



July 2019

MGGC ELSEWHERE

 [www.facebook.com/MiGreenhouse Growers](http://www.facebook.com/MiGreenhouseGrowers)

 www.mifgc.org

From the Executive Director ...

Dear MGGC Members,

In the first two and a half months of managing Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council, we have been busy organizing and identifying the wants and needs of the association. Member recruitment was one of the identified priorities that we have begun to address. A brochure has been developed to use for member recruitment and we will be meeting with the SBAM membership team to put together a member recruitment plan.

I have personally visited and handed out invitations to our Annual Meeting in Newaygo and Muskegon County greenhouses. Additional member and non-member greenhouse visits this summer are being planned. I am looking forward to meeting you.

Legislatively, we have been working with Senators Victory and Lauwers to get the Michigan Treasury to understand the legislative intent of HB 4561, to exempt greenhouses from sales/use taxation. The Treasury is not following the law yet and we are working on meetings and backup legislation to drive the point home with them. I have also followed up on one of our members overpayment and the denial of a refund based on this law. I have met with Senators Victory, Lauwers, and Stamas, as well as a representative of the Treasury Department on this issue and continue to work towards getting their money back.

The 2018 Farm Bill requires research on crop insurance for greenhouse owners. Risk Management Agency (RMA) will contract or do the work using government funds, so there is no cost to the industry. Mike Schmidt of Sen. Stabenow's office says these projects take time and there likely will be different stages between an initial scoping conversation and the start of the full project.

We are putting together a list of folks who would be best for them to speak with, both growers and academic or even folks from the state that can talk about the contamination issues the industry has faced in the past and is seeking to protect against. If you are interested, please let me know by calling me at 231-301-4888 or e-mail mainstreet@sbam.org. Once we have a solid list of people Sen. Stabenow's office can help us connect with the RMA and see whether they would like to have meetings, calls, etc.

As always, you are encouraged to call the MGGC office with any concerns, ideas, etc. We appreciate hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "GOEFF". The letters are stylized and slanted to the right.

Goeff Hansen
Executive Director

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2019 Annual Meeting



Executive Director, Goeff Hansen welcomes members to the meeting and gives an update on what the Council has been working on this past year.



Sherry Bryan, SBAM Strategic Partnership Director goes over member benefits through the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM) which are now available to MGGC members.



Caile Richards, SBAM Energy Advocate, talks about resources/programs available to help with greenhouse energy costs.



Senator Roger Victory giving us a legislative update.



Attendees went on a tour of the water collection (from the roof and parking lot) and processing plant at the greenhouse. We also visited the Solar Farm, even on a cloudy day it produced enough energy to run the greenhouse.

Thank you to Countryside Greenhouse for hosting the Michigan Greenhouse Growers Annual Membership Meeting.

Interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

Contact Goeff Hansen, Executive Director or one of our current Board members for more information.

Plant Trial Field Day

August 6, 2019

MSU Horticulture Gardens

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Growers, landscapers, plant enthusiasts and ornamental aficionados are invited to the MSU Plant Trial Field Day. This event is held during the two-week Michigan Garden Plant Tour.

Visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/plant-trial-field-day> for program information and to register for the tour.

Growing Innovations Conference

November 13-14, 2019

Las Vegas Convention Center

www.GrowingInnovations.com

Impact Washington - The Summit

September 16-18

Washington D.C.

www.americanhort.org/impact

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Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council

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