

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Cherry Marketing Institute
12800 Escanaba Drive, Suite A
Dewitt, MI

MEETING NOTES January 9, 2012

PRESENT:

Paul Anderson, Jon Bartholic, Max Benne, Ed Carpenter, James Clift, Commissioner Donald Coe, Bill Creal, Tom Coon, Lauri Elbing, Melissa Higbee, Phil Korson, Allen Krizek, Lori Phalen, Scott Piggott, Dale Rozeboom, Ruth Shaffer, Gary Trimner, Jan Wilford, and Paul Zuger

RESOURCE STAFF:

Josh Appleby, Elaine Brown, Heather Casteel (scribe), Joe Kelpinski, Emily Ries and Heather Throne

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTEES AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Scott Piggott opened meeting with welcome and introductions. Asked to approve October 24, 2011 meeting notes. Request for amendment to strike the last two sentences in the 2nd paragraph from bottom of the first page.

Amendment and meeting notes approved.

AROUND THE HORN

Elaine Brown was introduced as the new MDARD MAEAP Grants Coordinator.

Scott Piggott provided update regarding October's meeting notes and algae blooms in the western basin of Lake Erie.

Sheep Breeders Association Annual meeting included MAEAP educational credit.

Representative Kevin Daley attended.

New Zealand contact made, working with their dairy program, interest in using MAEAP as model.

Steve Shine gave MAEAP presentation at the North Central Association of Conservation Districts meeting.

A new NRCS technical standard 590 Nutrient Management has been approved at the national level. Michigan has a year to implement this practice; can be ready by the next fiscal year, waiting on guidance on adoption standards.

Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) staff reported that during their State Annual in November, they honored Shooks Farms of Antrim County with the Ecology Leadership Award. The farm is MAEAP verified in all three systems. The family received a John Deere Gator as their award. MFB hosted an interactive workshop for farmer members, featuring staff from MSUE, MDARD, private industry and others to encourage work toward MAEAP verification.

The MACD annual offered a full complement of technical sessions for conservation district MAEAP technicians.

Commissioner Coe mentioned Right to Farm preface GAAMPs language related to Urban interests. Commissioner Coe also suggested that MAEAP is the standard urban centers could adopt.

***Action* Jan to communicate to Jim Johnson that we need to review for potential impact related to MAEAP standards.**

TASK FORCE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Livestock Sub-Committee

Minutes from last livestock committee meeting provided by Dale Rozeboom.

Jan 23rd is next meeting. Upcoming event: Michigan Commodities Expo, Jan. 26th.

A number of parking lot issues remain from the standards review will be discussed.

List of those issues on pages 6-10 of meeting minutes (handout provided)

LAS workgroup has continued LAS scoring system, continuation of Progressive Planning towards steps to verification. This will be reviewed annually.

Meeting dates for 2012 are included in hand out.

Intention is to go through remainder of parking lots issues and find resolutions. Asked if these parking lot issues will be resolved this month or will recommendations to come back in spring?

Confirmed yes, early summer at the latest, plan to preview standards revisions in July or August, and have action in September. Have had good discussions about coordination in GAAMPs committees by having first meetings in March/April. Due to resignation of Gary Trimner (retirement) and Dale Rozeboom (focus on GAAMPs), the AC needs new chairs for Livestock System Sub-Committee. Potential replacements could attend next meeting and be recommended by the current Livestock System Sub-Committee, on 23rd of January.

Cropping Sub-Committee

Several issues related to GAMPs and changes in legal requirements were reviewed. The Cropping System Sub-Committee will meet to review MAEAP Standards on Feb 2nd.

Farmstead Sub-Committee

The Farmstead System Sub-Committee will also meet on Feb 2nd to discuss issues related to sock wells, fuel requirements and new NRCS standards and assorted items related to irrigation SPCC, setbacks.

***Action* Josh Appleby and Allen Krizek will email Feb 2nd meeting agenda to Heather to forward to the AC.**

Draft Standards recommendations will be available May/June for the AC and eventual adoption by the Ag Commission.

Communications Task Force

Heather Throne distributed two handouts, Communications Report/Accomplishments and Outreach Materials and Tools List.

MAEAP Facebook, as part of the Social Media campaign, 2012.

The www.maeap.org move to the new server will be complete by the end of the month. Most changes are slight, and can be reviewed at March meeting.

Plans for 2012 include using farmer surveys and focus groups and Michigan Farm Radio Network out reach.

The MSU Communications Marketing class is working with Emily Ries on ideas for getting increased media presence. Emily will report back to the workgroup. New members are welcome. MAEAP Communications meetings for 2012 were provided and are on the www.michigan.gov/MAEAP website.

Verification Task Force

A document showing verifications over time was distributed. A MAEAP Verification Consistency Plan is in place to insure verification consistency among staff. The first on farm "group" verification was Dec. 21st. Joe has developed the plan and this farm visit, next will be Tom and

then Josh. Suggestion was made to add to the MAEAP dashboard. The AC requested a report showing the number of farms due for re-verifications. The number of farms with the LAS Score could also be an indicator of farms moving to verification.

Water Quality Monitoring Work Group

Work group met on Dec. 21st Following are elements from that meeting:

- Meet the 3rd Friday of every month
- Nature Conservancy is location
- Develop a plan of work
- Need guidance on time frame for completion of work, final report and other requirements
- Provided a document with questions that will be addressed as “homework”
- The work group requested some administrative support for taking notes at meetings
- July will be targeted for an initial report to Director Creagh

***Action* Scott Piggott can provide some administrative support for taking notes at the upcoming meeting.**

PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION

Re-Cap Of November 1 Partner Meeting

Director Creagh convened MAEAP partners on Nov. 1 with over 50 attending.

Partners used “commitment” frequently to discuss involvement. Wish to express commitment, a common set of ideals. Partners seek to take actions that lead to program growth. Suggested to create a single agreement, maybe a check sheet or checklist that any other organization could use.

Partnership Agreement Work

Tom and Scott drafted a concept document which is simple, with multiple uses, and hopefully will lead to increased involvement. Questions remain regarding who should receive the agreements and how partner commitment and activities can be woven into an annual meeting. The commitment provides for both financial and program related needs to be clearly identified. Need to have the people from all interests speaking about what we are doing to get to the goal of 5000 farms verified by the end of FY2015.

***Action* Scott will send electronic version of the Partner Commitment document to Heather to distribute to the AC for review and comment.**

***Action* AC members to review thoroughly and provide feedback by requested date.**

Suggested time line following review of the document received today, return comments to Scott by Wed, Jan 18.

***Action* Heather to distribute 2nd draft by 23rd of January to AC members.**

***Action* Tom and Scott to ask Director Creagh to do a cover letter that says we will need your help, etc.**

External contributions will be put in rolling fund that can accrue held at MFB. Emily Ries would accept those contributions, maintain financial records, provide a thank you/acknowledgement, and submit copies of agreements and materials requested to MDARD.

A suggested end date for the campaign is March 6th, with a report to the AC on March 12th. Suggestion for the partnership document to be categorized by types of activities. Funding is from the Partnership for MAEAP promotional activities, not the Advisory Council. Suggestions included encouraging a group's leadership, not just an individual's commitment. Organizations can provide incentives to their members. Suggested that Director Creagh challenge commodity group's specific to them. A secondary date of April 1 for the campaign was suggested if more time is needed. It was suggested that Heather Casteel's communication with the final draft on Jan 23rd to include a note with the maximum time, giving flexibility to meet with boards.

NEW BUSINESS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Carpenter, representing the Michigan Christmas Tree Growers Association, provided a personal testimonial regarding his ability to prevent his own personal injury due to his spill kit, developed as a requirement for MAEAP verification.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is March 12th, at Max Benne's farm, to include tour of farm and lunch prior to meeting. Scott said he would find a sponsor to pay for lunch. Tour will be conducted in a vehicle. No boots or special clothing will be required. Benne has been MAEAP verified twice and will be pointing out several MAEAP verification requirements.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Casteel
January 12, 2012