

**MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM  
(MAEAP) ADVISORY COUNCIL (AC)**

**APRIL 26, 2016**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Scott Simon, Greenstone, FCS

Room 111

3515 West Road

East Lansing, MI 48823

**ATTENDEES**

Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Dr. Ronald Bates (Co-Chair), Dean Letter, Scott Lonier, Warren Suchovsky, Melissa Higbee, James Clift, Scott Simon, Brian Geerlings, Rich Bowman, Phil Korson, Michelle Napier-Dunnings, George Quackenbush, Jason Darling, Mike Bitondo, Jody Sharrard,

**RESOURCE**

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Heather Casteel (Scribe), Emily Reinart, Jeffrey Zimmer, Andrea Stay, Jennifer Silveri, Karen Potter-Witter, Ben Tirrell

**GUESTS/PARTNERS**

Emily Marx

**WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING NOTES, AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

- Dr. Ronald Bates thanked Scott Simon, Greenstone, FCS, for hosting the MAEAP AC meeting.
- Dr. Bates started the meeting at 1:04 p.m.
- There were introductions around the table.
- No additional agenda items.
- Laura asked if there were any corrections to the January 11, 2016 meeting notes.
  - No changes were suggested.

**MOTION: PHIL KORSON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11, 2016. SECONDED BY LORI PHALEN. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING NOTES APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.**

**AROUND THE HORN**

- Andrea Stay reported that two models, NRCS Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) cropland model and the wildlife model, demonstrate that farmers are doing a lot of conservation practices.
  - 99% have at least one practice that has been implemented.
  - Both reports have good information in the Western Lake Erie Basin.
- Michelle Napier-Dunnings introduced Jennifer Silveri as MIFF's new Assistant Director. Jennifer came to MIFFs from serving Eaton and Ingham County Conservation Districts as the MAEAP Technician.
  - Michelle said that they are gathering a small team together to look at the similarities between MAEAP A\*Sys and the Food Safety Assessment.
  - They will develop a one page document that lays out the food safety plan, crossing off the duplicates and only list the remaining items to address. This will include training for the technicians.

- Dr. Ron Bates reported that Ag Expo will be August 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Saginaw Valley Research Center in Frankenmuth, MI.
  - Soil health is the focus this year, and he encouraged everyone to take home a magnet.
  - MSU is currently looking for a new field crops educator in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) area.
  - MSU is in the process to find a replacement for Jerry May. Ron suggested that potential candidates should look for the job posting within 30 days.
  - Additionally, a specialty crop educator is also being pursued for the Western Lake Erie Basin.

**SYSTEMS SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
**LIVESTOCK SYSTEM (LAS) COMMITTEE**

- Josh Appleby reported for Shelby Burlew on the LAS Committee's recommended Standards changes.
  - Josh thanked the LAS Committee for their work on these Standards and read through the handout provided.
  - Discussion on question number 7.03 medium and low risk answers.
    - 7.03 tabled and sent back to the LAS Committee for the low and medium risk language and boxing.

**MOTION: LORI PHALEN MOVED TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION OF 7.03 UNTIL FURTHER REVIEW AND EXPLANATION FROM THE LAS COMMITTEE AT THE NEXT AC MEETING. SECONDED BY SCOTT SIMON. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

<p><b>**ACTION ITEM** LAS COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT A FINAL VERSION OF LAS CHANGES TO THE AC AT THE NEXT MEETING.</b></p>
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**FARMSTEAD SYSTEM (FAS) COMMITTEE**

- Josh Appleby reported for Laura Doud and the FAS Committee.
  - Josh thanked the FAS committee for the review of these Standards.
  - Josh read through the handout provided.
  - No suggested changes or clarifications.

**CROPPING SYSTEM (CAS) COMMITTEE**

- Jeffrey Zimmer reported for the CAS Committee.
  - Jeff read through the handout provided.
  - No suggested changes or clarifications.

**FOREST, WETLANDS & HABITAT SYSTEM (FWH) COMMITTEE**

- Karen Potter-Witter reported for the FWH Committee.
  - FWH Committee met in March and Karen thanked Warren Suchovsky, Jason Darling, Tim Hudgins, Josh Shields, Josh Appleby, and Andy Hendrickson for their time.
  - Karen read through handout provided.
  - Discussion on 5.05 low risk needs language change to "roads and trails show minimal gullyng".
  - 5.08 Suggested removal all instances of 'stored and disposed of?'

<p><b>**ACTION ITEM** FWH COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT A FINAL VERSION OF FWH CHANGES TO THE AC AT THE NEXT MEETING.</b></p>
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## **MAEAP COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP REPORT**

- Emily Reinart reported that the campaign: 'MI Farm is MAEAP Verified', will involve a packet for newly verified producers that will include promotional items for promoting MAEAP on your farm.
- The campaign will kick off at the MACD Annual Summer meeting and rolled out to the technicians for feedback before actual implementation to producers.
- The MDARD Verifiers can ask the producer if interested in receiving this packet, noting it on the verified information form, then a packet is to be sent out by MDARD staff.
- 2 Breakfast on the Farm events are planned this year.
- MAEAP has received tremendous financial support from partners and supporters.

## **INCENTIVE DISCUSSION TOPIC**

- Scott Lonier reported for the Incentives Workgroup.
- The Incentive Task Force has developed a survey for producer input on possible MAEAP incentives.
- Scott and Emily asked the group to go through the preliminary suggestions and to please send any comments, and the top 5 things from this survey that the AC would like to see further actions taken, to Emily or Scott by May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **LIVESTOCK SYSTEM COMMITTEE IMPEDIMENTS**

- Dean Letter reported for the LAS Committee on impediments to verification.
- Dean indicated that there appears to be possible issues with watersheds concerned with MARI.
- Handout attached.

## **MAEAP DATABASE UPDATE – JOE KELPINSKI**

- Joe Kelpinski reported that Salesforce will be constructing our new database.
- Construction will begin next week and will consist of 4 sprints in the process.
- Rich Bowman asked about special information through Salesforce.
  - Joe responded that we will still work with MSU's Institute of Water Research on that aspect of our database, once Salesforce has provided a working database.

## **VERIFICATIONS REPORT – JOE KELPINSKI**

- Joe read through the handout provided. (Attached)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Warren Suchovsky updated the group on hosting the next MAEAP AC meeting in the Upper Peninsula.
  - Warren informed the group that his property is very diverse in size and could possibly focus on the Forestry aspect, but Warren offered to take groups out on private tours on Sunday afternoon, or after the meeting on Monday evening, with a public Woodland tour Monday night.
    - Warren will work with Heather Casteel on the details as they are developed.
      - Heather will forward the information to the group as it comes in.

**MOTION: MIKE BITONDO MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. SECONDED BY MELISSA HIGBEE. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

**NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING**

**Host:** Betsy Dierberger, NRCS

**Location:** 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250, Room B, East Lansing, MI 48823

**Date:** September 12, 2016

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. - MAEAP AC Meeting begins

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Casteel