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## Official Minutes of the 2022 Annual Business Meeting

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Chairman Brad Barth called the 119th annual business meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association to order at 10:10 a.m. on January 12, 2022. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom and was hosted at MCIA's office located in St. Paul, Minnesota. Brad Barth confirmed that notice of the meeting, published in the winter 2021 issue of the *Minnesota Seed Grower*, was properly mailed ten days prior to the meeting. With all board members present, Brad Barth declared a quorum was met with more than 25 members in attendance.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the 2021 MCIA Annual Meeting were presented in the March 2021 issue of the *Minnesota Seed Grower* and were included in the meeting documents posted on the annual meeting page of the MCIA website. Vice Chairman Bob Ehlers moved to approve the minutes of the 2021 MCIA Annual Meeting, seconded by Treasurer Darius Thiel; the motion passed.

**Treasure's Report:** Brad Barth reported that the Statement of Activities and Financial Position for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2021, was included in the meeting documents posted on the annual meeting page of the MCIA website. The financial report and an independent audit were successfully completed and can be obtained by contacting the MCIA office in St. Paul. Brad Barth stated that financial reports are reviewed by the treasurer and chairman and presented at each meeting to the board of directors. The results of the independent audit of the financial condition of the association were presented and accepted at the November board meeting in 2021.

**President's Report:** Dr. Fawad Shah began his report by introducing current MCIA staff members. Dr. Shah gave an update on the response to Covid-19. MCIA developed and implemented a Covid-19 preparedness plan, follows the

UMN's mask mandate, hosted virtual meetings and inspections, and implemented a hybrid work environment.

Dr. Shah reported that MCIA had another financially successful fiscal year in 2020–21, indicating growth in net income and investment accounts. MCIA's five-year revenue history shows continued growth in the Organic Program. Dr. Shah noted a slight decline in Field Services revenue, due to drop in the number of acres being inspected, a decline in Foundation Seed revenue, due to lower seed sales, and Certification and Laboratory Services revenues were holding steady. Reported expenses over the five-year period showed an increase in the Organic Program, mainly due to the number of staff within the department, an increase in Field Services, due to additional staff, and a decrease in Foundation Seed Services because of less inventory needed. The trend for Certification and Laboratory Services expenses remained steady.

Dr. Shah reported MCIA staffing transitions included the hiring of Tyler Tisdale after Bailey Webster's departure from Organic Services, the hiring of Selena Nelson as administrative and certification assistant, and the hiring of Connie McDowell as seed laboratory technician. Training and coaching of newly hired staff members are underway.

MCIA is currently working with the Specialty Soya and Grain Alliance on the development of a new Identity Preserved program. MCIA is providing technical support, defining the program, and will serve as the third-party auditor for companies participating in the program. MCIA will increase its footprint at state, national, and international levels through MCIA-audited facilities exporting grain into international markets. Dr. Shah reported that MCIA continues to collaborate with the Minnesota Department of

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Agriculture, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the University of Minnesota on many fronts and continues to explore new ways to collaborate in the future.

MCIA's Field Services completed training of two newly hired field supervisors. Wheat and perennial ryegrass acres inspected increased 20 percent from two years ago. Over 100,000 soybean acres were inspected the past year for private companies.

MCIA's Seed Laboratory is accredited by the USDA's Accredited Seed Laboratory Program. Chase Mowry is qualified as a Canadian Seed Grader and serves on the SCST Lab Report Audit Group. With support from the board of directors, MCIA recently purchased two new germinators for the seed lab.

MCIA's Foundation Seed Services worked with UMN Commercialization to license a winter barley, hairy vetch, and a specialty soybean. MCIA purchased a new color and shape sorter to be installed at MCIA's St. Paul location. The 2021 drought impacted foundation seed production, but seed supplies should be adequate for the 2022 season.

MCIA's Organic Services managed the year without a part-time assistant while servicing 585 clients. The 2022 NOP Audit was completed remotely in August of 2021. Tyler Tisdale was trained and is currently performing organic inspections.

MCIA continues to work with Pure Harvest developers on enhancements to MCIA's database to streamline processes and workflow in all departments. Major updates were made to the process for issuing Bulk Seed Sales Certificates by removing the system in Seed Hub and developing a program in Pure Harvest.

MCIA's priorities for fiscal year 2021–22 include completion of improvements to the Pure Harvest database, training of new staff, maintaining Seed Laboratory accreditation, offering native seed testing services, supporting the sale of PVP-protected varieties, installing the color and shape sorter, and increasing the visibility of MCIA services.

**Chairman's Report:** Mr. Barth announced the nominees for election to the MCIA Board of Directors. The terms of two board members were expiring, and another member, Nat Forster, was unable to continue his duties and serve the remainder of his term. Incumbent Brad Barth, representing District 1, indicated that he was seeking election to a second term. There were no other nominations for the position. Barth thanked Bob Ehlers, who was not eligible for re-election, for his service representing District 2. The nominee for the open District 2 position was John Kapphahn of Elbow Lake, Minnesota. There were no other nominations for the position. The nominee for the District 3 position (to complete the remainder of Forster's term) was Jason Larsen of Jackson, Minnesota. There were no other nominations for the position. Barth also announced the UMN's nomination of Nancy Ehlke to serve as Category B director.

Barth next reported on improvements that were being made to the Pure Harvest database and that MCIA will be training its users in the future. Barth mentioned challenges in new revenue sources and encouraged members to use the services of MCIA's Seed Laboratory. Barth congratulated the Organic Services staff on another successful year and on the twentieth anniversary of the department. He praised MCIA staff for their continued efforts in providing excellent service during challenging times and welcomed newly hired staff to the organization.

In conclusion, Mr. Barth turned to the board of directors' election. The election was being overseen by an Election Committee, led by Secretary Duane Dahlman. Mr. Dahlman explained the voting procedures. Eligible members were provided with an online ballot. The results of the election will be posted on the MCIA website at the end of the day.

Mr. Barth then called for other business. There being no further business, he adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.