**Michigan Wheat Committee Research Meeting**

**Best Western Hotel, Stadium Room**

**2209 University Park Drive, Okemos, MI 48864**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 26, 2025**

**Present-Voting Board Members**

Dwight Bartle, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 5

Tony Bohac, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 6

Jim Doyle, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 9-Miller Representative

Jason Dunning, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 1

Brad Kamprath, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 3

Jeff Krohn, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 7

Lyn Uphaus, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 4

Carl Wagner III, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 2

**Present-Non Voting Michigan Wheat Program Affiliates**

Nathan Danielson, BioCognito, Research Consultant (via zoom)

Jeff Haarer, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (left at 11:30 a.m. & rejoined at 2:00 p.m.)

Eric Olson, Michigan State University Wheat Breeder (arrived at 9:25 a.m.)

Dennis Pennington, Michigan State University Wheat Specialist

Jody Pollok-Newsom, Michigan Wheat Committee staff

**Absent**

Dave Milligan, Michigan Wheat Committee ex-officio

Brent Wagner, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 8

**Presenters/Guests**

Lindsay Everhart, Michigan State University

Eric Olson, Michigan State University

Dennis Pennington, Michigan State University

Manni Singh, Michigan State University

**Determination of Quorum and Call to Order**

Jeff Krohn, Chairman, called the August 26, 2025, research meeting of the Michigan Wheat Program (MWP) board to order at 9:00 a.m. Secretary Lyn Uphaus noted for the record that a quorum of the Michigan Wheat Committee members were present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Jeff Krohn reviewed the research meeting agenda and there were no changes to the draft agenda.

**MOTION #1: Brad Kamprath moved to approve the research meeting agenda for August 26 and 27, 2025. Supported by Lyn Uphaus. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Overview of the Day**

Jody Pollok-Newsom shared that there are evaluation forms to help evaluate and rank the research presentations throughout the next two days. The points were reviewed by the board last year to ensure these are still the pertinent focus areas and the adequate number of points. Jody will collect and tally the forms to help make funding decisions tomorrow easier. If there are questions when time is up, please let Chairman Krohn know so you can get those answers you need to make funding decisions tomorrow afternoon. Jody has a hard copy of all the proposals and copies of all of the presentations will be saved, so if anything needs to be looked up tomorrow, the board will have access to all of that information.

**Research Reports and Requests**

**Maninder Singh,** provided anupdate on his fourth and final year of work on his project ***Exploring winter wheat canopy structure for variety specific management strategies.***

**Maninder Singh,** provided anupdate on his second year of work on his project ***Optimizing Planting Practices in Winter Wheat: Role of Precision Planting, Row Spacing, Varietal Canopy and Seeding Rate*** and requested funding for a third year with a tweaked title of: ***Optimizing Planting Practices in Winter Wheat: Role of Seed Placement, Row Spacing, Varietal Canopy and Seeding Rate*** in the amount of $33,080.00.

**Maninder Singh,** provided anupdate on his request from the last meeting for a ***Narrow Row Drill Purchase***. The board approved $27,000 at the June meeting, but also asked for Dennis Pennington to do some more investigation with a list of items to consider. After the additional work, an invoice was shared for the equipment needed which has an increased price from what was adopted in June. The additional funding requested is an additional $12,575.00 from the board combined with the $27,000 MWP approved in June towards the total cost of $46,575. Manni is funding at the $7,000 level.

**Maninder Singh,** provided a request for a new project ***Optimizing Management Decisions for Profitable and Resilient Wheat and Double Crop Soybean Systems in Michigan*** for $25,727.

A fast break was taken at 10:25 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

**Eric Olson** presented updates on his previous projects, ***Developing Soft Winter Wheat Varieties for Michigan 2024***and also***Optimizing the Genetics of Wheat for Michigan Production Environments***which results in his request that combines all this work and moves it forward to build off it in***Breeding Wheat Varieties for Michigan***at the $100,385 level.

**Eric Olson** reported on his first year of the project ***Mitigating the Impacts of Harvest Timing on Michigan Wheat Quality.*** Based on the results, the next phase of this project was requested as ***Falling Number in Response to Water Duration & Spectroscopic Methods to Indirectly Estimate Falling Number*** for the amount of $55,003.

A working lunch was had with a short break from 12:40 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

No comments received by the public.

**Eric Olson** requested funding for a new project *Genotype-dependent responses to plant growth regulators* in the amount of $32,196.

**Dennis Pennington** presented results for the 12th and final year of the ***Michigan High Management Research Program*.** He and Eric Olson are requesting future funding in a revamped project that will consider things like falling number in ***Optimizing Variety Specific Management Strategies.*** This was their first year report on that project and funding for next year was requested in the amount of $39,404.00.

**Dennis Pennington** presented an update and another funding request for the ***Agronomy Research Program of Work***.This project is requesting overall program support to fill the gaps left from MSU’s shortfall of funding. As the research program has grown, so has the financial demands from MSU for researchers to utilize University infrastructure and both Dennis Pennington and Eric Olson have shortfalls to keep the program up and running.

2:30 p.m. Day One Research Meeting Adjourned.

**Michigan Wheat Committee Research Meeting**

**Best Western Hotel, Stadium Room**

**2209 University Park Drive, Okemos, MI 48864**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 27, 2025**

**Present-Voting Board Members**

Dwight Bartle, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 5

Tony Bohac, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 6

Jim Doyle, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 9-Miller Representative

Jason Dunning, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 1

Brad Kamprath, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 3

Jeff Krohn, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 7

Lyn Uphaus, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 4 (via zoom, arriving in-person at 10:30 a.m.)

Carl Wagner III, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 2

**Present-Non Voting Michigan Wheat Program Affiliates**

Nathan Danielson, BioCognito, Research Consultant (via zoom)

Jeff Haarer, Michigan Department of Ag & Rural Development (arrived at 10:45a.m.)

Eric Olson, Michigan State University Wheat Breeder (arrived at 9:00)

Dennis Pennington, Michigan State University Wheat Specialist

Jody Pollok-Newsom, Michigan Wheat Committee staff

**Absent**

Dave Milligan, ex-officio

Brent Wagner, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 8

**Presenters/Guests**

Jan Byrne, Michigan State University

Marty Chilvers, Michigan State University

Lindsay Everhart, Michigan State University

Emily Holm Merewitz, Michigan State University

Bill Knudson, Michigan State University

Steve Miller, Michigan State University

Josh Nasielski, University of Guelph

Rich Price, Bruno Basso’s lab Michigan State University

Marisol Quintanilla, Michigan State University

Keeley Satterfield, Michigan State University

Christy Sprague, Michigan State University

Kurt Steinke, Michigan State University

**Determination of Quorum and Call to Order**

Jeff Krohn, Chairman, called the August 27, 2025, meeting of the Michigan Wheat Program (MWP) board to order at 7:30 a.m. Secretary Lyn Uphaus noted for the record that a quorum of the Michigan Wheat Committee members were present.

**Marty Chilvers** graduate student, **Keeley Satterfield** presented a report on the second year of their project ***Protecting Yields and Improving Wheat Disease Management Through Disease Surveillance and Improved Management Recommendations*** and requested a third year of funding at the $55,000 level.

**Bill Knudson** presented the proposal ***An Assessment of the Current Market and Opportunities for Expanded Use of Michigan Wheat*** in the amount of $25,844.00.

**Jan Byrne** was on the agenda to present a report on the 12th year of her diagnostics project and seek $3,500 in funding for another year of the collaborative project **diagnostics work**.

**Marisol Quintanilla** reported on her one year project ***Exploring Host Suitability & Trap Crop Potential for Nematode Management in Winter Wheat*** and year two project ***Evaluating Soybean Cyst Nematode Interactions with Wheat: Host Status and Management Potential.*** No additional funding was requested at this time.

**Rich Price** provided a report for year two of theBruno Basso project ***Sustainable Intensification of Wheat Production in Michigan: Field Trials and Simulation Approaches.*** This project which was built off his earlier research and is feeding into requested funding for ***Optimizing Nitrogen Use in Michigan Wheat: The Economic Impact of Variable Spring Applications***in the amount of $25,354.

A break was taken at 10:00 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

**Christy Sprague** presented an overview of her second and final year of the project ***Planting Date & Temperature Effects on Wheat Sensitivity to Herbicides – Year 2.*** Funding for a new project ***Changing agronomic practices for improved weed management in winter wheat*** was requested at the $30,000.00 level

**Kurt Steinke** presented an update on the first year of his project***Winter Wheat Soil Fertility Research: Focusing on Autumn Management and Beyond***and proposed for this year a new project titled ***Targeting Nutrient Management Strategies for the Next Winter Wheat Yield Increase***at the $42,614 level.

**Josh Nasielski** from the University of Guelph provided an overview of his proposed work to fully review the information/trends through the Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network program titled **"*Developing Actionable Insights from the Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network Database”***for $20,000.00 US.

A break was taken for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

**Public Comment**

No comments received by the public.

**Emily Holm Merewitz** provided a report on her project ***Influence of Ice Encasement and Winter Desiccation on Winter Wheat Physiology & Yield*** and a request for her new project titled ***Exploring Strategies to Protect Winter Wheat from Heat Stress*** *in the amount of $28,301.*

**Equipment**

Discussion was held as a follow up to the board’s visit to the Mason farm. There were concerns shared about the current combine and the need to look at a new one in the near future. Thoughts were shared regarding ways Dennis Pennington could leverage the old combine or collaborate on a new one. Dennis will follow up and report back.

**Funding Decision for 2025-26**

Scores were shared with the board from all of their evaluations over the previous two-days. The board began discussing those projects to ensure everyone had their voice heard and that all felt comfortable with the final decision. There was much more requested than what was budgeted. Funds will be pulled from reserve to cover the essential projects that were to be funded, but not all projects were funded.

At the end of the discussion, three of the projects were not recommended for funding

Bill Knudson’s ***An Assessment of the Current Market and Opportunities for Expanded Use of Michigan Wheat*** in the amount of $25,844.00; Emily Holm Merewitz project ***Exploring Strategies to Protect Winter Wheat from Heat Stress*** *in the amount of $28,301 and* Maninder Singh’s project ***Optimizing Management Decisions for Profitable and Resilient Wheat and Double Crop Soybean Systems in Michigan*** for $25,727.

**MOTION #2: Carl Wagner moved to fund: Bruno Basso’s request *“Optimizing Nitrogen Use in Michigan Wheat: The Economic Impact of Variable Spring Applications,”* for up to $25,354.00; *Falling Number in Response to Water Duration & Spectroscopic Methods to Indirectly Estimate Falling Number* from Eric Olson for up to $55,003; *Genotype-dependent responses to plant growth regulators* for up to $32,196; Eric Olson’s *Breeding Wheat Varieties for Michigan* for up to $100,385.00; *Optimizing Variety Specific Management Strategies* for Dennis Pennington and Eric Olson for up to $39,404.00; Dennis Pennington & Eric Olson ’s project *Agronomy Research Program of Work* for up to $150,000.00; Maninder Singh’s request for *Optimizing Planting Practices in Winter Wheat: Role of Seed Placement, Row Spacing, Varietal Canopy and Seeding Rate* for up to $33,080; Maninder Singh’s request for the additional funds needed for the narrow row drill of up to $12,575 to combine with the $27,575 funded in June; Marty Chilvers project “*Protecting Yields and Improving wheat disease management through disease Surveillance and Improved Management Recommendations”* for up to $55,000.00; Christy Sprague’s project *Changing agronomic practices for improved weed management in winter wheat* for up to $30,000.00*;* ; Jan Byrne continuing work providing *Diagnostics of Michigan wheat* for up to $3,500 Kurt Steinke’s *Targeting Nutrient Management Strategies for the Next Winter Wheat Yield Increase for up to $42,614.00 and* Dr Josh Nasielski, University of Guelph project *Developing Actionable Insights from the Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network Database* for up to $20,000 US dollars. Research projects total $ 599,111. Supported by Dwight Bartle. Motion passed unanimously.**

**MOTION #3: Brad Kamprath moved to pull from reserve in the amount of $176,111 to fund research. Supported by Jason Dunning. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Board Meeting Outstanding Items  
Master Farmer Award**The board requested additional time before making a recommendation.

**Next Meeting Objectives**Monday, December 15, 2025, is the next scheduled board meeting at the MSU Agronomy Farm at 9:00 a.m. followed by the holiday luncheon.

**MOTION #4: Lyn Uphaus moved to adjourn. Brad Kamprath supported. Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.