

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2019

1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Scott Simon
Greenstone FCS

ATTENDEES

Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Warren Suchovsky, Tom Zimnicki, Scott Lonier, Jason Darling, Melissa Higbee, Brian Geerlings, Scott Simon, Dean Letter, Suzanne Reamer (for Betsy Dierberger), Mary Kelpinski, Lori Phalen

RESOURCE

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, John Switzer, Ben Schram, Heather Casteel (Scribe), Erica Rogers, Meredith Smith, Emily Reinart, Laura Doud, Gib King

PARTNER/GUESTS

Jon Bartholic, Tess Van Gorder

WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Laura Campbell started the meeting at 1:06 p.m.
No additional agenda items.

MOTION: SCOTT LONIER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 8, 2018. SECONDED BY MELISSA HIGBEE. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING NOTES WERE APPROVED.

AROUND THE HORN

Everyone around the room shared their recent activities and events from their organization.

SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIVESTOCK

Josh Appleby reported that the committees have all met and discussed changes. Livestock group met last week, and the Standards are moving along well.

Erica Rogers reported that there will be a few wording changes to include animal mortalities in the Livestock*A*Syst and Farm*A*Syst.

Additional changes will include a few set back distances to be consistent with the other tools and Livestock Standard question 13.02 static pile language will be updated.

Discussion on MSUE moving forward on the certified applicator system. MSUE will handle the education portion of the program, Michigan Farm Bureau has been approached and is evaluating acting as the certifying agent for the program.

CROPPING

Josh Appleby reported that there are no changes to these Standards.

FARMSTEAD

Josh Appleby reported that the group has discussed chemigation valves and is looking for an interlock solution, similar to those used on irrigation wells. The group is waiting on DEQ approval.

Josh reported that discussion also included truck bay washing guidelines for on the farms. Laura Doud reported that the Farm*A*Syst will have one change regarding fuel: greater than or equal header in the fuel section, and one additional question regarding BODA, for consistency with the Livestock*A*Syst.

FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT

Jason Darling reported that the FWH Sub-committee will have a significant restructure of the tool, adding questions and language to existing questions, and focusing on the tables regarding each law.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP

Meredith Smith reported to the group that they have developed a MAEAP coloring book, featuring Wade Water Drop. MDARD will be ordering 10,000 copies.

The new MAEAP mascot Wade will be making his debut at the MAEAP 5,000 Event. 150 RSVP's have come in so far for the event.

Have a new host for the website, target date is March 20th continuing the work with Water Words that Work on wording, format and design of the new site.

Meredith and Emily Reinart asked the group for input on give-a-way ideas at the event.

Suggested donations included: Wine, cheese, \$1,000 towards a fuel tank or gas delivery from Crystal Flash, trip to Frankenmuth, a year's subscription for nutrient analysis on soils, donated grid sampling, gift cards, paying for variable rate spreading, equipment rental donations. Email any additional ideas to Emily Reinart or Meredith Smith.

FUTURE OF MAEAP (continued)

Tom Zimnicki reported that the group met at the end of last year. Group consisted of Scott Lonier, Dean Letter, Josh Appleby, Shelby Burlew, and Tom Zimnicki.

Interest in integrating MAEAP into national programs.

Kendra Kissane suggested bringing in Field to Market.

Discussion on how MAEAP can integrate into other programs, building recognition and having value domestically and internationally to help build the stature of MAEAP.

Dean Letter reported that he has talked with Nestle and educated them on MAEAP.

Tom Zimnicki asked if MAEAP can deliver more than just verification numbers.

Tom asked the AC what does MAEAP focus on now? Farm practices that are good or should we focus on water quality?

Group agreed that focus on water quality is very important.

Discussion on what 'sustainability' means for our commodity groups.

MOTION: LORI PHALEN MOVED THAT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL PROVIDE MORE STRUCTURE, GUIDELINES AND IDEAS TO THE WORKGROUP. THE WORKGROUP WILL COME BACK TO THE AC WITH RECOMMENDATIONS. SECONDED BY MARY KELPINSKI. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION APPROVED.

Laura Campbell asked the workgroup to reconvene prior to the next AC meeting in June. Laura will email the group.

PETERSON FARMS/LOGO USE

Joe informed the group about Peterson Farms asking about using our MAEAP Logo on a banner or sign to place outside their processing facility. This suggested sign/banner would read "We are a MAEAP Supporter". The group wanted to encourage people through their facility to promote MAEAP.

We will revisit this topic at next meeting.

****ACTION ITEM** Heather to keep this topic on the next agenda.**

MAEAP VERIFICATION REPORT

Joe read the MAEAP Verifications Over Time spreadsheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING

Host: Shiawassee Conservation District- Melissa Higbee

Location: DeVries Nature Conservancy, 2635 North M-52, Owosso, MI 48867

Date: Monday, June 10, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel