

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

**MARCH 11, 2013**

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Andersons Albion Ethanol LLC

26250 B Drive North

Albion, MI 49224

**ATTENDEES**

Tom Coon, Ken Blight, Brian Geerlings, Paul Zuger, James Clift, Lauri Elbing, Michelle Napier Dunnings, Dean Letter, Scott Piggott, Max Benne, Jeffrey Zimmer, Melissa Higbee, Lori Phalen, Sam Hines, Jim Johnson, Phil Korson

**RESOURCE**

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

**GUESTS**

Sharon Williams, MAEAP Water stewardship technician, Calhoun and Jackson Counties; Gregory Fountain, Chair, Calhoun County Conservation District; Suzanne Ebright, Education Coordinator, Calhoun County Conservation District; Laura Moser, MMPA

**WELCOME TO THE ANDERSONS ALBION ETHANOL PLANT**

- Tom Coon began the meeting at 2:06 p.m., following a tour of the plant for interested members.
- Ken Blight welcomed everyone to the Anderson's Ethanol plant.

**APPROVAL OF MEETINGNOTES FROM JANUARY 14, 2013**

- Tom asked if there were any corrections to the meeting notes, hearing none, the meeting minutes were approved.

**AROUND THE HORN**

- Phil Korson provided an update to the group regarding the MAEAP Partnership meeting on January 29, 2013.
- Melissa Higbee reported that Shiawassee Conservation District had the highest number of EQIP contracts and described their annual report featuring Chris Hajak as a MAEAP verified farm.
- Jan Wilford reported that special EQIP funding of \$500,000 resulted in 27 contracts, and described the new CAFO / MAEAP pilot procedures for verifying/re-verifying CAFO permitted farms.
- Ken Blight introduced the guests: Sharon Williams, Gregory Fountain, and Suzanne Ebright from the Calhoun Conservation District.
- Lori Phalen reported that the Otsego Conservation District Native Plants Greenhouse has been MAEAP verified.
- Sam Hines reported that a list regarding CAFO information, received by multiple states, has been reported and is available online. Michigan had only reported information that was public, but other states had reported special notes and cell phone numbers of CAFO livestock farms.

### **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

- No additional agenda items.

### **LIVESTOCK REPORT**

- Dean Letter reported that the Livestock System Sub-committee (LAS) discussed the challenges with water well siting's.
- Dean also reported that MAEAP technician's responses to a survey regarding roadblocks to Livestock verification were discussed at this meeting and the sub-committee will list the questions they have and bring them back to the AC.
- Dean said they have a rough draft for the Livestock\*A\*Syst and the LAS Standards sub-committee will meet again on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. The LAS sub-committee will forward proposed Standards changes on to the AC for review prior to the May AC meeting.

### **FARMSTEAD SYSTEM SUB COMMITTEE**

- Jeff Zimmer reported that the last Farmstead System Sub-committee (FAS) meeting was on March 6<sup>th</sup>. They are making progress reviewing Standards and are in pretty good shape for meeting the May deadline. Jeff provided a handout. (Attached)
- Jeff said that on April 1<sup>st</sup>, he will send out an email asking questions regarding the Standards and have the answers back to AC by the May meeting.
- Discussion about the setback distances and offering a similar deviation like DEQ permit outlines and integrating that into MDARD.
- It was suggested that we need to communicate these guidelines between the grower, local health departments and engineers so they are all on the same page with the requirements.
- Paul Zuger proposed a recommendation to the Director from the AC to change the decision tree for this requirement.
- Jim Johnson suggested that Michele Crook could draft some outlines regarding the setbacks and certain aspects to send on to the chairs of each system sub-committee.
- Reference to FAS 112S supplemental document found in the MAEAP AC notebook and / or found on the website.

### **CROPPING SYSTEM SUB COMMITTEE**

- Josh Appleby reported for Allen Krizek, Cropping System Sub-committee (CAS) and read through the handout. (Attached)

### **COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

- Emily Ries reported that \$6,000 has been contributed by partners. Michigan Farm News (MFN) promotions and Michigan Farm Radio Network MAEAP partner spots are still available. Please see Emily to schedule a time.

### **WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

- Lauri Elbing reported that the task force is meeting this Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, to finalize the report and the recommendations. The group plans to distribute to the AC by the May meeting.

## **VERIFICATION**

- Jan provided and read through the handout. (Attached)

## **ANIMAL WELFARE**

- Ken Blight discussed a potential MAEAP Animal Welfare Verification and suggested that the AC consider adding this to the MAEAP verification. A current certification entails watching a fifteen minute YouTube video and taking a quiz after watching the video. Participants can print a certificate once completed. The video includes handling issues with BODA and includes the requirements of documentation. (time, records, etc.)
- Ken suggested that the companies could become MAEAP partners and that animal welfare audits be handled similar to current MAEAP verifications.
- The AC neither supported nor opposed Ken's proposal. The discussion included some who agreed and some who disagreed with Ken's suggestion.
- Ken offered to draft a letter to inquire about what interested parties would expect of MDARD if MDARD were to take on this role.
- Jim Johnson will have a conversation with Director Jamie Clover Adams relaying the discussion and concerns from the AC.

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\* Jim Johnson will discuss topic with MDARD Director Jamie Clover Adams and will report back to the AC at the next meeting.**

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\* Ken Blight to write to interested associations and companies regarding his suggestion.**

## **MAEAP AND MARKETING**

- Laura Moser commented that MMPA has concerns with MAEAP logo use in retail situations on packaging. Laura read the MAEAP mission statement and emphasized the focus on environmental outcomes rather than marketing.
- Discussion over the use of the MAEAP logo on retail farm products.
- The AC recommended that a small group review the existing MOU and return recommended changes to the AC at the May meeting.
- Jan Wilford volunteered that Heather Throne participate with the small group MOU / Logo Use Agreement discussion.
- Dean Letter said he is willing to help review this document.
- Shelly Hartmann will be asked to participate in this small group review.
- Emily Ries volunteered to participate with the document review.
- Jim Johnson suggested that we can also ask the in-house MDARD lawyer to review the revised MOU language.

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\* MAEAP Logo Use work group will meet, review existing guidance and will bring recommendations for changes to the May AC meeting.**

## **ANNUAL REPORT – MAEAP PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

- Jan sent the MAEAP Annual Report to the Director, and directed the group to the handout that lists MAEAP Partners and their returned Partnership agreements. (Attached)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Jan read a note from retiree Steve Davis regarding his experience with MAEAP.

Melissa Higbee made the motion to adjourn, Joe Kelpinski seconded, motion passed.

Next AC meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at Herbruck's Poultry Ranch.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Heather Casteel

DRAFT