

**Michigan Wheat Committee Board Meeting
MSU Agronomy Farm
4450 Beaumont Road, Lansing, MI 48910
Monday, December 15, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

Present-Voting Board Members

Tony Bohac, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 6
Jim Doyle, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 9-Miller Representative
Brad Kamprath, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 3
Jeff Krohn, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 7
Lyn Uphaus, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 4
Brent Wagner, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 8
Carl Wagner III, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 2

Present-Non Voting Michigan Wheat Program Affiliates

Jeff Haarer, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Jerry Heck, Farm Produce Insurance Act Wheat Representative
Dave Milligan, Michigan Wheat Committee ex-officio
Eric Olson, Michigan State University Wheat Breeder
Dennis Pennington, Michigan State University Wheat Specialist
Jody Pollok-Newsom, Michigan Wheat Committee staff
Denise Studders, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Absent

Dwight Bartle, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 5
Jason Dunning, Michigan Wheat Committee-district 1

Determination of Quorum and Call to Order

Jeff Krohn, Chairman, called the December 15, 2025, meeting of the Michigan Wheat Program (MWP) board to order at 9:02 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 asked if there were changes to the agenda and there were none.

MOTION #1: Brad Kamprath moved to approve the meeting agenda for December 15, 2025. Supported by Lyn Uphaus. Motion carried unanimously.

Review/Approve September 3, 2025 Board Zoom Meeting Minutes

The September 3, 2025, zoom board meeting minutes were sent out prior to the meeting for board review.

MOTION #2: Lyn Uphaus moved to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2025, board zoom meeting as posted. Supported by Brad Kamprath. Motion carried unanimously.

Audit Report

Jamie Peasley provided an overview of the audit for the last fiscal year.

MOTION #3: Jim Doyle moved to accept the audit and place it on file for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Supported by Tony Bohac. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #4: Tony Bohac moved to accept the overages in the budget as presented in the audit. Supported by Brad Kamprath. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Treasurer Tony Bohac reviewed the September, October and November financials, which will be placed on file. Jody Pollok-Newsom reminded board members to turn in any outstanding expense vouchers for 2025 as soon as possible.

Jody Pollok-Newsom and Denise Studders provided an update on an elevator not reporting or submitting assessments in a timely manner. The board suggested a visit to the board of the coop that is in violation to ensure they realize they are behind in their submissions. Jody will work with Denise and keep the board posted on their progress.

Director Reports

Board members reported on the crops in their district. Low prices, not just for wheat, but for all commodities were of concern.

OLD BUSINESS

Variety Release Update

MCIA-MWP Agreement

Nathan Danielson shared an update on the work with the Michigan Crop Improvement Association. Discussion for next steps ensued and recommendations were made.

MOTION #5: Brad Kamprath moved to accept the agreement with the Michigan Crop Improvement Association with the addition of an evergreen clause and involvement of the MDARD Director in an arbitration situation. Supported by Brent Wagner. Motion passed unanimously.

MSUT Agreement

Nathan Danielson shared an update on the work on an agreement with Michigan State University Technologies. Discussion for next steps ensued and recommendations were made.

MOTION #6: Lyn Uphaus moved to accept the concepts presented and move ahead with a full agreement with Michigan State University Technologies. Supported by Tony Bohac. Motion passed unanimously.

Break taken at 11:11 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 11:22 a.m.

2026 Annual Meeting

Jody Pollok-Newsom shared that the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center has been confirmed for Feb 17, 2026, for the annual meeting. The draft agenda has been shared prior to the meeting and the international speaker has been confirmed. Plans are being made and pr will start in early 2026. There has been a charge as there is now a fee for using the SVREC facilities, so they can recoup funds for maintenance, etc.

Be watching your email as Jody will be sending out messages as it gets closer to make sure anyone needing a room has a reservation and that anyone attending dinner with our speaker the night prior to the event will be included in the count.

Great Lakes Crop Summit

Jody Pollok-Newsom asked board members to please register quickly as rooms will fill up fast. This can be done at www.greatlakescropsommit.com. For this event, each board member makes their own reservations and registration. They are then reimbursed via voucher after the event for expenses-room & registration, mileage and per diem. Board members were asked to sign up to moderate sessions.

2026 Summer Field Day

Jody Pollok-Newsom and Dennis Pennington proposed holding the Summer Field Day June 17, 2026, at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center. The board supported the proposed date.

NEW BUSINESS

Wheat Wisdom Wednesday Winter Webinars

Jody Pollok-Newsom shared the focus on marketing programs developed with Dennis Pennington and the MSUE Wheat Extension team of Jenna Falor and Monica Jean. Given the tight margins with all commodities, there is a trio of wheat webinars focused on marketing to assist growers. They begin right after the new year.

Weds., Jan. 7, 7-8 pm – *With tight crop margins, how do you get the most “bang for your buck” from your Wheat Crop?* Tune in when Dennis Pennington and Jon LaPorte, from Michigan State University share their newly-developed wheat production calculator. This tool allows growers to make changes in the amount of inputs applied, their yield, their price, etc. Through this tool, growers see immediately what that means to their bottom line.

Weds., Jan 21, 7-8 pm – *Wheat marketing is essential in this climate!* By Angie Setzer, Consus Consulting, Michigan. Join Angie to get the latest information on what is happening in the markets and what is on the horizon. Tuning in will allow you to prepare for what’s best for you.

Weds., Feb. 4 – *Planting wheat makes cents for growers in crop rotation.* Dennis Pennington, MSU, and Joanna Follings, Ontario Ministry of Ag, Food and Agribusiness in Ontario, share the results of research looking into the benefits of wheat in a crop rotation.

Michigan Wheat Program Yearly Meeting Schedule

Jody Pollok-Newsom shared the proposed 2026 meeting schedule.

MOTION #7: Brad Kamprath moved to accept the Annual Schedule of Meetings for 2026, as presented. Supported by Lyn Uphaus. Motion passed unanimously.

Sponsorship Requests

Jody Pollok-Newsom shared that Dennis Pennington has been contacted by Chris DiFonzo. She has updated the pest guide and there is an opportunity to print copies for our growers with our logo.

MOTION #8: Tony Bohac moved to print 1,000 copies of the whole guide with our logo at the cost of \$10.00 per copy. Supported by Brent Wagner. Motion passed unanimously.

NAWG Silent Auction Donation Items

Jody Pollok-Newsom shared the trucks made from wheat straw that were found by Kris Milligan. These will be donated on behalf of MWP for the NAWG silent auction.

Public Comment

Jerry Heck shared his thoughts for a session for the Great Lakes Crop Summit for 2027.

REPORTS

Farm Produce Insurance Act Board

Jerry Heck former MWP board member and current board member of the FPIA filling the wheat position provided an update on their work over the past year. Denise Studders, head of producer security which includes the FPIA and also elevator audits was in attendance. The FPIA board meets tomorrow. They have a balance of \$10.3 million and had no elevator failures to make payments for last year. In October of 2026, Michigan will be hosting the national conference and we may be asked to support.

National Association of Wheat Growers

Fall Meeting Attendee, Dave Milligan-attended in November and met the new CEO who came from Farm Bureau. Corteva was there talking about hybrid wheat, there was a discussion on the fertilizer situation, and there was time to talk with growers from other states.

Strategic Planning, Dave Milligan attended in Minneapolis, Minn. last week. Plans are needed and the big issue is that wheat growers need more funding to move forward. In relation to the other ag groups, NAWG is way under funded. Next meeting in DC in late January as part of the winter meeting and more work will be done on the strategic plan.

Winter Meeting Attendee, Dave Milligan is attending to represent us for the strategic plan work in DC.

New CEO discussion, Jody Pollok-Newsom shared that she had a great conversation with the new CEO and explained our priorities and focus.

Great Lakes YEN

Dennis Pennington reported that registration is open for next year for YEN. He also added that the US Wrap up Meetings in both Michigan and Kentucky have been scheduled for the US side.

This summer the group will be going to Kentucky for the summer tour. There are also more conversations about possible sponsorship.

Michigan State University Wheat Specialist

Dennis Pennington reported on his plans for winter work, which is very much focused on meeting attendance and presentations. He provided an update on his work regarding the combine.

Michigan State University Wheat Breeder

Eric Olson provided a report on his work. He also provided an update on the hybrid wheat project by Corteva. The goal is by 2030 they will have something for soft wheat.

MDARD Update

Jeff Haarer reported that the specialty crop block grants will be announced.

Event Participation

MABA Ag Outlook-Jeff Krohn reported that it was another outstanding conference.

Mi Farm Bureau Annual Meeting-Jeff Krohn shared an update on the meeting he attended.

MDARD Board Member Training was attended by Jeff Krohn and Jody Pollok-Newsom. Jeff commented on what a good training it was and that in the future the Chairman should attend along with Jody.

Set Next Meeting Objectives

MABA Miller Meeting, Miller Luncheon & Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the board meeting at 3:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. meeting

12:30 lunch

1:30 research meeting

3:00 board meeting

MWP Annual Meeting, Tuesday, February 17, 2026

US Great Lakes YEN Wrap Up meeting February 18, 2026

Great Lakes YEN US Summer Tour in Kentucky, May 12-13, 2026

Adjourn

**MOTION #9: Carl Wagner III moved to adjourn. Supported by Brent Wagner.
Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m. and the group adjourned to the Holiday Luncheon at the Pizza House.