

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Plant Science Research Greenhouse Facility Faculty Oversight Committee Meeting January 25, 2022

Present: Chrislyn Particka, Director; Erik Runkle, (HORT), Co-Chair; Thomas Sharkey (PRL and BMB), Co-Chair; Bjoern Hamberger, BMB; Mary Hausbeck (PSM); Roberto Lopez (HORT), David Lowry (PLB); Eric Olson (PSM); David Smitley (ENT), Michael Walters (FOR)

Absent: Carolyn Malmstrom (PLB)

Chrislyn opened the meeting by announcing that Luke Cole started on Monday, January 24 as the new greenhouse coordinator. Luke comes to MSU from CBI Rehabilitation Services, where he served as Assistant Manager of Giving Tree Farm.

The [greenhouse renovations](#) remain the university's only capital outlay request to the state. Tours for legislators and stakeholder groups continue, including state Representative Amos O'Neal on September 16 and the Michigan Bean Commission on January 5. Tours for several other commodity groups are being planned. On January 17, Erik Runkle and Tom Sharkey attended a meeting with CANR administration and leaders of ag commodity groups, organized by Greenstone Farm Credit, to discuss the outlay request.

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Chrislyn also provided an update on the \$4M investment in the greenhouse facility. Phase 1 continues.

- Work is progressing to order and install the first set of Wadsworth Seed environmental control systems in about 1/4 of the greenhouse sections.
- LEDs are planned to be installed in approximately 30 greenhouses with remaining Phase 1 funds.

Tom reported that CANR and CNS leadership are discussing the future of faculty oversight of the research greenhouse facility and the growth chamber facility. Input is being collected from committee members and facility staff.

Chrislyn reported that she and Trevor Hardwick (greenhouse coordinator) are developing a "greenhouse basics" narrated slide set. The goal of this slide set is to inform greenhouse users on the fundamentals of growing plants in the greenhouse. The slide set will be posted on the greenhouse website once complete and instructions for accessing it will be shared via the listserv.

IPF was able to fix the drainage problem that affected the courtyards between greenhouses 48 and 50, and 50 and 52. IPF has also installed high water alarms in the steam tunnels that flooded and caused the steam explosion on August 12 of last year. If the alarm sounds, greenhouse access will be disabled for all users and an email will be sent to the listserv. IPF had

previously identified and corrected locations where flood water had entered the steam tunnels and installed dewatering equipment.

New benches have been installed in a small number of greenhouses to replace old, unstable ones.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.