

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

JULY 13, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Marshall Public Services Bldg.
901 Marshall Ave, Marshall 49068

ATTENDEES

Scott Piggott (Co-Chair), Dr. Ray Hammerschmidt (Co-Chair), Warren Suchovsky, Lori Phalen, Laura Doud, Karen Potter-Witter, Jeffrey Zimmer, Ken Blight, Michelle Napier-Dunnings, Jody Sharrard

RESOURCE

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Heather Casteel (Scribe), Emily Reinart

GUESTS

Laura Campbell, Brenda Reau, Christy Dinsmoore, Tee Sanders, Sean Hammond, Art Pelon

WELCOME TO THE MARSHALL PUBLIC OFFICE BUILDING

- Scott Piggott thanked the Calhoun Conservation District and Lori Phalen for hosting the MAEAP AC meeting
- Scott Piggott started the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

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

MOTION: WARREN SUCHOVSKY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 11, 2015. SECONDED BY LORI PHALEN. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING NOTES APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.

AROUND THE HORN

- Josh Appleby informed the group that he had 14 new verifications in Allegan County on July 10th.
- Laura Campbell said they are receiving a positive response from the recent Gratiot County Decision Makers Tour.
- Emily Reinart said the county Farm Bureau's, along with multiple partners, have over 40 MAEAP events on the calendar and are scheduled throughout the summer.
- Jody Sharrard reported that she has just received a letter from MFB, regarding EPA random visits to permitted CAFO's during high rainfall events. They will be reviewing manure spreading schedules, nutrient testing and analysis, lagoon construction plans, etc. to be sure all records are in order.
- Scott Piggott reported that he had two phone calls last week from producers that worked with our verifiers, and said they make this program worth doing.
- Art Pelon reported that two producers in Ionia County had stopped by his farm and asked how they could get those MAEAP signs in their own front yard.

VERIFICATIONS REPORT – JOE KELPINSKI

- Joe read through the handout provided. (Attached)

PASSAGE OF HB4391

- Scott provided the background on HB4391. (Attached)
- Joe described the process of the legislation and highlighted the changes.
- Joe made a special note about Jim Zook, Phil Korson, and Mike Wenkel for their support on this bill.
- Joe informed the group about a change in the reverification cycle moving from three years to five.
- Joe reported that December 31, 2021 is the next sunset.
- Joe described the two biggest changes:
 - Provide recommendations to the Director on the creation of a tiered recognition program for farms working toward MAEAP verification. To qualify of the recognition program, farms must have completed education programs, conducted appropriate farm assessments, and implemented conservation practices as approved by the Director. The tiers may be used to recognize a farm's movement toward MAEAP verification.
 - Provide recommendation to the Director and the Legislature on incentives to increase participation in MAEAP.
- Lori Phalen suggested that a subcommittee meet and discuss, then report their recommendations to the Advisory Council at the September AC meeting.
- Discussion on a tiered system and its possible requirements.

MOTION: LORI PHALEN MOVED TO RECONVENE THE AC SUBCOMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE TIERED SYSTEM AND INCENTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS. SECONDED BY KEN BLIGHT. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

<u>**ACTION ITEM: SCOTT PIGGOTT WILL SEND OUT AN EMAIL REQUESTING INTERESTED PARTNERS TO JOIN THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH INPUT FOR THIS MEETING. HEATHER WILL FORWARD TO THE GROUP.</u>

SYSTEMS SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIVESTOCK SYSTEM (LAS) SUB-COMMITTEE

- Ken Blight reported for the LAS sub-committee and informed the group that their current discussions involve DEQ talks about manure winter spreading. DEQ has reported seeing CAFO's where their manure management records show they are not following their permit requirements.

FARMSTEAD SYSTEM (FAS) SUB-COMMITTEE

- Laura Doud reported for the Farmstead System (FAS) Sub-committee saying they have not met since the last AC meeting. Nothing to report.

CROPPING SYSTEM (CAS) SUB-COMMITTEE

- Jeffrey Zimmer reported for the Cropping System (CAS) Sub-committee saying they have not met since the last AC meeting. Nothing to report.

FOREST WETLANDS HABITAT SYSTEM (FWH) SUB-COMMITTEE

- Karen Potter-Witter reported for the Forest, Wetlands, & Habitat System (FWH) Sub-committee saying they have completed their work on the Standards and there is nothing more to report.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP

- Emily Reinart reported that they just had a communications workgroup meeting and discussed the responsibilities to utilize the partner funds and promoting the program.
- An update has been made to the MAEAP General Brochure; the update and printing, was on hold due to the recent changes in Legislation.
- There will be an update to the MAEAP.org website making it more mobile friendly.
- Breakfast on the Farm events have been scheduled for this summer, some locations have been MAEAP verified.
- Emily reported to the group that MFB currently holds the MAEAP partner funds, and MFB would like to move it to a separate account, and create its own entity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Joe Kelpinski reported that MDARD is currently accepting applications for a new MAEAP Secretary position, to be in place as soon as possible.
- Scott Piggott reminded the group that there is still work to be done developing the Regional technical committees, and asked the group to please send suggestions or ideas to the Co-Chairs, Scott and Ray.
- There were no additional public comments.

**MOTION: JOE KELPINSKI MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE
ADJOURNED. SECONDED BY LAURA DOUD. ALL IN FAVOR SAY
AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING
ADJOURNED.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING

Host: Scott Simon, Greenstone FCS

Location: Greenstone, FCS, 3515 West Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

Date: Sept. 14, 2015

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

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel