

# 2026 Central Plant Board Annual Meeting Grand Rapids, Michigan

President: Scott Schirmer, Illinois  
Vice President: Mark Abrahamson, Minnesota  
Secretary-Treasurer: Charles Elhard, North Dakota

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan  
Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota,  
Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin



**WELCOME!** You are cordially invited to attend the 2026 Central Plant Board Meeting at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Downtown in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 13 – April 16, 2026. Fantastic speakers, thoughtful topics, and engaging activities in the world of regulatory plant pest management await you!

## Meeting Registration

Please register online by **April 1, 2026**, using the following link:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/266c141c-d345-4ad8-b662-41c119899ee9/register>

- Full registration is \$425 per person, and single day registration is \$225 per day.
- Registration can be paid via credit card on the CVENT link. To pay by check, contact Charles Elhard, CPB Treasurer at [celhard@nd.gov](mailto:celhard@nd.gov).

## Meeting Agenda

The most current agenda is available at <https://www.nationalplantboard.org/meetings1.html>.

## Accommodations – Embassy Suites by Hilton Grand Rapids Downtown

710 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



The room rate for this meeting is at the rate of \$124 per night plus tax. Please use [THIS LINK](#) to make your hotel reservations **by March 13, 2026**.

Check-in time is 4:00 PM; early arrivals will be accommodated based on availability. Check-out time is 12:00 PM. Enjoy complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast, daily evening reception, and indoor pool.

**THE RESERVATION DEADLINE IS EARLY - March 13, 2026!** Please make your reservations early to ensure accommodation at the guaranteed rate!

Overnight guests with the Central Plant Board can self-park at the parking ramp attached to the hotel at the discounted rate of \$10.00/per night for self-parking. Overnight parking has unlimited in and out privileges. Parking in the hotel ramp is not guaranteed, so you may have to park in the adjacent parking ramp.

### **Air Transportation**

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) in Grand Rapids (<https://www.grr.org/>) is conveniently located 14 miles from the Embassy Suites by Hilton. GRR offers direct flights to and from Minneapolis-St. Paul and Chicago several times daily. The hotel does not have a shuttle to the airport, so please make your own arrangements.

### **Speaker Presentation Requirements**

A standard laptop, projector, screen, and microphone will be provided. If you need other equipment or will be presenting virtually, please notify Shelby Niedzwiecki at [NiedzwieckiS@michigan.gov](mailto:NiedzwieckiS@michigan.gov). It is preferred that presentations be shared ahead of time if possible, by email or a link provided at a later time. Presentations can also be provided to Shelby on the morning of your presentation.

### **Weather and Attire**

In April, the average high temperature in Grand Rapids is 58F with a low of 37F. Expect pleasant but variable spring weather—mild afternoons and crisp mornings. Attire is business casual for the meeting. There will be a field trip where walking is required. Please bring comfortable shoes.

### **Field Trip and Banquet**

The afternoon of Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> will include presentations and tour of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park ([www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org)) - an indoor/outdoor botanical garden, art museum, and outdoor sculpture park located in Grand Rapids and only 14 minutes from the hotel. The banquet will be held here as well. Bring your water bottle and layered clothing for the day's activities.

**Questions? Contact Meggin Umbarger at [UmbargerM2@Michigan.gov](mailto:UmbargerM2@Michigan.gov) or Molly Mott at [MottM@Michigan.gov](mailto:MottM@Michigan.gov).**

### **Deadlines to Remember**

Hotel reservation deadline for group rate: March 13, 2026

Registration deadline: April 1, 2026

*Once you complete registration, more helpful information will follow. We look forward to seeing you!*