**MSUE & MSU AgBioResearch State Council**

**NOTES – March 16 & 17, 2015**

**Monday, March 16, 2015**

**New Member Orientation – Mike Kovacic, Ray Hammerschmidt & Doug Buhler**

**Introductions**

**Mike Kovacic**

* 16 years at Michigan Farm Bureau
* From Durand, family in Dewitt
* Diary Farm & 4-H
* love the water
* 3 sons and 3 grandkids

**Diane Smtih**

* Michigan Apple Co - research, marketing
* Dewitt
* Pork & maple syrup (parents)
* Apple related
* At large representing apple industry
* Has a dog

**Mark  Torregrossa**

* Illinois
* Reese, MI
* Meteorologist
* Ag community - farmer weather.com
* Seed dealer
* Master gardener
* Involvement in the research station
* Hobbies: gardening (organic) boating

**Bernie Ware**

* Manistee
* Farmer - organic farmers
* Grand Valley - education degree
* MSUE helped when transitioning back to farming
* Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference on the organizing committee
* Hobbies - agriforestry, teaching workshops on the farm (mushrooms) - hoping to position farm for education

**Doug Bovin**

* High school: picked beans at local farm (picker manager) - first intro to farming
* Born and raised in Gladstone
* 20/20 Future - Ag team
* County board and chairman
* Instructor/educator
* Wife is master gardener
* Hobbies: traveling, hunting, fishing
* Granddaughters in Texas, grandson in California

**Joe  Bonovetz**

* retired mailman - 32 years
* 24 years on city council
* County board - chairman : able to get a full time 4-H (Gogebic) & tech grant, among other full timers
* Interests in 4-H and Extension
* Hobbies: 2 sons, Michigan state troopers, 5 grandkids, Harleys, birders, 2 puppies

**Omar Sims**

* Youth programs, 20 years
* MSU 4-H
* Former county commissioner
* Hobbies: family, golf, family

**Tom Voigts**

* Representative of the wood/forestry industry and secondary processing
* Management consultant - manufacturing
* Lives in Allegan, raised in Manistee
* Used MSUE for developing programs
* Hobby farmers and raise their own food, pigs, goats, sheep and chickens
* Daughter in 4-H
* Allegan conservation district board - farmers and connecting with various conservation programs (work with Extension)
* Forestry degree and wood technology
* No longer hobby farmers
* Hobbies: gardening, traveling

**Amy Coleman**

* Vice chair
* Suttons Bay
* 4th generation cherry/apple farmer
* Receiving station also
* Twins and a 2 year old all in hockey
* Running and reading

**Doug Lewis**

* Attorney
* Director of legal services
* Ontario Canada raised
* 4-H horse club "Calico kids"
* Vice president of Michigan 4-h foundation, district 12 advisory council, and 4-h advisory council
* Hobbies: horses
* Men's chorus

**Doug Buhler**

* Senior Associate Dean, Director of ABR
* 30 cow dairy farm growing up
* MSU since 2000,
* Research scientist w/USDA before, then department chair of CSS, then to associate dean for research and ABR, 2 years for interim dean, 2 years director of ABR
* Hobbies: craft beer and homebrewing (30 years), gardener, casual sports fan,
* ABR
* Mission: Food-Energy-Environment - to conduct research, bring in scientists trained in the latest scientific techniques to use those techniques to address real-world problems - fundamental research for an intended outcome. Investments all across the university, scientists in 7 colleges (Ag, Natural Science, etc.)

**Ray Hammerschmidt**

* Potato research
* 13 years as department chair
* Interim director for MSUE
* Wife was state program leader for 25 years - 4-H and CYI with food and nutrition
* Hobbies: garden, travel, beverage sampling,

**MSU Extension & AgBioResearch -** structure

Extension:

* Goal to have 1/2 time 4-H coordinator
* 4 areas: AABI, HNI, CYI and GMI

Land Grant University

* 1862 Morrill Act - signed by Lincoln
* Every state to have education for everyone
* Then added research (Hatch Act)
* Smith-Lever - to spread education to the communities (creating the Extension service)
* Federal, state and county for 3-legged stool of funding
* ABR- generates research, spread by Extension to the people

District Extension Councils

District Advisory to Field Stations

 State Council

APLU National Council - CARET - Council for Agriculture Research Extension and Teaching (we have 3 delegates)

**Developing Relationships with Policy Makers – Mike Kovacic**

* Staff - make sure you talk to the staff. The staff are the ones that stay even after term limits.
* Just stopping in to visit and introduce yourself
* Coffee visiting back in the district - having a meeting when they are back in district.

Know thyself

* Maybe 15 minutes in an office
* Going to district meetings gives you more time
* Who you are, why you're there, why it's important to you, concise and quick
* They want to know that you're a constituent
* Share your unique connection
* Always thank them for their time and support (whether they supported our budget or not)
* Any alternatives to support? (verbally supporting or making a phone call)
* Establishing relationship and to re-establish your relationship
* Know why MSUE & ABR are important to you
* Be prepared to offer specific impacts on your family, neighborhood, community etc. - this is what sets us a part,

Know they community

* How does MSUE/ABR interface with community partners
* Common questions we get: nutrition/youth development - "Aren't those duplicative services?" - MSUE goes into the community and sees what is already offered and what does the community need and what can we ADD to what is already there - researched based, unbiased knowledge to enhance programs. How do MSUE & ABR fit and enhance current community programming.
* Besides what you're connected to, what else is going on in your area and how it impacts the community - knowing the breadth. Important to connect with District Coordinator, District Council members, educators etc. to know what's going on.

Know they policy maker

* Who are they? On the State level? Keeping track.
* Important to know committees they're on as well
* What are policy interests: bills they've sponsored, committees they sit on. There are website that have a plethora of information (news, tours, district meeting information, bills they're sponsoring, committees, etc.)
* How do they interact with Extension programs? "Tell me what you know about Extension and ABR?"
* Many have some understanding, but not usually the total breadth of our programming and research.

Know thy tools

* [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)
	+ To know what's going on in town
	+ Left hand side: committee meetings, (Tuesday-Thursday meetings mostly, unless the end of the session) Very best times to have appointments are on Wednesdays. Gives all information about meetings and the agenda.
* Go to district meetings
	+ Coffee hour
	+ Open houses
	+ Special meetings
	+ Being able to meet them in the district in their own turf is almost better than in their office in Lansing, and best way to establish and develop a relationship over-time
* Local newspaper
	+ This might be online
	+ They often promote district meetings or what they're working on in the legislature
* Get to know the Office staff on a first name basis
	+ Developing relationship with the staff - because when they legislator talks to his/her staff about an issue and asks "who should we call or talk to about this" and then the staff can know exactly who to call (you).
* Know how they prefer to communicate
	+ Email, phone, in person
* [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu)
	+ State Council page is under the "ABOUT" tab on the MSUE website (Katie will send out e-mail about how to get there)
* <http://agbioresearch.msu.edu>
* Special updates and talking points
	+ Mike will e-mail as budget comes out, and with communication advice
* Director Hammerschmidt's weekly "spotlight"

**Observations from Council Vice-Chair – Amy Coleman**

* Personal story – most important to share
* Don't feel like you need talking points memorized, just talking about your own individual story
* They will ask you questions, if you don't have the answer, let them know that you'll get back with them (this adds another opportunity to interact)
* Our meetings are important so that we all know what's going on in other areas, knowing what is going on in the other counties

**CANR Update - Kelly Millenbah**

* At its 40 year high for student numbers, just under 5,000 students.
* Concerns about student numbers
* Food and Ag Council  National Committee - STEM - how do we bring more talented youth into resource and Ag based issues - national opportunity/challenge
* Students with different backgrounds coming in (than in previous history)
* Communication - Food, Energy and the Environment and in terms of STEM, students can recognize that they fit
* We're analyzing the CANR curricula, industry needs, student needs.
* We need to constantly be revisiting our curricula and making adjustments based on students, stakeholders, industry, etc. to be efficient and immediately responsive. Significant progress in those areas.
* *What's Now What's Next* - we heard about the Ag Tech program - working with community college partners and how we can build impactful programs - new community colleges for new programs. Needs to be grounded in data.
* Other initiatives: The T-shaped professional: from an academic standpoint, having the depth of knowledge, but also the breadth and "soft skills" - communication, collaboration, etc. How do we do better with linking academics with the work force. And also making sure our students have connections to internships.
* Research shows that students are making decisions very early (middle school and high school) - discussions around how we communicate to younger audiences. MSU has programs to bring younger students on campus to explore academic and work opportunities. 4-H exploration days - thousands of kids who come to MSU.
* There are twice as many ag jobs posted as there are people to fill.
* "World Food Prize Michigan Global Youth Institute" - to bring students onto campus for discussion around food/ag (Aug 10) at the high school level - more information to follow. (collaboration with 4-H & FFA) - we will put a LINK on our page.
* Degree showing significant increase: undergrad- largest major is through packaging and Ag Econ, Animal Science, FSHN (working on programming that we believe will get a lot of attention) Food, Ag and Resource Econ - growing. Community Sus, Hort, PSS, - anticipating growth.

**MSU AgBioResearch Update - Doug Buhler & MSU Extension Update – Ray Hammerschmidt**

ABR/ MSUE Update/ Testimony

***Extension***

* Michigan Government has recommended 2% increase for ABR & MSUE, and grateful for this increase
* Background: 15% reduction years ago, and we're working to make progress - reduced Educators by 72 positions (retirements, re-assignments, layoffs), reduced faculty by 22, reduced support staff, reduced administrative by 60%. The result changed our ability to provide the programming and composition of MSUE.
* AABI- 66 educators and 8 program instructors. Campus: 85 FTE (funding by MSUE & ABR, and some teaching)
* With increases, we're trying to rebuild our capacity
* More careful strategic planning and future management - moving forward in the short term and the long term. 4 Institute Directors are working on strategic plans. New work teams looking at the traditional areas but also how to expand programming strategically.
* Goal: 1/2 minimum time in 81/83 counties.
* Legislature asked us to increase our external funding by 15%, we have already increased by 7% before the deadline. We are looking into have grant funded positions.
* We have been asked to increase our connections and communications as well. - Dramatically increased web presence - we've had our 10 millionth page view. Increasing numbers of people connecting by communications efforts. Way of supplementing the richness of the programs and increasing outreach.
* 18% increase in outreach.
* Looking at new ways of training industry professionals.
* Looking at finding new partnerships - especially with industry or investments with commodity partners.
* Fruit & Vegetable Expo - premier educational programs - reaching people from 42 states and 8 canadian provinces
* MDARD -  invasive research
* Internship program - with 13 interns to spend summers working with educators in different parts of the state for undergraduates.
* Training through 4-H programming: 4-H Capitol experience,
* Working to strengthen community partnerships  - 90,000 people reached by safe food preparation and storage education programs.
* Financial stability - helping 50% of people in foreclosure to maintain their homes.
* Increased our support of STEM education
* Extension works closely with ABR

***AgBioResearch***

* Important to balance funding with support for current research but also for new research
* ABR - the research and development arm of MSU around Ag and Natural Resources.
* Balance between our need to be responsive to the real world problems, and to also be on the cutting-edge of new research
* Places we can apply fundamental research that meet needs of our stakeholders
* Must be competitive in science
* Statewide/National/Global outreach
* 2 primary components
	+ Scientists we help fund: 300 scientists in 7 colleges in 30 departments
	+
* We have the flexibility that we can invest anywhere in MSU to meet our mission and address our needs and issues
* Want to connect with stakeholders and developing partnerships: important
	+ Generating Research and Extension to meet Environment and Energy Needs
	+ Every year, all of the industry partners submit their research priorities, sit on the review panels, decide on funding,
	+ Success - the $ is not tied up for more than 3 years, so we have the abilities to respond to the new problems, issues faced currently
* Leveraging the resources we get (state, federal, industry) - everything is important
	+ base funding allocation from state & federal
	+ Federal grants, contracts, partnerships
	+ 100 million dollar operation
	+ 2 things: $ you allocate is seed corn - for people in place and facilities for preliminary work- other piece: $ bring bright, educated young people to our community.
* Federal message: MSU is either #1 or #2 with highest USDA funding in the Big 10. - We bring back more than our share.
* Specialty Crop Research Initiative: by the Farm Bill supporting the specialty crops industry. We've received more $ from that institution, because we have the ability to do preliminary work that puts us in a great position to receive grants to expand upon that research.
* Alternative pollinators and bee health - we're 10 years in, so when the Federal Government wanted to begin funding, they brought the largest sum to our institution because our preliminary research and world class people in place to expand on that research.
* Partnerships very important to us - Even though we've been through some tough times of budget cuts, we have not lost any partners, and that's important to us. We all got through this together.

**Michigan Animal Agriculture Alliance – George Smith**

* Getting all the Ag commodity groups to begin meeting again to talk about issues and problems - Michigan Alliance for Agricultural Animal - many partnerships
* Goal to get the leaders from the industries to build toward the futures.
* 1/2 million dollars for applied research in Animal Ag
* Grants
* Commodity groups got together to talk about the priorities, connecting with stakeholders, identifying 3 top priorities from each commodity groups
* How to structure the small grants program to meet the needs
	+ Workforce development
	+ Infectious diseases
	+ Nutrient Management
* Proposals
* Reviewing proposals and making decisions
* 36 applications and able to fund 17 - $600,000 in funding
* Examples:
	+ Nutrient and fate of manure spreading in the winter and the impact
	+ Ag quality and safety
	+ Poultry housing systems (responding to legislation on new management systems)
	+ Enhancing workforce
	+ My Horse University
	+ Evaluating Consumer preferences for on-farm practices (will consumers pay more for organically produced products? Or animals that are raised a certain way:? How much more?)
	+ Workforce development and partnerships with community colleges
* Now would like to go to legislature to get some re-occurring funding
* Generated data shows that $100 billion to the economy in Ag/animal, if we can increase, additional $1.4 million and 11,000+ jobs could be created.
* Immerging issues need people and funding to work on them.
* Budget climate this year not available this year, but would like a smaller amount for work force development, but have plans to ask for more/add more eventually.

--> How to craft the message to reach young people

* 4-H: traditional programs important, but expanding just as important

**Extension Health Research Team**

Dr. Jeff Dwyer, Dr. Cheryl Eschbach, Dr. Dawn Contreras, Holly Tiret, Linda Cronk, Cathy Newkirk, Erin Carter

* All members listed on slide
* Linda Cronk - co-chair and Traverse City Area
* Peters - Grand Rapids area, analysis
* Newkirk - Flint
* Holly Tiret (Grand Rapids)
* Erin Carter - Marquette
* Midland - TBA
* Partnership with CHM, matching funds
* Items:
	+ See slide for all 5 items
* Goal to pair faculty members with Educators &Health research liason to identify needs and meet them in health and wellness areas.
* Key programming slide
* Food safety
* Nutrition and Physical Activity (reaches 90,000 adults and youths)
	+ Needs of Diverse Audiences
		- Spanish curricula
		- Culturally appropriate curricula and instructors with visually impaired, deaf and Arabic audiences
	+ Nutrition paired with local food access and systems
* Social/Emotional Health Programs
* Successes:
	+ Important to have the bridge between the science/research and the people who need it
	+ Resources for the whole process: people who are great at the science/research and the people who are great at educating communities
	+ HRSA - liaison to provide dementia and Alzheimer's training to Native American Community and to the National Native American community.
	+ NIH - Multi-mill $ awards with infrastructure for research - applying for funding to be Extension Health Researchers
	+ AHRQ - Health Outcomes for pregnant
		- Video
		- Bringing about practice change - having visits to pregnant women
		- Needing a dissemination toolkit = extension
	+ All of these incredible research outcomes being able to be disseminated
	+ Flint Public Health success stories - people competing for NIH funding (national level) & public health outcomes and interventions to produce better outcomes. Before she's had to pay for the dissemination of her research, now she will able to focus on the research & Extension will do the rest of the dissemination - this partnership brings funding to MSUE also
	+ PATH program giving a model for others to use
	+ In some ways we can be a connector, in others, we can bring funding here because Extension specialists are directly involved with the research
* Strategies
	+ Communications - putting our programs in health offices so that providers can offer our services to people who need more information, education in health, disease etc.
	+ 10 extension specialists responsible for a health related program get to present 10 different topics. Health related scientists can then know about 10 of our programs and the key person to go talk to - to peak an interest to make connections between our educators and health professionals out there.
	+ See the University strategies slide
	+ Being able to create partnerships with community partners, health care professionals, MSU, and Extension educators
* Opportunity to make a mark nationally
* Value of our Extension people in communities: know the communities, work there, live there, know the needs, know how to educator,  = ability to be sustainable and built on what we already have.
* Confusion at National level between Extension and Health Extension

**Enviro-Weather – Jeff Andresen**

* Enviro-weather: A weather-based pest and crop management information system for Michigan
* Interactive information system linking real-time weather data, forecasts and biological and other process-based models for assistance in operational decision-making and risk management associated with Michigan's agriculture and natural resource industries
* 24/7 free of charge service
* 8 Full and part-time staff
* 81 automated weather stations across MI,WI
* Dedicated computer system for collection, processing, dissemination, and archival of data
* System supported by MI Project GREEEN, MI ABR, MSUE, external grants, corporate/individual sponsorships and industry group/grower contributions.
* Information flow
* Needing combined observations from the real world as well as the research. The system provides heighted conditions
* EW effects: plant phenology models, pest models, irrigation management models, weather summaries
* Network - self funded, self-supported, by demand and applicability (and financial support) $1,200 per site per year (less than $7,000 to put the equipment out on the field) - we look at where we can use the information.
* About collaborations and partnerships
* Gives growers a head's up about periods of heightened or enhanced risks.
* Some require interaction with user
* Modular system and designed to accommodate new products
* Most applications are from Michigan
* Who uses - monthly usage by group - see the pie chart and graph (largely fruit, but others increasing)
* Usage rates have increased - since the slide presentation - very encouraging
* Impacts
	+ Impacts on crop output and insecticides/pesticides and diseases = use of this info improves quality and lessens amount of pesticides/disease
	+ Michigan production increases by 7 million pounds
	+ Reduction in pesticide use
	+ Michigan sales increase 1.8 mill dollars - just from 9 applications
	+ Increases quality
* Future:
	+ Continued research and product development
	+ Modernization
	+ Climate statistics
	+ Increasing use of NWS gridded products
* Able to put out new data sets based on needs
	+ i.e. plant wetness by month
	+ How much plants will need of extra water
	+ Mean temperature differences
	+ What happens if I'm far from a station - depends on the application - and they are trying to record how far you have to be before the data will change. For example, for temperature, the central of Michigan temp does not have huge variance (Do not need as many) but on the boarders, there is wide change, so need more stations.
	+ Preliminary Verification of Precipitation Forecasts for Manure Management (when to spread) - forecasts

**Legislative Briefing – Mike Kovacic**

Talking Points

* Feb 11 - Governor Snyder presented his budget - 2% increase for MSUE/ABR, tax credits being cashed in and has hindered extra funding for us.
* 3 lines that come to MSUE
	+ General funding line
	+ Line item for ABR (1/3 of budget)
	+ Line item for MSUE (1/3 of budget)
* Now we're in the 2014/15 budget year
* We're advocating for the 2015/16 budget year
* State portion is critical because that is what allows us to put infrastructure in place.
* $ that comes from the State of Michigan is extremely important to our ability to operate and that's what we're asking you to advocate for.
* Your story is the most important talking point that there is
* Second most important - thank you for your time and for your support
* Make sure you ask - will you support these programs
* House - extremely positive testimony
* Senate - testimony went well
* Everyone is important - they each have a voice
* They love to hear from constituents about the programs that are making a difference in their communities
* You know what's going on in your district and going on in your area and have the best insight - you specialize in being a community member and in the impacts of the programming
* It's important to ask the question: "will you support this?" -
* Important to know who you're talking to and what's important to each person

Key Contacts:

House

* House Higher Education Budget Subcommittee Members
* Michael McCready 40th/Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham - C (Sue)
* Paul Muxlow 83rd/ Sanilac County & Port Huron (Maj. VC)
* Rob VerHeulen, 74th / Walker, Grandville, Sparta
* Laura Cox, 19th Livonia (Sue)
* Sam Singh (Min. VC), 69th / East Lansing, Okemos, Williamston (Ben)
* Jeff Irwin, 53rd / Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, and Scio Townships (Doug Lewis)
* Jon Hoadley 60th / Kalamazoo
* Chair of Full Appropriations - Al Pscholka - 79th / Berrien County  (Char)
* Speaker of the House - Kevin Cotter, 99th / Mt. Pleasant/Isabella County  (Kathy)

Senate

* Schuitmaker (Char) - C 26th - Michigan from Kentwood to Hartford including South Haven & Plainwell
* MacGregor - 28th /
* Curtis Hertel (Ben) 23rd
* Meekhof (Char) - Senate Majority Leaders - 30ths
* Hildebrand (Grad of CANR) Chair of Full Appropriations, 29th

**Council Member Reports**

**Kathy Methner** (District 6)

* Hiring for Foreclosure prevention and homebuyer instructor in Clare Co, and 4-H in Mecosta
* Hops - CMU started brewing curriculum - April 10-11, in GR, there is Great Lakes Hops and Barley Conference by MSUE sponsored
* Needs to offer services to the brewing industry
* Advocacy group for Gladwin Co for mileage to pass
* Wexford has a new mileage request up for MSUE
* Mock interview deay - MSUE committee w/Gladwin partnerships - 200 high school students from Gladwin, Clare and Isabella to participate, and 50-60 volunteers - great success
* Natural Shoreline landscaping class - MSUE
* Lots of great programming

**Char Wenham** (CARET)

* Berrien Co has recovered the econ downturn from AABI, brewery, hops, and ABR has helped in this industry.
* Berrien Co - 4-H students experiment with STEM with kids to increase their scores

**Sue McFadden** (District 11 – Wayne)

* Wayne County (District 11)
* Nutrition & Physical Activity Work Team: 10,000 participants
* Mother to mother over 500 women and families
* Money management - average of 1,000 residents participated
* 4-H clubs averaged about 17,000 youth within the past 3 years - tech wizard program- extending out from agriculture
	+ Archery instruction certification training workshop, great response
* Master Gardeners
	+ donated 20,000 hours of volunteer hours, many for education
	+ New group/management- about 150 members
	+ Who to contact about the association?
	+ What will happen to Master Gardeners if the county goes bankrupt?
	+ Ray response: Mary working with groups to develop programming and planning for if/when we get resources - similar to when we have a position that is partly county funded - if the county does not have funding, we can't move forward? We need input on what are the top priorities, if we have a small amount of funding and can only give funding to a specific program/staff/resources - what kind of alternative resources might we be able to respond? Mary Wilson the best person to contact. What kind of partnerships? Working with Consumer Horticulture teams and investigating options .

**Candiss Van Overbeke**(District 4🡪 14)

* Educator hires and new District Coordinator position will be re-posted
* Advisory committee from the 11 counties.
* Youth Institute Concentrations - October meeting with youth educational programs presenting what they have to offer
* Goal set for committee - Advocacy in the local governmental level
* One-page reports for advocacy and letting them know the results
* Low-income - tough to get support: 2/11 do not support us, and mileages are trying to be used
* Montmorency looking for other funding sources
* Youth Institute - partnering with the conservation districts for "youth conservation days" partnering with the DNR and having field days to get youth involved with MSUE/DNR/ research, disease, learning about issues around environment/wildlife
* Gaylord - August MSUE will have a Master Gardener's school - lots of excitement
* Splitting the district

**Londa Pickles** (District 12)

* Washtenaw and Lenawee will now both have part time people
* Monroe had retirements and now transition is complete
* Sending youth constituent to the Capitol Experience
* Pushing the Exploration days at MSU - 50 youth going already, they raise council money to be able to send youth
* Youth Leadership - youth run boards in the community - having recent high school graduates being mentors or leaders in 4-H

**Wayne Hecht** (Saginaw Valley Research & Extension C)

* Research Station: beans and beats
* Building has been challenging, now working
* Senate hearing tomorrow

**Joe Bonovetz** (District 1)

* Gogebic  - MSUE- adding programming/people
* Working hard to get all Extension FTEs - Paul Putnam doing a great work

**Thomas Voigts** (At-large)

* Allegan - issues with river level and irrigation

**Bernie Ware** (District 3)

* Small Farm Conference: over 1,000 and a lot of youth participation
* Seeing smaller farms and niche farming spreading
* Outreach to Native Americans - Grand Traverse band, and Little River Band - farming and research into pre-colonial diets

**Mark Torregrossa** (At-large)

* Saginaw Research Station - great work being done there and reaching out to farmers and new techniques
* Able to connect about the weather with those in the area

**Doug Bovin** (District 2)

* Hoop House resulting in farmer's market spread
* Now year round and indoor markets
* Nutrition and recreation departments
* Forestry - Bill Cook - lots of education activities and logging discussions (ABR working with Bill Cook as well to expand)
* MSUE offered 4-5 waste water management discussions - Chatham
* Local planning commissions
* LSSU - fisheries, we have collaborations going with them (ABR)

**Amy Coleman** (AgBioResearch)

* Orchard Show
* Spotted Wing Drosophila (insect) Summit to find effective management - 6 grant proposals developed from
* Great Lakes Fruit Workers Conference in Traverse City
	+ Importance of collaboration
* Research Station: $250,000 from grant agencies
	+ examples
	+ Pollinations
	+ Training
	+ irrigation

**Doug Lewis**(CARET)

* Having a 1/2 time educator for Lenawee, and a 1/2 time in Washtenaw
* 4-H advisory council - had a grant request from a club to send seeds to Haiti 4-H there
* 4-H foundation - oil profits

**Jim Will** (District 10)

* 900 dairy farmers in Ukraine - MSUE and 4-H there - international
* Webinar for Vegetable 101 in Tuscola County for those who have not been able to have the MG program. For those unable to be on the Webinar, they will make it available to them. Ground floor for things to come.
* Tuscola: 4-H coordinator for full time
* 4-H Auction sale in Washtenaw to fund assistants and clubs have a chance to generate some extra money through food
* Ice fishing event with grants 80 people
* Tiger baseball game days with 4-H
* Master Gardener - planning with the campus educators to try and move things forward.
* Agents planning on working Detroit Public Schools - successful sweet corn crop, great harvest, found great processor, able to serve it in the cafeteria. DPS looking into inner city farms.
* Would like to have a presence through the school year
* Tuscola has a large Ag presence and would really like to have an Ag Educator

**Steve Yanni** (At-large)

* Eastern UP - trying to bring Master Gardener classes to Sault St. Marie and to generate enough interest
* Met Paul Putnam - full of positive energy
* Chatham continues to grow and develop - great integration of the folks there into the networks of the area - great energy, represent a new group of farmers
* Search from Alger Co to replace educator
* Challenges in counties to convince the impact is worth the investment
* Place making program coming to SSM
* 3 educators working with Bay Mills developing strategic plans - Ann Chastain, John Amerhein and Brad Newman
* Sustainable Ag Course - 4 credit offered by the college
* Need a researcher based at Chatham - integrated
* Regional/local food done well - wanting to know direction, wanting to train more producers

**Ben  Kudwa** (CARET)

* Washington D.C.
	+ Budget for ABR
	+ Budget for MSUE
	+ Budget for research