

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

**JANUARY 13, 2014**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

MSU Livestock Pavilion, Room A  
4301 Farm lane Road  
East Lansing, MI 48824

**ATTENDEES**

Tom Coon (Co-Chair), Allen Krizek, Paul Zuger, Jeffrey Zimmer, Melissa Higbee, Sam Hines, Lauri Elbing, Lori Phalen, Jim Scott, Karen Potter-Witter, Dean Letter, Warren Suchovsky, Todd Johnson, Lee Mueller

**RESOURCE**

Laura Campbell, Larry Haigh, Laura Moser, Emily Reinart, Jan Wilford, Heather Throne, Elaine Brown, Ben Schram, Steve Shine, Joe Kelpinski and Heather Casteel (Scribe)

**GUESTS**

Michelle Beloskur, Ingham County Conservation District, Jennifer Silveri, Eaton County MAEAP Technician,

**WELCOME TO THE MSU PAVILION**

- Tom Coon started the meeting at 1:05 p.m.
- There were introductions around the table.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM Sept. 9, 2013**

- Tom Coon asked if there were any corrections to the past meeting notes. No changes were suggested.

**MOTION: LORI PHALEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2013. SECONDED BY LAURI ELBING. MOTION CARRIED.**

**AROUND THE HORN**

- Jeff Zimmer reported that there is discussion in PPPM about a potential increase in pesticide fees. While nothing has been decided yet, Jeff may be presenting this information at the end of FY 2014.
- Emily Reinart reported that MFB will team up with their county farm bureaus and will give away more spill kit's to farmers.
- Melissa Higbee reported that the Shiawassee C.D. had a preliminary meeting with members of NRCS, Farm Bureau, Oakland, Livingston and Genesee County technicians and executive directors to develop team building regarding MAEAP.
- Jim Scott reported that that WHIP and EQUIP sign-up should begin within the next few days.

**FORESTRY RELATED CHANGES UPDATE & DISCUSSION, ESTABLISH FORESTRY STANDARDS WORKGROUP/TIMELINE – STEVE SHINE AND JAN WILFORD**

- Steve Shine reminded the group that Governor Snyder signed Forestry Program into law in June 2013.
- The Qualified Forest property tax incentive was developed.
- Three new members, Warren Suchovsky, Todd Johnson and Lee Mueller, have been appointed to the MAEAP AC.
- Steve read through their biographies.
- Steve reported that he would like to co-chair the Forestry Sub-committee along with Karen Potter-Witter.

**MOTION: JAN WILFORD MOVED THAT KAREN POTTER-WITTER AND STEVE SHINE BE APPOINTED CO-CHAIRS OF THE FORESTRY SUB-COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY JEFF ZIMMER. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION: JAN WILFORD MOVED THAT KAREN POTTER-WITTER AND STEVE SHINE, AS CO-CHAIRS, USE THEIR DISCRETION TO CHOOSE THE MEMBERS OF THE FORESTRY SUB-COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY MELISSA HIGBEE. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

- A Forestry Sub-committee will be assembled by developing a list of possible members.
- Steve said that the law stated that one year from June 5, 2013 Forestry System standards be developed and recommendations provided to the Director Jamie Clover Adams.
- Steve expects the Forestry Sub-committee will have the draft available at the May MAEAP AC meeting so it can be ready in July.
- Tom Coon asked how the news will get out to the forestry related groups?
  - Steve responded that there are 17 conservation district foresters covering 52 counties spreading the word.
  - Steve also noted that with the tax break, application numbers have doubled in the past 6 months in the Qualified Forestry Program.
- Steve said the Forestry Sub-committee will assemble before the January 30<sup>th</sup> MAEAP Partnership meeting, and will report out at that meeting.
- Ben Schram read through two handouts provided. (Attached)

### **MAEAP LOGO USAGE WORKGROUP UPDATE**

- Heather Throne read through the handout provided. (Attached)
- Discussion over logo use.
- Paul Zugger suggested a wording change of 'can' to the word 'will' in the second bullet under 'Recommendations for Administration for Proper Logo Use'.
  - At reverification or initial verification, the MAEAP verifier will add a question to their checklist to ask for material used with the logo.
- Laura Moser asked who will administer the logo use in blended cooperatives as well as policing it?
  - Tom Coon answered that currently the logo use is permitted and this recommendation to the Director will be pertaining to the proposed use of the logo for blended product.

- Discussion on the use of cooperatives using a forestry logo. It was requested that an evaluation be done to see how they administer the use of various logos on forest products.

**MOTION: JAN WILFORD MOVED THAT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR BLENDED USE BE TABLED. SECONDED BY PAUL ZUGGER. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\* THE LOGO USE WORKGROUP WILL EVALUATE THE LOGO USE PROCESS FROM OTHER FORESTRY COOPERATIVES WITH A FOCUS ON BLENDING. AFTER CONSIDERATION OF FORESTRY USE LOGO GUIDELINES, THE WORKGROUP WILL RETURN AT THE MARCH AC MEETING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MAEAP LOGO USE ON BLENDED PRODUCTS.**

**SYSTEMS ROADBLOCKS & SYSTEMS COMMITTEE PLANS FOR FY2014 (REVIEW FROM ANNUAL REPORT) – DEAN LETTER, JEFF ZIMMER, ALLEN KRIZEK**

- Dean Letter read through handout provided. (Attached)
- Jeff Zimmer read through handout provided. (Attached)
  - The Farmstead System Sub-committee meeting schedule has been scheduled for FY2014.
- Allen Krizek read through handout provided. (Attached)
  - Allen is done at the end of March and Jeff Zimmer will be taking over.
- Emily Reinart read through handout provided. (Attached)

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\* TOM COON SUGGESTED THAT THE [WWW.MAEAP.ORG](http://WWW.MAEAP.ORG) WEBSITE BE UPDATED UNDER 'RESOURCES FOR FARMERS' PAGE NOW READ 'RESOURCES FOR FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS'.**

**VERIFICATION NUMBERS – JAN WILFORD**

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

**MAEAP PARTNERSHIP MEETING – JANUARY 30, 2014 – TOM COON & JAN WILFORD**

- Tom Coon pointed out the Partnership meeting agenda that was included in the packets and turned it over to Jan Wilford. (Attached)
- Jan provided the brief background for the partnership meeting and new Advisory Council members.
- Jan described the plan for the meeting.

**MAEAP AC APPOINTMENTS, REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS, NEW APPOINTEES**

- Tom Coon requested that if a member no longer wishes to remain on the Advisory Council, they need to indicate who they would like to replace themselves with, including the name and association, on the second page of the handout that is circulating.

### **FY2014 AC MEETING HOST SIGN-UP SHEET**

- Tom Coon passed around the sign-up sheet for hosting a meeting in FY2014.  
(Attached)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Tom Coon asked for any public comments.
- Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

**MOTION: TOM COON MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.  
SECONDED BY PAUL ZUGGER. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE,  
UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

### **NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING**

**Host:** James Scott, USDA-NRCS

**Location:** USDA-NRCS, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250, East Lansing, MI 48823

**Date:** March 10, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Casteel