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LOCAL #1

Title: **Monroe County Sheriff Recognition**

Sheriff Troy Goodnough has introduced many new programs in the Monroe County Sheriff's Office that have greatly improved operations and community relations.

He has attended several township meetings, building good relationships with local elected officials, and is making himself accessible to residents to understand their needs and concerns.

Sheriff Goodnough has been nationally recognized for many of his program improvements.

Therefore, be it resolved: On behalf of Monroe County Farm Bureau, we thank Sheriff Troy Goodnough for outstanding service to Monroe County.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

LOCAL #2 and STATE #1

Title: Tile Drainage / Roadside Ditches

We are aware of the regulation preventing new farm drainage systems from being installed with outlets into roadside drainage ditches unless these are also county drains. However, we are aware of recent improvements of Monroe County roadways that have included major changes to existing roadside drainage ditches. A recent change in grading of roadway right-of-way in Monroe County has had a negative impact on adjacent farmland. Roadway improvement and grading has diverted surface water onto farmland causing crop losses. Changing the elevation of the roadside ditch has eliminated the continued use of the roadside ditch for an existing tile outlet.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. Construction and maintenance of roadways by the Monroe County Road Commission that include changes to roadside ditches must not impact tile outlets previously rightfully grandfathered into these ditches. Initial design and site plan must include provisions to maintain existing tile drainage and input from the farm owner/operator of said land.
2. When reconstruction of roadways by the Monroe County Road Commission is designed there must be a plan for surface water to be diverted in a manner that will prevent runoff onto adjacent farmland.
3. The Monroe County Farm Bureau president, or their designee, will communicate directly with Monroe County Board of Road Commissioners and the Monroe County Commissioners, before the end of 2024, to express Farm Bureau's concern about the lack of farmer input when road improvements are being planned. Specifically, where potential impact of water movement, both surface and subsurface, on land adjacent to these improvements could be impacted by elevation changes of roadside drainage ditches.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

LOCAL #3 and STATE #2

Title: **Rural Road Designs**

Monroe County Road Commission has engaged in the changing of road intersections throughout the county. Several of the new intersections cannot accommodate agricultural equipment, such as narrow roundabouts.

We ask the Monroe County Road Commission engineers to evaluate the changes to accommodate agricultural equipment and the trucks that haul the food and fiber on these roads.

We ask the Monroe County Road Commission to consult with farmers in a proposed project area regarding design impacts on agriculture equipment movement.

Monroe County is a major agriculture production community.

Therefore, be it resolved: We recommend adding new language to **MFB Policy #95, County Road Commissions**, to read:

Michigan Department of Transportation to recommend county road commission engineers to evaluate future road projects to accommodate agricultural equipment and the trucks that utilize these roads.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE #3

Title: **Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)**

Changes to the MAEAP technicians were recently proposed by the legislature to reduce the number of technicians and for them to become state employees. The legislature then rejected this proposal and decided to keep the same number of technicians at the Conservation Districts.

There are concerns that MAEAP technicians being state employees will result in the program no longer being confidential and voluntary. Also of concern is the reduced number of state employee MAEAP technicians would not be able to provide adequate service to all the counties in Michigan.

We believe the key principles of a successful MAEAP program include that the program remains voluntary and confidential, be available statewide, have consistent goals and expectations, and provide sufficient salary and benefits for technicians to help them serve farmers' stewardship interests.

Therefore, be it resolved: We recommend adding new language to **MFB Policy #82, Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program**, after Line 29 under "We Support":

- MAEAP technicians should be located at local Conservation District offices and not be made State of Michigan employees.
- Technician direction, expectations and program goals to remain being set by MDARD. Metrics and expectations to be set with input from technicians and farmers.
- Increased salary and benefit opportunities for MAEAP technicians to help keep technicians on the job.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE #4

Title: **Biodiesel Tax Credit**

House Bill 4847 proposes to give a tax incentive for motor fuel retail dealers that offer low-level biodiesel blends. It is a voluntary program that offers a \$0.02 per gallon tax credit for B5+ fuel (biodiesel blend containing at least 5% biodiesel, but not more than 10%) and a \$0.05 per gallon tax credit for B11+ fuel (biodiesel blend containing more than 10% biodiesel). It also offers a \$0.02 per gallon tax credit for Michigan biodiesel producers. Biodiesel is a renewable fuel from animal or vegetable fats. It offers numerous health and environmental benefits while reducing the State's reliance on imported oil.

Therefore, be it resolved: We support the passage of this legislation out of the Committee on Tax Policy and to the full House for consideration.

We recommend adding new language to **MFB Policy #45, Renewable and Biomass Products**, under 'We Support' to read "Tax credits for Michigan biodiesel retailers that offer low-level biodiesel blends and for Michigan biodiesel producers."

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE #5

Title: **Support for Revitalization and Expansion of ZFS Riga LLC Ethanol Plant**

As Michigan based agricultural processors continue to propose new operations and renovate current processing plants, it is time to show support for this expansion and to ensure that available Economic Development funds are directed to these companies' efforts. These Economic Development options would ensure agricultural processing plants can come "on-line" timely and offer Michigan farmers more options to market and sell their commodities.

In a July 9, 2024 news release, the former Valero Ethanol plant located in Riga Michigan, was purchased by ZFS Riga LLC. Zeeland Farm Services is well known for creating and providing many agricultural services to Michigan farmers and has added ethanol plants to its portfolio of commodity processing operations. With 2.3 million bushels of on-site storage, the Riga ethanol plant has processed over 19 million bushels of corn creating ethanol, distiller grain, and corn oil. ZFS Riga LLC executives have stated that the processing and distillation parts of the plant need a great deal of "up-grading" to newer and more efficient processing / distillation technology. With ZFS track record of creating new opportunities for processing locally grown agricultural production, the possibility also exists for processing soybeans into feed, oil and other such soy-based products.

Therefore, be it resolved: Following MFB Policy as described in **MFB Policy # 3 Agricultural Innovation and Value-Added Initiatives**, we encourage that Michigan Farm Bureau (along with the local county Farm Bureaus in southeast Michigan) open a dialog with ZFS Riga LLC executives to assist with bringing new life back into the Riga Michigan Ethanol Corn processing plant and direct any available Michigan Economic Development funds to be made available to this endeavor.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE #6

Title: **Local Control over Siting**

On a party line vote last fall, the Michigan House and Senate voted to allow the State to approve large solar, wind and energy storage proposals with a capacity of 100 megawatts or more. On November 28, 2023, Michigan Governor Whitmer signed PA 233 into law, stripping local governments who know their community and its residents best, the permitting authority over large scale renewable energy projects. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) now has the task of determining the location of such projects. Local governments may enact a “compatible renewable energy ordinance” (CREO) whose requirements are not more restrictive than the requirements in state law. Any local ordinance whose requirements are more restrictive than the requirements of the state law are deemed incompatible and can be overruled by the MPSC. Any future electric providers would no longer be required to go through the local approval process and could seek direct approval from the MPSC. This is an illusion of local control that forces local governments to mirror the requirements of the Act or be denied any involvement in the process. A state-wide ballot initiative failed to gain the needed signatures in time to stop this law from taking effect on November 29, 2024. This is contrary to Michigan Farm Bureau policy of local control over the approval process of renewable energy proposals.

Therefore, be it resolved: Farm Bureau members and local government officials should work toward rectifying this injustice.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

STATE #7

Title: **Domestic Action Plan for Lake Erie**

The draft of the Western Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan 2024 (DAP) focuses heavily on monitoring, modeling and assessment of nutrient losses rather than supporting farmers to implement practices that will actually reduce nutrient loss.

Many of the challenges requiring change will be costly to implement.

Therefore, be it resolved:

- There needs to be a greater focus on pre-existing funding systems that can help implement voluntary changes in the agriculture industry. Example USDA FSA CRP, NRCS EQIP programs. A greater emphasis should be placed on pre-existing proven tools that can be effectively utilized to mitigate nutrient migration off farm fields. CRP and CREP have already demonstrated effective nutrient retention within the basin.
- How to get more producers involved?
 - Stronger cost share programs such as USDA FSA, MDARD i.e. strand, etc.
 - Cost share grant programs must be easy to understand and streamlined to apply.
 - Show economic benefit to production systems due to changes in management practices recommended within the DAP. Illustrating economic returns to the operation is the strongest selling point for voluntary change.
- Charts should include 2023 phosphorus loading to reflect the changes which have already been achieved.
- The impact of the MAEAP programs needs to be credited for part of the success already achieved.
- USDA FSA, NRCS needs additional, better trained, staff in the counties within the Western Lake Erie Basin.
- Cost share programs should be available to all producers large and small.
- The plan should outline the structure and frequency of dialogue between MDARD, MDEGLE and other state and federal government shareholders in Western Lake Erie. i.e. Ohio Department of Agriculture, Indiana agencies, USDA, EPA, etc.
- There needs to be a list of all partnerships and groups involved with the development and delivery of the DAP.

We oppose any politically motivated requirements which exceed current regulations.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____

NATIONAL #1

Title: **Sustainable Aviation Fuels**

The Argonne National Laboratory Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) model has been used for decades to determine the carbon score for liquid fuels. The model has had yearly updates that used a sound scientific method. The United States Department of Treasury and the Department of Energy requested that Argonne National Laboratory develop a model that would be specific to sustainable aviation fuel. The reason for this request is because they needed to develop benchmarks in order to qualify for the \$40 Billion in tax credits available for sustainable aviation fuel in the Inflation Reduction Act. It appears that the Department of Treasury and the Department of Energy made this modeling update very political. The new model specific to sustainable aviation fuel is not friendly to American agriculture as a feedstock supplier for sustainable aviation fuel.

Therefore, be it resolved: We request a revised update to the sustainable aviation fuel specific GREET model that takes out the influences of environmental groups and electric vehicle supporters who are vehemently against liquid fuels.

Further, we request that an extension be placed on the \$40 Billion tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel.

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Member Action: Adopted_____

Defeated_____