

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

**MAY 12, 2014**

**1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Montcalm Potato Industry Commission  
4725 West McBride Road  
Lakeview, MI 48850

**ATTENDEES**

Scott Piggott (Co-Chair), Tom Coon (Co-Chair), Dean Letter, Sam Hines, James Clift, Warren Suchovsky, Jeffrey Zimmer, Melissa Higbee, Lee Mueller, Michelle Napier Dunnings, Scott Lonier, Elaine Brown, Jody Sharrard, Brian Geerlings, Karen Potter-Witter, Lori Phalen, Laura Doud

**RESOURCE**

Jan Wilford, Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Steve Shine, Heather Casteel (Scribe) and Emily Reinart

**GUESTS**

Brian McMaster, NRCS, Laura Campbell, Mike Wenkel, Laura Moser, Larry Haigh, Bill Knudson, Kevin Gould, Gerald May

**WELCOME TO THE MONTCALM STORAGE FACILITY**

- Tom Coon started the meeting at 1:35 p.m.
- Tom thanked Mike Wenkel for hosting this AC meeting, tour and luncheon.
- There were introductions around the table.
- Tom announced his resignation that will be effective after this meeting. Tom said he would be replaced with a representative for the MSU Extension Director.
- Scott Piggott thanked Tom Coon for his leadership on the MAEAP Advisory Council and congratulated Tom on his new position.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM MARCH 10, 2014**

- Tom Coon asked if there were any corrections to the May 10th meeting notes. No changes were suggested.

**MOTION: JAMES CLIFT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 10, 2014. SECONDED BY BRIAN GEERLINGS. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

**VERIFICATIONS OVER TIME SPREADSHEET**

- Jan highlighted totals in the handout provided. (Attached)
- Jan reminded the group that the projected numbers are based on the conservation district's own goal setting as reported.

**BRIAN McMASTER - NRCS**

- Brian provided a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) handout. (Attached)

- Brian reported the Anticipated Program Funding (APF) should be on the website [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) by Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
  - Interested parties are directed to the website for more information when it is available.
- One element that is not clearly defined is monitoring the outcomes as a result of implementing the accomplishments. The partner entity should be able to show the reductions from the baseline to the reductions over time.
- Scott Piggott asked if it was feasible for MAEAP as a partnership to apply for this assistance for its producers who have only a few remaining items left to reach verification.
  - The requirements for this request would fall under 'state government' and would need to identify a set of outcomes.
- Tom Coon thanked Brian for coming to the meeting and sharing this information.

**MOTION: WARREN SUCHOVSKY MOVED TO HAVE THE AC RECOMMEND TO THE MDARD DIRECTOR TO PURSUE THE APF PARTNERSHIP. SECONDED BY LEE MUELLER. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR INDICATED AYE, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **LIVESTOCK SYSTEM STANDARDS – GERALD MAY**

- Jerry May presented the Livestock System Sub-committee recommended changes to the Standards. Handout (Attached)
- Jerry reported that on May 20<sup>th</sup>, the LAS committee will discuss MAEAP Standards associated with the Right to Farm Siting GAAMPs. Any additional changes from this discussion will be presented in July for approval.
- Warren Suchovsky commented that they should consider that winter spreading does provide nutrition for the wildlife that it feeds.

#### **FARMSTEAD SYSTEM STANDARDS – JEFF ZIMMER**

- Jeff Zimmer presented the Farmstead System Sub-committee recommended changes to the Standards. Handout (Attached)
- Jeff Zimmer was asked to send DEQ's Well Isolation Distance Reduction document/worksheet and will send it electronically to the AC.

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| <p><b>**ACTION ITEM** JEFF ZIMMER WILL SEND DEQ'S WELL ISOLATION DISTANCE REDUCTION WORKSHEET TO THE AC.</b></p> |
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- The representative for DEQ is Mike Bitondo, and Laura Doud previously worked for DEQ.
- The final FAS recommendations will be ready for review by the AC in July.
- The MDEQ/MDARD MOU is currently on MDEQ's desk ready to be signed. The MOU will be sent out electronically to the AC when it is ready.

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| <p><b>**ACTION ITEM** HEATHER CASTEEL WILL ELECTRONICALLY SEND THE MDEQ/MDARD MOU TO THE AC ONCE THE SIGNED COPY IS RETURNED TO MDARD.</b></p> |
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#### **CROPPING SYSTEM STANDARDS – JOSH APPLEBY**

- Josh Appleby presented the Cropping System Sub-committee recommended changes to the Standards. Handout (Attached)

- Cropping Standard question 4.01 will be referred to Abby Eaton, MDARD, regarding clarification on which wells get combined, and defining “combined pump capacity”.
- Josh will have the final CAS recommendations ready by July’s AC meeting.

### **FORESTRY SYSTEM STANDARDS – KAREN POTTER-WITTER**

- Karen Potter-Witter presented the new Forestry System Sub-committee recommended changes to the Standards. Handout (Attached)
- Karen informed the group that the “Records for MAEAP Verification’ is not included in the Forestry Standards. It is their thought at this point that the evidence will be in the management plan for Forests, Habitat or Wetlands.
- Karen pointed out that there were five reference documents used in the Risk columns.
- Karen pointed out that right now the Forestry question 1.11 is an educational question only.
- Discussion on staff that will verify the Forestry System.
  - Jan Wilford reminded the group that the law requires the inspection to be performed by MDARD staff.
  - Jan also noted that, much like the MOU with a DEQ permitted facility, there are three additional items that reach verification. The Forestry System may be able to mimic this route.

**MOTION: SCOTT PIGGOTT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FORESTRY\*A\*SYST FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE DIRECTOR. SECONDED BY WARREN SUCHOVSKY. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR INDICATED AYE, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

### **AG SUB-GROUP REPORT – OUTCOMES & ACTION ITEMS – SCOTT PIGGOTT**

- Scott Piggott reported that a group of ten people assembled at MFB to discuss the information that is being tracked regarding the benefits of MAEAP.
- The discussion involved what MDARD currently stores in the database, MAEAP outcomes, information sharing, deliverables through the A\*Syst tools and the “MAEAP Enrolled” concept.
- Discussion included identifying the target audience(s) for the data collected.
- Scott reported that more information will be provided at the July AC meeting.

### **MAEAP LOGO USAGE WORKGROUP UPDATE - JAN**

- Jan Wilford highlighted the handout. (Attached)
- Jan pointed out that there have been many discussions and acknowledged the hours of partner work that went into this document.
- Jan reported that a farm must be verified in a minimum of two systems to receive the MAEAP “Environmentally Verified” stickers to use on product, and must only be used in direct marketing; farmer to consumer, at farm stands, and/or at the farmer’s farm market stand.
- The new logo use agreement will now expire at re-verification and must be re-submitted at that time for continued use. The new logo use agreement establishes a systematic way to incorporate changes and provides a chance to review how the logo is being used.
- Jan reported that a mass email will be sent to the current list of logo users that will outline these new guidelines.

- Jan gave special thanks to Ken Nobis and Phil Korson for the additional help on this new logo agreement.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Emily Reinart gave thanks to the partners for supporting MAEAP Communications and promotions.
- Lori Phalen updated the group that she will now be co-hosting the July 14<sup>th</sup> AC meeting with the Van Buren Conservation District at the Van Buren Conference Center in Lawrence, and will provide the details shortly. (Van Buren Conference Center, 490 S. Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064)
- Scott Piggott thanked Tom Coon for his leadership and all the help he has provided as Co-chair of the Advisory Council.

**MOTION: LORI PHALEN MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. SECONDED BY BRIAN GEERLINGS. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

### **NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING**

**Host:** Lori Phalen & the Van Buren Conservation District

**Location:** Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064. (*Tour and Lunch TBD by Lori Phalen.*)

**Date:** July 14, 2014

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Casteel