budget credited to us is "frightening" (Norm's Words).

\$55K Total

\$10K Methyl Bromide Matching

\$13K Vickie's AoE Competitive Grant I

\$16K Vickie's AoE Competitive Grant II

We then have an additional profit post PREF of approximately \$3K in a 21 account.

More discussion ensued about how to spend down the Methyl Bromide monies. There is a sunset of one more year on that money.

**Discussion of Annual Report:** Some discussion was had regarding what should go in our final report. Larry Olsen made a comment that he wants to have impact. Roger will be putting the responses from EXPO together to add to the Annual Report. Jim will send information about the NASS survey, an increase in vegetable acreage. Norm will use the same format as in previous years. **Send Norm all programs in the last year that were vegetable related, give names of the programs and numbers of attendees in the next week.** Norm will e-mail out the doc to everyone for review. Drop dead date on the Annual Report is March 3. We'll share this doc with MVC March 11th with the MVC. Everyone is welcome at this meeting.

**Great Lakes Vegetable WG Meeting:** February 27 and 28. A group will leave from campus on the 26<sup>th</sup> and another group will leave from Points near Mason County. Both will meet at SWMREC and carpool in vans down to Lafayette. Next year's topic is going to be sweet corn.

**Great Lakes EXPO 2007 Discussion:** Dave Smith shared registration numbers and some comments about them. There may be a few changes in the registration process. There was some discussion about how the cucurbit workshop was put together. There was discussion about the layout of the Thursday sessions. This summer the Expo folks will be asking session coordinators about how they want to change the evaluations for each session. (Ron has two of his sessions where he has tailored evals.) There was some discussion as to room layout and how best to lay the room out for people AND speakers. There was some discussion about Turning Point used in seminars.

Dr. Abdulkari spoke to us regarding the Center for Economic Analysis. He covered their services and costs as well as how they generally work.

Dr. Greishop spoke to us about his position. Materials will be sent to Vickie to mark products that are OMRI Approved. Vickie will send it to Roger who will send it on to the editors.

### **Specialist Updates**

**Matthieu:** Shared his results from cover cropping in cucumbers. He brought up the overall changes in the industry and looked at NC as a case study for how to avoid a collapse in pickling cucumbers. He also showed a bit about his cover cropping data.

**Bernie:** Bernie gave us an update on new chemicals and newly labeled crops for existing labels. He also gave us a heads-up for what will be coming down the pike in 2008.

### **Future Meeting Schedule**

March 20<sup>th</sup> Next Meeting 9:30am-3 pm

June 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am-3 pm

August 28<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am-3 pm

Cover crop field day June 12th at KBS.

Ron passed around the sign up sheet for Vegetable Grower's news

Hannah showed the group MSU Marketmaker.

Vickie made a plug for her upcoming Organic Food and Farming Reporting Session Meeting. March 5, 2008.

Meeting was adjourned 2:55 pm.