

**Plant Science Research Greenhouse (PSRG) Facility
Faculty Oversight Committee Meeting
December 12, 2023, 3:00 pm**

Present: Hannah Burrack (ENT), Jeremy Johnson (FOR), Linda Hanson (USDA), Mary Hausbeck (PSM), Eric Hegg (CNS Associate Dean), Cody Keilen (Growth Chamber Facility), Roberto Lopez (HRT), David Lowry (PLB), Carolyn Malmstrom (PLB), Eric Olson (PSM), Chrislyn Particka (PSRG)(Director), Erik Runkle (HRT)(Co-Chair), Thomas Sharkey (BMB, PRL)(Co-Chair)

Absent: Bjoern Hamberger (BMB)

Erik Runkle called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

The minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting were approved.

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

A summary of the discussion about each agenda item is included below:

Renovations to houses 47-52: The project is nearing final completion, with a few small items to be corrected or finished. All houses were able to be occupied by mid-November.

Chrislyn Particka, PhD
Director

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[https://rtsf.natsci.msu.edu/about/
directory/research-
greenhouse-complex/](https://rtsf.natsci.msu.edu/about/directory/research-greenhouse-complex/)

State-funded renovations: The committee was informed of budget constraints that may necessitate cuts to the scope. The committee decided that reducing the scope of the renovations to houses 16, 18, and 20 was generally preferred over reducing the scope of the planned new greenhouses. Erik informed the committee that \$1.5M, paid over no more than 10 years, is being provided from greenhouse user fees to help pay for the new headhouse.

The committee recommended that two or three town halls be held to answer user questions related to the project, especially as it relates to the timeline and space availability once the project is completed. [A timeline is provided as an addendum below.]

Communication with users: Erik Runkle encouraged all committee members to provide research greenhouse updates to their faculty, such as during departmental meetings. Users need to be informed of the greenhouse renovations and consequential space constraints through fall of 2026. This also allows an opportunity to provide user feedback to the committee.

Space assignments: The committee discussed how greenhouse space is assigned, particularly as it relates to the challenges created by the reduction in space during the state-funded renovations. The idea of forming a space subcommittee to help make decisions about space assignments was considered, but one will not be formed at this time. Instead, a subcommittee was formed (Hannah Burrack, Linda Hanson, David Lowry, and Carolyn Malmstrom) to write with Chrislyn guiding principles that will be used to inform space assignment decisions.

Committee member terms: The committee decided that faculty members will be appointed to a three year term on the greenhouse oversight committee. At the end of three years the committee member may be reappointed or may rotate off the committee. Department chairs will make these decisions with input from the faculty member. Terms will be staggered so that one-third of the members are considered for reappointment each year.

Irrigation systems: Due to time constraints, this item will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Projected Timeline for State Funded Renovations

2024

Mid-April: Houses 2, 4, and 6 to be empty of all materials (plants, benches, and lights).
Early May: Abatement/demolition of houses 2, 4, and 6 begins.
Summer: Renovation of houses 16 and 20.

2025

Mid-February: Move-in to two newly built houses, one with 10 single-bay zones and one with 5 double-bay zones.
Early April: New headhouse opens.
Late February: Abatement/demolition of houses 8 and 10.
Mid-April: Demolition of current headhouse.

2026

Mid-January: Move-in to two newly built houses, one with 10 single-bay zones and one with 5 double-bay zones.
Late January: Abatement/demolition of houses 11, 13, and 15.
Summer: Renovation of house 18.
Late October: Move-in to two newly built houses, both with 5 double-bay zones.

**Timeline is in flux; all dates are subject to change.*