

## Dakota Soda

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**From:** Jody Pollok-Newsom <jody@miwheat.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 8:46 AM  
**To:** Dakota Soda  
**Subject:** OMA Legislation

On behalf of the Michigan Wheat Program, I wanted to share the opportunities afforded to all of the state's wheat farmers if the Open Meetings Act were to be changed. Over the past year with the Covid situation, the board has had the opportunity to participate virtually in meetings. This has shown us first hand the opportunities.

We have been able to make more expedited decisions and have discussion about upcoming events or issues. In the past when everyone had to drive to make a meeting, it did not make sense to ask farmers to leave their operation for up to 6 hours of travel time to discuss a few items. We did not meet as often and those items would mount up and make for a much larger agenda on board meeting day.

In the last year, we have had several much shorter meetings in which we can discuss the issues at hand. Our meetings are all posted and anyone interested may join us via zoom and participate. It actually feels as though we are more open to all of our growers and the public now than we have been in the past.

If you have any questions as to other ways this could affect our board, growers and the openness of our meetings, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!



Jody E. Pollok-Newsom  
Executive Director  
Michigan Wheat Program  
P.O. Box 25065  
Lansing, MI 48909

toll free: 1-888-943-2801 (WHEAT01)  
phone: 517-625-9432 (WHEA)  
cell phone: 517-490-0280  
fax: 517-625-6061

[jody@miwheat.org](mailto:jody@miwheat.org)  
[www.miwheat.org](http://www.miwheat.org)

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