

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

**APRIL 8, 2019**

**1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Melissa Higbee, Shiawassee C.D.  
DeVries Nature Conservancy

**ATTENDEES**

Ron Bates (Co-Chair), Warren Suchovsky, Jason Darling, Melissa Higbee, Scott Simon, Betsy Dierberger, Dale Allen, Christine Alexander

**RESOURCE**

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, John Switzer, Ben Schram, Heather Casteel (Scribe), Erica Rogers, Meredith Smith, Shelby Burlew

**PARTNER/GUESTS**

Jon Bartholic, Elaine Brown, Tess Van Gorder, Emily Helsen, Tom Wert, Cliff Miller

**WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

- Ron Bates started the meeting at 1:03 p.m.
- The group had no additional agenda items.

**MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2019. SECONDED BY WARREN SUCHOVSKY. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING NOTES WERE APPROVED.**

**AROUND THE HORN**

- Members shared their recent activities and events from their organizations.
- Ron Bates thanked Melissa Higbee, Shiawassee C.D., for hosting the meeting.
- Ron asked Meredith if she could report for the communications workgroup as the first topic on the agenda, prior to the Standards committees.

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP**

- Meredith Smith updated the AC on the group's recent activities.
- Meredith handed out some of the new Wade Water coloring books.
  - 10,000 copies were printed. The AC asked if we can send some to districts for distribution.
- Wade the Water Drop mascot had his unveiling at the MAEAP 5,000 event.
- The group is working on social media encouraging producers to participate in MAEAP.
- The group is working on the new MAEAP website.

**SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**LIVESTOCK**

- Shelby Burlew reported for the Livestock committee. She stated the group has been working on question 13.01) regarding livestock mortality management.
  - This question is being modified to be consistent with BODA regarding isolation distances.
  - Modification of this question is the only update for this year.

## **FARMSTEAD**

- Josh Appleby reported for the Farmstead System Sub-committee introducing the changes.
- 7.05A) and 7.05B) will be altered to include solvents or degreasers.
- Added language to clarify BODA and above ground tanks.
- Fuel tanks over 1,100 gallons in size should be registered and tagged.
- Fuel tanks less than or equal to 3,000 gallons needs to have language added that they are verifiable.

## **CROPPING**

- Josh Appleby reported for the Cropping System committee.
- Greenhouse tool was the only one with the changes. This was done to be consistent with other CAS and FAS tools.
- No changes to Nursery and Christmas Tree, Field Crops and/or Fruit.
- One new educational question was added.

## **FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT**

- Ben Schram introduced the introductory part to the A\*Syst. Names of things have changed, referrals, all have been updated.
- Jason read through the tables and described what they include as references.
- Jason read through the handout.
- Discussion on recommended changes.
- Jason will take the new question between 4.01 and 4.02 back to the FWH committee and report back at the next MAEAP AC meeting.

## **PETERSON FARMS/LOGO USE**

- Joe informed the group we should table the Peterson Farms discussion.
  - Tabled this discussion. No formal motion.

## **MAEAP VERIFICATION REPORT**

- Joe read the MAEAP Verifications Over Time spreadsheet.
- Joe expects to make all goals this year.
- Ron congratulated the districts on the good work.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No public comment.

**MOTION: WARREN SUCHOVSKY MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. SECONDED BY SCOTT SIMON. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

## **NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING**

**Host:** TBD

**Location:** TBD

**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Casteel