

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

**FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

**1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Joe Kelpinski, MDARD  
MSUFCU Community Room  
4825 Mt. Hope Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

**ATTENDEES**

Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Dr. Ronald Bates (Co-Chair), Warren Suchovsky, Tom Zimnicki, Dean Letter, Lori Phalen, Emily Helsen, Scott Lonier, Betsy Dierberger, Jason Darling, Christine Alexander, Brian Geerlings, Melissa Higbee, Scott Simon, Mary Kelpinski

**RESOURCE**

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

**PARTNER/GUESTS**

Allison Trierweiler, Michelle Beloskur, James DeYoung, Ricardo Costa, Ben Smith

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

Laura Campbell started the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Meeting began with a round of introductions around the room.

No additional agenda items.

Meeting notes approved from October 16, 2017.

**AROUND THE HORN**

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

Discussion on number of farms, acreages, and verifications in MAEAP.

It was suggested to put together a task force, or workgroup, that would look at the goals of MAEAP and identify where we go beyond the year of 2020 and 6000 verifications, and after we reach our goals?

**MOTION: SCOTT LONIER MOVED TO START A TASK FORCE TO DISCUSS WHAT FUTURE GOALS MAEAP SHOULD PURSUE. SECONDED BY LORI PHALEN. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR INDICATED AYE, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

AC members interested in being on this task force, please send an email to Heather Casteel and indicate that you want to be on that task force.

**SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FARMSTEAD, CROPPING, AND LIVESTOCK**

Josh Appleby reported for all three system sub-committees.

Josh informed the group that February 13<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting date and will meet again on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. Livestock meets from 9:00 a.m. until noon, FAS and CAS will be in the afternoon, meetings are all at Greenstone.

Short list of things so far to discuss are bee habitats and bats.

With Farmstead, there are issues with fuel and a need to make the rules easier to understand.

By June 11<sup>th</sup> the changes will be ready for review by the AC.

Sub-committees will send any suggested edits to Shelby, Josh and Laura.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, the Standards will be provided to the Ag Commission, and should be approved by the Ag Commission on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

### **FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT (FWH)**

Ben Schram reported that the FWH Sub-committee has appointed two new co-chairs: Jason Darling, with Darling Forestry, LLC and Gib King, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Jason and Gib met late last year to discuss the revision process. They are getting more feedback and are streamlining the FWH tool. The group is looking at the existing FWH\*A\*Syst and looking for duplications with other certification programs.

For now, comparing only the forest portion of the FWH\*A\*Syst with other forest certification programs, then looking for a way to do the same thing with the wetlands and habitat portions. FWH will be adding resources for legal citations.

Discussed the technicians and verifiers may need more training with FWH.

### **WATER WORDS THAT WORK REVIEW – JOE/MEREDITH**

Joe gave the background on Water Words That Work.

Meredith went through the brochure and provided copies of the old and the new brochure.

AC members and partners helped suggest changes or re-wording.

Discussion on several items.

### **COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP**

Meredith reported that \$20,000 by partners has been raised. Brochures are paid with this resource.

The group will be implementing a new communication plan. This plan includes: radio spots, short videos explaining MAEAP and becoming verified, along with Google and Facebook ads. By May or June, we should have a new maeap.org layout and web site.

### **MAEAP VERIFICATION REPORT**

Joe read through the MAEAP Verifications Over Time spreadsheet.

Lansing will be sending out reminder letters to producers for lapsed, 2-month, and 6-month until lapsed verification dates.

### **DATABASE UPDATE**

Joe informed the group that MDARD staff are working with the software developers to fix the issues with our database. Discussions on site verification(s) are causing an 80% change to the current database.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**MOTION: DEAN LETTER MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.  
SECONDED BY LORI PHALEN. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS  
AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

### **NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING**

**Host:** Laura Campbell, MFB

**Location:** 7373 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917

**Date:** Monday, April 9, 2018

**Time:** Noon – 3:30 p.m. (Lunch Provided)

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Casteel