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Official Minutes of the 2020 Annual Business Meeting

Chairman Kurt Flegel called the 117th annual business meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association to order at 11:20 a.m. on January 8, 2020, at Bigwood Event Center, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Flegel confirmed that proof of proper notice of the meeting had been published in the winter 2019 issue of the *Minnesota Seed Grower* and determined that a quorum was present. Flegel introduced the members of the MCIA Board of Directors to the membership.

The following agenda items were addressed:

- Secretary's Report and Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting—Bob Ehlers moved and Mory Rugg seconded that the minutes, as published in the Spring 2019 issue of the *Minnesota Seed Grower*, be approved. Motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report—Flegel indicated that a Statement of Activities and Financial Position for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2019, was included in the meeting registration folder. The board accepted the report at its November 2019 meeting.
- Chairman's Report—Chairman Flegel thanked MCIA's staff, the board of directors, and meeting attendees. Flegel noted the financial position of MCIA was stable, and a new building lease was signed with the University of Minnesota. Staffing is ongoing within the organization with three positions currently open: laboratory technician, organic certification specialist, and field supervisor. MCIA's Seed Laboratory is working on accreditation and Sam Banks is working on becoming an RST. Roger Wippler is working closely with the University of Minnesota. Jody Prudhomme is settling into her new position. Currently, two of the biggest challenges for the organization are the number of potential PVP varieties being sold uncertified and brown bagging. MCIA is working with MDA on how to control these issues. Overall, MCIA as a business is in good shape, working closely with the membership to provide services. Flegel encouraged attendees to bring forth their issues to MCIA and to other local organizations and to advocate for their businesses and the industry.

- Nominating Committee Report—Flegel presented the following slate of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee: District 1—Brent Benike, Baudette; Related Industry (2 positions)—Matt Bohn, Breckenridge, and Grant Mehring, Fargo, North Dakota; Category B position—Dr. Nancy Ehlke. Flegel then called for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, Duane Dahlman moved and Mike Zabel seconded to cast a unanimous ballot and accept the nominees presented. Motion passed.
- President's Report—Dr. Fawad Shah introduced the MICA staff members present and provided a brief history and overview of MCIA. Overall, the past year has been solid for Field Services and Organic Services experienced steady growth. MCIA signed a building lease with the UMN for the next nine years. Administration focused on human resources activities, such as no harassment training, wage theft law, and position descriptions. There were several staff departures, including Eli Gindele, Anthony Schumacher, and Bob Huffman, as well as the retirement of Cindy Wippler in August. Shah announced Susan Stewart's upcoming retirement in June of 2020 and the hiring of Carl Anfinson as Seed Production Coordinator with Foundation Seed Services and Cherry Flowers as Organic Certification Specialist. MCIA was represented at various conferences over the year. Future plans for 2020–21 include continuing a Capacity Building Initiative with respect to training for inspections, seed testing, and certification. MCIA continues to work with FYI, MDA, UMN, and USDA to educate seed buyers and sellers about the legal sale of PVP-protected varieties. Other projects planned include enhancement and improvements to the Pure Harvest database, the launch of a new MCIA website, and continued development of work instructions as the MCIA Seed Laboratory works towards USDA Seed Laboratory Program accreditation.

Flegel then called for other business. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.