State Council Meeting 11-30-16

# SWD

Additional information:

Task force

* SWD Task Force Initiative – led by Bill Ravlin. Organized and thinking strategically about how we’re going to help with this issue.
* Great funding activity that will help fund the SWD Task Force Initiative. Hopefully the proposal will bring in additional $ so they can have a few more resources and hands to do research that will help the industry.

# AgBioResearch Update

The SWD challenge really shows the linkages of AgBioResearch, Extension, and the industry in a crisis.

New Dean Ron Hendrick has been here since July 1. Great team in place to move CANR forward.

Not ready to roll out details, but at times we’ve discussed MSU is fully committed to agriculture and food. Those who work at MSU believe it’s a core part of what we’re doing. President Simon has challenged us to do a more public job of positioning MSU as a premier food university. Conversations with the Provost, formal audience with the President. Hopefully she’ll approve an exciting initiative. Hope to focus on communication, connecting to people, and helping them understand food and agriculture. Want to look at the way millennials process and gather information, and to leverage the interest in food and the environment.

This time of year, we pull back and try to make sense of what we learned. Meetings, grant writing, reports, and delivering info to the public.

Annual Project GREEEN cycle for grants. This process will take place early next year with another round of grants announced in the spring.

During bad budget years, our field research center took hits – and they need facility work and resources to be updated, because that was cut over the years. We’ve had help from the Michigan Tree Fruit Commission. We’re looking for other partners in the industry for fund matching so that we can make sure we have the technology to meet the needs of the industry.

Try to establish a move visible and physical presence in Detroit. Working directly with the city to secure the use of a piece of land that will allow us to work on issues surrounding urban agriculture and land reclamation.

Role that ABR plays as the core of the research mission of CANR, but we’re also a campus-wide entity. Participate in fundamental research toward intended outcomes. For example, we fund work in biogenetics, microbiology (microbial resistance), fundamental plant genetics (plant resilience to disease), funding research that will help with our research. ABR is responsible for 20% of the fundamental research of the university. Engaged in the university level of research as well.

Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture

* Met to review proposals for Project GREEEN. Record number of proposals submitted and the most amount to give out – 1.6 million, because of the AAA advocacy at the legislative level, and the gift from MMPA. We believe this program is making a difference in the state of animal agriculture.
* Antimicrobial resistance, immerging diseases, all helping with profitability and sustainability of the industry. Bringing together the alliance together
* Industry partners not fully satisfied yet, so there are strategic discussions being held and thinking about higher levels of funding. But we’re so grateful to have tremendous support from our industry partners.

# MSU Extension Update

Working across the expertise in our institutes to address issues of concern for our residents.

The Flint experience is a good example of that. MMPA was a key partner who worked with us in Flint. Cross-institute works.

Program part of agenda working across institutes. Farm-stress program developed in a short time period as a result of concerns from MDARD for the farm families who are under extreme stress and financial stress. Health and Nutrition Institute folks delivering programs around stress, mental health, mindfulness, joining with Ag and Agribusiness educators to deliver programs. Individuals work with farm families and then delivering directly to farm families. Another opportunity to share with people the broad range of programming that is available in Extension and what we can deliver to people. We’ve had feedback that this is helping people on the ground in meaningful ways. Proud of what everyone on the team is doing.

Partners from the community such as community colleges, Project GREEEN, county government, state – 5 4-H positions that were previously half time to full time. Filling full time positions will help us be able to attract even more really good people. Half time is where we have the most turn over, so we’ll see more staff retention. Our DCs deserve a lot of credit for building relationships with local partners to help make this happen. Encouragement to work with partners to fund positions is paying off.

Philanthropy and the opportunity to allow people to directly fund the work that we’re doing. We’re not at the point of posting a position, but we’re working closely with the Dean and University Advancement, and early in 2017, we’ll be posting a Director of Development position for CANR, directly devoted to Extension as we identify people who wish to support our activities.

Work closely with our IDs and Admin team to create a new budget process to give us a better handle on where we are. This allowed us to invest significantly in a number of positions especially in AABI. This has also allowed us to look at our EF-NEP and SNAP staff members who are significantly underpaid by market standards, and we are moving forward to increase their salaries to be at the level that they should be.

Creative things our people are doing to help us grow and provide more services: HNI, we provide in stress, obesity, diabetes and chronic pain is community based programming that has potential for getting 3rd party reimbursement. Beginning with Diabetes programs. This will help get the word out about MSU Extension to the health community that don’t know about us. This will also mean that the courses that we got small sums for, we’ll get large sums of money from insurance companies who should be paying for it, instead of their people. Because all the money that comes in go directly into providing personnel, we hope to add more staff to be able to reach more people. Our team is working on how best to move forward with this opportunity.

Questions

If the ACA goes away, will that affect this?

* Probably not. We’ve already heard from the President-Elect that if elements of the ACA goes away, it will need to be replaced by something else. So we’ll still have support for this, even if it looks like a different format.
* Whatever happens with ACA, it’s difficult to walk away from the importance of population health and offering it in communities, so we believe that the interest in these programming opportunities will continue to be high.
* Academic Medical journal publishing one of our articles that argues that the ACA has language that refers to Extension – but it refers to the Agriculture Cooperative Extension, but it talks about a health Extension that should be modeled on cooperative Extension, a separate thing developed. This was never funded. Our argument in this article based on our work in Michigan, that it shouldn’t be separate thing modeled on us, but it should be a part of the already established cooperative Extension with partners. We already provide a statewide framework to provide this health initiative. Hoping that this will help us have a voice in the medical community and the next form of health care in the US.

Berrien Co. has a community collaborative that is led by the hospital chair and chair of Whirlpool. Part of the process is gathering from all of the agencies in the area, gathering population data so that they can do health, transportation and housing initiatives. They just discovered that mental health issues interfere with people’s ability to maintain their housing and jobs. Julie Pioch and Char meeting to talk about this.

County

* Either October or calendar fiscal year. DCs are working closely with County Boards of Commissioners, we’re seeing continued support for MSUE across the state. There are still a few counties working with financial challenges. We’ve been successful in securing growth.
* Ogemaw County had a millage that failed for all of county general fund. Patrick going to the board tomorrow to see how to – will have a stand-alone millage ballot for MSUE in the spring.
* Thank you to everyone who has advocated for us in your county boards.

250 people in Extension who will have a compensation increase.

# Member Updates

## District 1 – Joe B.

New Supervising educator for SNAP-Ed Staff

Coordination efforts with tribal partners. January of next year large meeting.

Educators preparing for Beginning Farmer Webinar Series that continues to grow.

Paul Putnam been excellent to work with.

## District 2 – Doug B.

Doug – central UP going well. Alger just hired a new person.

Delta hired a new person. 3 full time position.

Schoolcraft doing well with additional full time.

Mackinaw Co. vote on adding a person – not sure of outcome.

Networking going on especially with the tribes and Lake Superior State University.

Jim Lucas doing a great job with networking.

Deer season national holiday.

Tree planting.

Need people who are passionate, stay on message, and are recognized all around by people to represent their organization.

## District 3 – Bernie W.

4/6 budgets approved. Waiting on Kalkaska and Grand Traverse – no surprises expected.

Wine grape Ag position posted.

New funded position by Dairy Council for a nutrition educator for Benzie Co. working in schools with lunch programs and policy in schools.

## District 5 – Bill A.

Economic development

* Involved in LEAD – Leaders and Econo Alliance Development. USDA partnership with Extension. Counties applied for the Strong Economies Together program, not successful, but the only region in the country accepted to participate in the LEAD program. Local and regional leadership and economic development opportunities.
* All day session facilitated by MSUE – 60 community leaders in attendance. Follow-up meetingi going on right now. Out of the meeting will come a specific regional economic opportunities that we can develop a strategic plan on. Looking for low-hanging fruit to create momentum so that we can see results soon.

## District 7 – Nora B.W.

Many classes held throughout the district in November and coming up in December. ServSafe for food safety, money management series, making Michigan recipes work, homeownership education series, income tax, and also a new county commissioner workshop. Landscaping workshop. Great Lakes Fruit, Veg, and Farm Market Expo at DeVos.

## District 8 – Jim W.

Agreements in D10 updated.

Tuscola on cooking matters

4-H has started reenrollment.

New winter workshops

Ag educators working with farmers on stress management because of the financial stress.

Windmills have slowed down – townships looking into what is happening.

Lapeer Co 4-H new club where they pair 4-H children with working with people and animals.

Ag: 2016 Thumb Ag reviews

## District 11 – Sue M.

Networking – Master Gardener program has been working with schools, community gardens, eastern market, and seniors facilities. Now working with a WIC garden and donating the produce to the clients in Wayne County. Master Gardener classes – 50 students and next class will be 60. (Used to have 60).

Make a senior smile day – county commissioners with the senior alliance group go to senior’s homes to help them clean up their yards for winter.

4-H received a grant from the Foundation for training and employment programs for community food systems service learning ag careers and workforce readiness. They are trained and then hired to teach junior master gardeners in schools.

Wayne County district council formed with 17 members.

Marketing focus group in February to discuss getting the word out.

## District 12 – Londa Pickles

County budgets are all approved except Hilldale – who is experiencing financial difficulties, but it doesn’t look like their challenges will impact budget for 2017.

11 new county commissioners and 6 new state representatives. Many CCs are attending the New CC workshops.

Ag educators hosted a safety training for animal control officers – great turn out.

Numerous positions open in their district.

## Doug

Washtenaw going well.

## Char

New farm management interviews in the district and swine educator interviews. Budgets are almost

## District 9

Genesee

4 new staff and 3 more. Grant from MDHHS. Nutrition classes partnering with community groups.

Sugarbeet

Farm Safety training

Government and Policy educator

## John Mossner

SVREC –

Wheat for research planted

New education used for agribusiness meetings and calendar beginning to fill out

Facility received