

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

JANUARY 11, 2016

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Scott Lonier, Shady Lodge Farm, LLC
6255 Clark Road
Lansing, MI 48906

ATTENDEES

Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Dr. Ronald Bates (Co-Chair), Dean Letter, Scott Lonier, Warren Suchovsky, Melissa Higbee, James Clift, Jim Johnson, Scott Simon

RESOURCE

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Heather Casteel (Scribe), Emily Reinart, Ben Schram, Laura Doud, Jeffrey Zimmer, Andrea Stay, Elaine Brown

GUESTS/PARTNERS

Emily Marx, John Switzer, Lindsey Martin, Molly Rippke

WELCOME TO SHADY LODGE FARM, LLC

- Laura Campbell and Dr. Bates thanked Scott Lonier, Shady Lodge Farm, LLC, for hosting the MAEAP AC meeting.
 - Scott Lonier provided a brief history of his farm and his participation in MAEAP.
- Laura Campbell started the meeting at 1:08 p.m.
- There were introductions around the table.

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

- Laura asked if there were any corrections to the November 11, 2015 meeting notes. No changes were suggested.

MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 11, 2015. SECONDED BY SCOTT LONIER. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING NOTES APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.

AROUND THE HORN

- Josh Appleby reported that the FWH*A*Systs and FWH verifications are rolling out successfully.
- Emily Reinart reported to the group on MFB activities that are happening on farms throughout Michigan.
- Laura Campbell reported that the new Interim Director with DEQ will be Keith Creagh, who has been appointed during the vacancy from Dan Wyant's resignation.
- Joe Kelpinski informed the group that Elaine Brown will be retiring by the end of February and thanked her for all of her work here for the AC, in ESD, and praised her grant writing abilities.
- Joe Kelpinski introduced Elaine's replacement Andrea Stay, formerly with the Eaton Conservation District.

NEW STATEWIDE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR E. COLI – MOLLY RIPPKE, DEQ

- Handout provided. (Attachment)

SYSTEMS SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIVESTOCK SYSTEM (LAS) SUB-COMMITTEE

- Dean Letter reported that the LAS Sub-committee met on December 8th, and the topic of discussion involved manure applications. The MARI tool is expected to be updated.
- Dean informed the group that MMPA is looking for some assurance on who provides the applications and asked if the applicators have gone through the Custom Applicator Certification Program.
 - Joe responded that it has been reviewed around 5 years ago, and quite a few of the certified applicators really wanted that program installed in Michigan.
- Discussion on certificate programs for fertilizer and pesticide applications.
- Dean informed the group that the LAS sub-committee will meet to discuss the Standards documents and Shelby Burlew will be leading the LAS Standards workgroup.

FARMSTEAD SYSTEM (FAS) SUB-COMMITTEE

- Laura Doud reported that the CAS and FAS meetings occurred on December 17th. The FAS Sub-committee will be evaluating the Greenhouse*A*Syst tool for consistency with the Farm*A*Syst.

CROPPING SYSTEM (CAS) SUB-COMMITTEE

- Jeff Zimmer reported that the FAS Sub-committee will be sharing the responsibility to update the Greenhouse*A*Syst for consistency with the CAS Sub-committee.
 - The FAS Sub-committee will be adding education questions regarding NREPA prohibited species. Aquatic or terrestrial plants may also be additional educational topics.
 - It is not expected to have many changes to the Standards this year.

FOREST, WETLANDS & HABITAT SYSTEM (FWH) SUB-COMMITTEE

- Ben Schram reported for the FWH Sub-committee that there have been a few new FWH verifications in fiscal year 2016 already.
 - From these completed verifications, the MAEAP technicians, verifiers, and foresters are compiling notes and questions to ask the FWH Sub-committee when they meet on Jan. 14th at the NRCS office, Lansing from 1:00 until 5:00.

MAEAP COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP REPORT

- Emily Reinart informed the group that the workgroup met back in November.
- The 2016 planning session determined priorities for this year.

VERIFICATIONS REPORT – JOE KELPINSKI

- Joe read through the handout provided. (Attached)

TIER STRUCTURE TASK FORCE

- Laura Campbell reported the task force has forwarded a rough draft of the tiering systems to the Director, for feedback before the final draft submission.
 - Tier 1 should include Phase 1 educational session completed, A*Syst completed, develop an implementation plan, with no discharges apparent at the time of risk assessment, in order to complete Tier 1.
 - This will trigger a recognition letter from the Department.
- The Director has asked the Tiering System workgroup to re-visit this discussion once MAEAP has a new database and a review of the data collected could add another tier in the future.
- Producers will need to sign an 'Opt In' document, pro-actively signing an approval for MDARD to:
 - 1.) Issue the farm an environmental report of the environmental effects of on-farm practices.
 - 2.) Allow MDARD to release their information, anonymously, to partners for their sustainability efforts.

MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED TO SEND THE DRAFT TIERING RECOMMENDATION REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR. SECONDED BY SCOTT LONIER. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

INCENTIVE DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Laura Campbell asked that Heather Casteel read off the list of volunteers for this workgroup.
 - The list includes: Betsy Dierberger, Lorri Merker, Emily Marx, Lori Phalen, George Quackenbush, Scott Simon, Emily Reinart, and Dean Letter.

****ACTION ITEM: HEATHER CASTEEL WILL SEND OUT THE POSSIBLE MEETING DATES AND TALK TO SCOTT LONIER ON POSSIBLE TIME FRAMES.**

- **UPDATE 1/19/2016: EMILY REINART ASKED HEATHER TO SEND THE EMAIL LIST AND SHE INDICATED SHE COULD SEND OUT A DOODLE POLL. THE DATE AND LOCATION WILL BE FEBRUARY 23RD FROM 1:00 P.M. UNTIL 3:00 P.M. AT THE MICHIGAN CORN OFFICE, 13750 S. SEDONA PARKWAY, SUITE 5, LANSING, MI 48906.**

UPDATE ON 2016 PARTNERSHIP MEETING

- Jim Johnson reported the 2016 Partner meeting will not take place every year, it may move to every other year.
- Jim said we may substitute the meeting for a MAEAP newsletter every other year.

MAEAP AC MEETING SCHEDULE

- Laura Campbell asked the group about the current AC schedule and asked if we should meet quarterly rather than bi-monthly.
- Discussion on schedule regarding the timeline for Standards documents to the Michigan Agriculture Commission for review, Sub-committee schedules, and decision deadlines for the AC.
- It was suggested that we could possibly use the conference call option for alternate meetings.

- The March 14th AC meeting will be moved to April 26th and will be hosted by Greenstone.
- The May meeting has been canceled.
- July 11th meeting has been moved to June 20th, at Warren Suchovsky's, in the Upper Peninsula.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Switzer thanked the AC for the invitation to attend today and for all the work that the MAEAP AC does for our program.
- John informed the group that the Clinton Conservation District's "What's New with Poo" tour in Gratiot County was a success and the cost had been provided for from grant funding.
 - Over 200 people attended and they toured four different farms with innovative practices of applying manure.
 - It is expected that the 319 grant will continue in that area.
- Lindsey Martin reported to the group that she has completed her goal setting meeting that took place with her board, farmers and agri-business groups. She indicated that she would enjoy having more of those in Gratiot and Clinton Counties.

**MOTION: SCOTT LONIER 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: Scott Simon, Greenstone, FCS

Location: Conference Room 111, 3515 West Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

Date: Tuesday, April 26th, 2016

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

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel