

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Plant Science Research Greenhouse (PSRG) Facility Faculty Oversight Committee Meeting May 16, 2022, 10:00 am

Present: Chrislyn Particka, Director; Erik Runkle, (HORT), Co-Chair; Thomas Sharkey (PRL and BMB), Co-Chair; Mary Hausbeck (PSM); Roberto Lopez (HORT), David Lowry (PLB); Eric Olson (PSM); Hannah Burrack (ENT); Cody Keilen (Growth Chambers)

Absent: Bjoern Hamberger, BMB; Carolyn Malmstrom (PLB); Michael Walters (FOR)

The meeting opened with a funding update. Progress on using the \$4M provided by the university for upgrades continues. This summer, LED fixtures will be installed by greenhouse staff in 45 greenhouses and Wadsworth Seed Environmental Controllers will be installed in 24 greenhouses by Prospiant and Hi-Tech Electric. Efforts to secure funding from the state for large-scale upgrades continue, with great support from agriculture industry partners.

Chrislyn discussed the greenhouses at the south campus Horticulture and Agronomy farms. The greenhouses at the Horticulture farm have been thoroughly cleaned, with new benches and weedmat in all houses. Additional exhaust fans are being added to provide adequate ventilation. The greenhouses have quite basic temperature control but may meet the needs of many researchers. Programs with interest in using these greenhouses should contact Chrislyn.

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Chrislyn has been working with the USDA-ARS researchers based at MSU to develop a new agreement for the USDA-owned greenhouses that are integrated into PSRG.

There was a discussion about the potential merger of the PSRG and Growth Chamber faculty oversight committees. This effort is being led by Eric Hegg (CNS) and George Smith (AgBio/CANR). Committee members were encouraged to discuss the issue with their departments and bring concerns to the next committee meeting for discussion

Chrislyn announced plans for small scale research projects, with the goal of helping to solve challenges that face many users. The first study, which began last month, is evaluating specialty products from ICL Fertilizers to determine their efficacy at mitigating high substrate pH caused by our highly alkaline water. If you have ideas for additional applied studies, please contact Chrislyn.

Tom encouraged all committee members to communicate to their departments that issues with poor plant care continue. A "[Greenhouse Growing Basics](#)" narrated slide set is available on the [greenhouse website](#), and Chrislyn is available for one-on-one consultations with individuals or lab groups who need additional assistance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

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

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