

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Plant Science Research Greenhouse (PSRG) Facility

PSRG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2026, 1:00 pm

Present: Norman Birge, (College of Natural Science), Hannah Burrack (ENT), Linda Hanson (USDA), Jeremy Johnson (FOR), Cody Keilen (Growth Chambers), Roberto Lopez (HRT), Eric Olson (PSM), Chrislyn Particka (PSRG, Director), Erik Runkle (HRT)(Co-Chair), Berkley Walker (PLB, PRL) (Co-Chair)

Absent: Bjoern Hamberger (BMB), Mary Hausbeck (PSM), David Lowry (PLB)

Erik Runkle called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The first order of business was to welcome Berkley Walker to the committee, serving as co-chair and representing the Plant Biology Department and the Plant Research Laboratory. Erik also thanked David Lowry for his service as interim co-chair. Carolyn Malmstrom (PLB) has been reassigned away from the greenhouse committee, given that Berkley and David are both on it. We are thankful to Carolyn for her service to the committee.

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

Greenhouse renovation updates

Chrislyn reported that the state-funded renovations are essentially complete; only a few minor items remain. Additional repairs to the fertilizer injectors were made and it appears that they will function properly at lower flow rates. Greenhouse staff are conducting final testing with the hopes we will be able to use them soon.

A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for May 14th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Developing an SOP for pesticide applications completed by users

Chrislyn reported there have been some recent issues involving pesticide applications made by greenhouse users for research purposes. To help prevent future incidents, greenhouse staff are developing an SOP that outlines how to properly apply pesticides in the greenhouses, including informing greenhouse staff in advance. The SOP will be an addendum to the User Manual and will be circulated to the list serve once it is completed.

Space allocation

Chrislyn reported that the space allocation process has been in place for a little over a year now, and that it has made greenhouse space assignments easier to manage. To streamline the process, a change was made to the space allocation form that allows users to quickly submit a “renewal” application if they do not wish to make any changes in their

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<https://rtsf.natsci.msu.edu/about/directory/research-greenhouse-complex/>

request from the previous year. Users are reminded that space needs to be requested each year.

Greenhouse sanitation and personal plants

Committee members were asked to remind greenhouse users in their departments about the importance of good greenhouse sanitation. Poor sanitation increases pest pressure and makes pest control more challenging and time consuming. There have also been recent incidents of personal plants being grown in the facility; personal plants are not allowed because it is misuse of university property and potentially creates additional pest issues.

User Manual updates

Chrislyn shared proposed minor updates to the User Manual. The committee was in favor of the changes. Chrislyn will circulate an updated copy to the greenhouse listserv along with the meeting minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.