

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

**MARCH 10, 2014**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

USDA-NRCS

3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250  
East Lansing, MI 48823

**ATTENDEES**

Scott Piggott (Co-Chair), Paul Zugger, Jeffrey Zimmer, Melissa Higbee, Sam Hines, Lori Phalen, Jim Scott, Dean Letter, Lee Mueller, James Cliff, Marissa Bramer, Stephen Shine

**RESOURCE**

Emily Reinart, Heather Throne, Elaine Brown, Ben Schram, Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Laura Doud, Heather Casteel (Scribe)

**GUESTS**

Laura Campbell, Mike Wenkel, Laura Moser, Michelle Beloskur, Executive Director, Ingham County Conservation District, Bradley Johnson, Board Chair, Ingham County Conservation District

**WELCOME TO USDA - NRCS**

- Scott Piggott started the meeting at 1:08 p.m.
- Scott thanked James Scott for hosting this AC meeting.
- There were introductions around the table.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM JAN. 13, 2014**

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

**MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2014. SECONDED BY LAURA DOUD. MOTION CARRIED.**

**AROUND THE HORN**

- Jim Scott reported that the EQIP and WHIP sign-up has started. The funds are being re-appropriated and can now carry over from year to year.
- Lori Phalen reported that on February 25<sup>th</sup> the Appropriations Committee heard testimony on MAEAP. Jan Wilford and Jim Johnson did a great job presenting the information. MI Farm Bureau also provided a great presentation. The presentations received positive a response from the panel.
- Steve Shine reported that the Mason-Lake Conservation District put on a great day promoting MAEAP.
- Melissa Higbee reported that since the meeting with Livingston, Shiawassee, Genesee, and Oakland Counties it has generated some motivation in Livingston County.
- Paul Zugger announced that this will be the last meeting he will be attending for the AC. He has been pleased to serve and will keep watching our progress as we maintain the program.

- Scott Piggott commented on a report recently released by the International Joint Commission (IJC) that continued to shine a light on agriculture's contribution to non-point source pollution in the Great Lakes Basin, particularly Lake Erie.

### **VERIFICATIONS OVER TIME SPREADSHEET**

- Joe Kelpinski read through handout.
- Discussion on what is captured in our database and how to package it up and put it into results for the program.

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\* SCOTT PIGGOTT WILL COMMIT TO SENDING OUT A NOTE TO THE AC. IT WILL ENTAIL SETTING UP A TIME TO DISCUSS SUGGESTED SURVEY TOOLS AND METHODS OF CAPTURING COLLECTED INFORMATION. THE GROUP WILL COME BACK AND REPORT TO THE AC AT THE NEXT AC MEETING IN MAY.**

### **MAEAP PARTNERSHIP MEETING RECAP**

- Scott read through the Partnership Agreement handout. (Attached)
- Discussion over the feedback from the Partnership meeting regarding a yearly agreement.

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\* SCOTT AND TOM WILL PROVIDE THE RECOMMENDATION TO THE DIRECTOR.**

### **FORESTRY SYSTEM UPDATES**

- Steve Shine reported that the Forestry System Sub-committee met the morning of the Partnership meeting, and also on February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The sub-committee is making good progress and having good conversations.
- Karen Potter-Witter and Steve Shine are co-chairs of the group.
- They are developing an assessment tool that reflects the current assessment tools we already have in place for other systems.
- Steve reported that the progress is moving along and the committee will be ready to provide something tangible by the May AC meeting.
- Scott asked if they have reviewed other states tools, such as Virginia's.
  - Ben Schram will review Virginia's Forest Stewardship Program Standards and Guidelines.

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

- Heather Throne read through the handouts provided. (Attached)
- Heather pointed to Section 4, Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels, specifically the Scope and Purpose statement on page 4. The difference between primary producer and secondary producer, each of them #5 certified sourcing, rules they have to follow and how to use on the product.
  - Audited every year, maintained at a high level.
  - Need to be sure it is used properly and following protocol.
  - SFI actually uses a micrometer for measuring the logo to be sure the size is accurate.
- Discussion over logo use.
- Specific questions by the workgroup that need to be answered by the AC.
  - What is the current way we police the logo?

- What steps should we take to ensure the usage?
- Who owns the logo? Is it a registered logo or a service mark?
  - Answered that it is a service mark through MDARD.
- Is the AC looking for a recommendation to stop usage or specifically what do they need to see from the workgroup?
- Discussion over approving the three year logo use could go through the same process as the sign being pulled unless a producer is re-verified.

**MOTION: LEE MUELLER MOVED THAT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR USE OF THE LOGO AGREEMENT BE TABLED UNTIL THE MAY 12, AC MEETING. SECONDED BY LAURA DOUD. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

- Workgroup will return in May having the recommendations to the Director for her review.
  - The MAEAP Communications workgroup will have a definition for 'blended product', rules for the appropriate use of the logo, appropriate use of logo by Co-Ops and how it is going to be monitored. Based on the last three meetings, the workgroup will finalize the recommendations.

### **SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- The next AC meeting in May will have the various systems committee reports.
- Scott read through the order on the agenda as how he will request the reports.

### **STANDARDS TIMELINE DISCUSSION**

- Livestock: Dean Letter reported that the LAS committee went through the standards and in good shape until May. The LAS will report back to the AC in May.
- Farmstead: Jeff Zimmer reported that they have had a few meetings and through all the standards changes involving well isolation distances. The group is now moving on to the educational questions. They will figure out which educational questions will be amended. Jeff will have them wrapped up and reported at the AC meeting in May.
- Cropping: Josh reported that he will carry the recommendations in May to the AC. He will have them ready at the May AC meeting.

### **MAEAP AC FINALIZE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Scott Piggott asked if there were any suggested names to the AC as replacements, and referred to the handout.
- Lauri Moser and Dean Letter asked if Jodi Sharrard, Dairy Farmer could be the suggested farmer in place of Max Benne.
- Paul Zugger will talk to Erin McDonough and see if there are any partners who would like to replace Paul on the AC.

**MOTION: LEE MUELLER MOVED THAT THE AC LIST OF MEMBERS PROVIDED AS A RECOMMENDATION TO DIRECTOR CLOVER ADAMS BE APPROVED. SECONDED BY JAMES SCOTT. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

- Scott Piggott also suggested that the recommended list is approved as is, however other suggestions may still be offered.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

### **NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING**

**Host:** Mike Wenkel, Michigan Potato Industry Commission

**Location:** Montcalm Storage Facility, 4725 West McBride Road, Lakeview, MI 48850  
*(Tour and Lunch will begin at 12:00, provided by Montcalm Storage Facility, followed by  
the AC meeting at 1:30 p.m.)*

**Date:** May 12, 2014

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. Tour of Montcalm Storage Facility

12:45 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. MAEAP AC Meeting begins

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Casteel