

## MAEAP ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

May 14, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Michigan Farm Bureau, Lansing, Michigan

### **Present:**

Tom Coon, Scott Piggott, Jim Johnson, Paul Zugger, Max Benne, Dean Letter, Shelly Hartmann, James Clift, Brian Geerlings, Sam Hines, Jeff Zimmer, Tom Kalchik, Lauri Elbing, Melissa Higbee, Jim Scott, Emily Beutel and Allen Krizek

### **Resource Staff:**

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Jan Wilford, Emily Ries, Heather Throne, Tyler Charles, and Heather Casteel (Scribe)

### **Welcome, Review/Approval of Past Minutes and Around the Horn**

- Meeting began at 1:00 p.m.
- Tom Coon began the meeting thanking everyone for being present and asked for self-introductions.
- Attendees introduced themselves around the table.

### **Review Approval of Past Minutes**

- Tom Coon asked for any changes to minutes from last meeting.
- Lauri Elbing asked that the spelling of her name on page two of the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, AC meeting notes be corrected.
- With this change, the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 AC meeting notes were approved.

### **Around the Horn**

- Jan Wilford announced that the new [www.maeap.org](http://www.maeap.org) website is up and running after the switch from Michigan Farm Bureau to Michigan State University.
  - June 12<sup>th</sup> Ford Farms (Cherry Hill Farms) is planning an event. The Ford family has asked for a larger custom made MAEAP sign.
  - The Ford Farms event will be a fundraiser for juvenile diabetes.
- Jim Johnson stated that Michigan is working in conjunction with Ohio and Indiana on a three state proposal for the Great Lakes Restoration Project in the Western Lake Erie Basin.
  - The House and the Senate passed the budget.
  - There is talk about private lands forestry bills making their way through the legislature.
    - In process and may involve language changes in Part 87.
- Emily Ries reported that 58 out of the 67 county Farm Bureaus have submitted a pledge form.
  - MFB educational meetings are happening around the state.
  - Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau has sent a message using an email blast that listed the incentives.
  - MAEAP Promotional “tool kits” have been provided, regional representatives have delivered those.
  - MFB has asked for a goal involving 2% of membership for each county to become MAEAP verified.

- MFB has set a collective goal of 12% of MFB members to be verified by the end of 2012.
- Scott Piggott reported that he will be changing positions from Chief Operating Officer and MFB will be looking for a replacement.
  - He has chaired this group since 2000, and will continue to serve through the MAEAP standards approval and will then reevaluate his capacity to serve on the Council.

### **Task Force/Committee Reports**

- Livestock
  - Josh reported that the July Livestock Sub-Committee meeting will be the last opportunity to review anything that needs to go to the Ag Commission.
  - Discussion about the standards, and read the handout outlining the suggested changes.
  - Motion was made by Paul Zuger to approve the changes, James Clift seconded, unanimous agreement to pass the motion.
- Cropping
  - Recommendations as presented by the Cropping Sub-Committee have been approved by the Advisory Council to move to the Ag Commission.
- Farmstead
  - Jim Johnson introduced Jeff Zimmer as the new Chair of the Farmstead Sub-Committee.
    - Jeff is currently the Deputy Division Director in MDARD's Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division.
    - Jim Johnson made a formal motion to have Jeff in the Chairmanship role of our Farmstead Advisory Committee. Seconded by Josh Appleby, unanimously passed.
    - Josh read through the MAEAP Standards changes suggested by Farmstead System Sub-Committee.
  - Paul Zuger made a motion to table 6.28 FAS question, Lauri Elbing seconded, unanimously passed.
  - Tom Coon made a motion to approve the suggested changes, with the exception of the 6.28 FAS question. Sam Hines seconded, unanimously passed.
- (More on Livestock)
  - Jan Wilford provided background on where the Livestock Standards were previously reviewed by the Advisory Council.
  - It is the second time the council has seen these suggestions and they were tabled at a previous meeting.
  - Scott Piggott asked the council for any questions, no questions asked.
  - Tom Coon made the motion that the revisions were to be approved. Scott Piggott seconded, unanimously passed.
  - Tom Coon asked if there is any remaining parking lot issues after all of these approved questions. It was answered that only a few remaining components are left due to cost issues.
- Communications
  - Emily Beutel provided Communications Workgroup Report handout.
  - Emily Beutel read through the report.

- Verification Numbers
  - Current verification numbers were provided in a handout.
  - Jan Wilford read the totals.
  - Jan provided a printout of the new “What is MAEAP” sign that compliments the environmental farm sign.
  - Melissa Higbee provided an update from the Shiawassee Conservation District.
  - Joe Kelpinski provided an update on his four new technicians that are being extremely productive.
  - Scott Piggott asked if the AC can provide additional resources, and asked Communications to keep thinking about ways to improve the process.
  
- Water Quality Monitoring
  - Lauri Elbing provided oral report and updates.
    - She is having great discussions with Directors Creagh and Wyant on what their expectations were on the Water Quality Monitoring group.
    - Directors Creagh and Wyant gave them creative license to give their best recommendations.
    - Next Water Quality Monitoring meeting is Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
  
- Partner Commitment Drive Update
  - Jan Wilford provided handout and explained the report.
  - Phil from Cherry Marketing Group has requested another agreement be sent to them.
  - Conservation Districts are working on their agreements.
  - Sam Hines said Michigan Pork Producers are ready to send out their commitment agreement.
  - Tom Coon said MSU is ready to send out their commitment agreement.
  - Scott Piggott announced that a drawing to win an iPad will be given to members to encourage their support.

### **Annual Report**

- Scott Piggott provided Director Keith Creagh the recommendations for getting the job done.
- Still need to craft a report to go with the Standards.
- Looking for each subcommittee to put their report together on how a plan of work will be developed.
- Synopsis from groups to compile reports to Director Creagh.
- Full reports will be due September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Advisory Council meeting.
  - Submit reports to the Chairs, Tom and Scott, and Jan Wilford, with a cc to the whole advisory council, with a re-emphasis on legislations.
  - Put it into a form so we can send it out electronically then we will have 10 days to review prior to the September meeting.

### **Public Comment and New Business**

- No public comments were offered.

- Tabled 6.28 Farmstead Standards question: Paul Zuger, Josh Appleby, Allen Krizek, James Clift and Jeff Zimmer to meet or conference call to discuss wording changes to FAS prior to July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Scott will send out a website link that offers conservation awards.
  - We could bring the idea to Michigan and offer it to people that would like to talk more about it.
- Lauri Elbing reported that in March the Nature Conservancy was able to do a partners spotlight, and included a packet of MAEAP materials.
- Shelly Hartmann announced that True Blue Farms has won the Agri-Tourism award.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Coon, seconded by Lauri Elbing, motion passed.

3:18 P.M. Adjourn