

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

NOVEMBER 12, 2013

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Country Mill, Steve Tennes
4648 Otto Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

ATTENDEES

Scott Piggott (Co-Chair), Ken Blight, Brian Geerlings, Allen Krizek, Michelle Napier-Dunnings, Jim Johnson, Paul Zegger, Jeffrey Zimmer, Melissa Higbee, Sam Hines, Lauri Elbing, Maury Kaercher, Lori Phalen, Jim Scott

RESOURCE

Mike Alexander, MDEQ;

Jan Wilford, Heather Throne, Elaine Brown and Heather Casteel (Scribe), MDARD;

GUESTS

Larry Haigh, MI Maple Syrup Association, Jim Droscha, Eaton County Conservation District, Bill Bradford, Board Chair, Eaton County Conservation District; Jennifer Silveri, Eaton County MAEAP Technician, Andrea Stay, Eaton County Conservation District

WELCOME TO THE COUNTRY MILL

- Steve Tennes, Country Mill owner and Eaton County Farm Bureau President, was introduced by Scott Piggott. Steve welcomed the group and provided a summary of his involvement with MAEAP and the history of the Country Mill.
- Scott Piggott asked for introductions.
 - Introductions were made around the table.

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM Sept. 9, 2013

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

MOTION: SAM HINES MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPT. 9, 2013. SECONDED BY LAURI ELBING. MOTION CARRIED.

AROUND THE HORN

- Jan Wilford announced that the MACD Annual was held last week. Awards were presented to:
 - Jodi Venema, Missaukee Conservation District MAEAP Technician, received the Technical Assistance Award, which is based on the most risk reductions, number of verifications and local partner score.
 - Kyle McCarty, Sanilac Conservation District MAEAP Technician, received the MAEAP Technician Verification Award.
 - Sanilac Conservation District received the MAEAP Grant Host Award.
 - The entire district board attended to accept the award.
 - Eight different conservation districts were nominated for this award.
- Larry Haigh reported that the Maple Syrup Association will have a MI Farm Radio spot on MAEAP.

- Paul Zugger reminded the group that MUCC has passed a resolution urging all groups to take action to protect the Lake Erie Basin, supporting the proposed plan that would restrict winter manure application. He thanked the MAEAP AC for all their help.
 - Paul also reported that he received a call from Nicole Heslip, Michigan Farm Radio, and has completed a three minute radio spot.
- Jan Wilford added that Nicole compiled a list of media clips from the last year and they were played at the MAEAP Technician Kick-Off.
- Heather Throne provided a handout (attached) that listed all the interviews that have occurred.
- Scott Piggott reported that MFB provided their annual Ecology Champion Award for Ecology leadership.

STANDARDS CHANGES

- Jim Johnson reported that there are copies of each new A*Syst, which include the new standards, in this meeting's packet.
- Jim also thanked the chairs of all the system committees for the work they do on the A*Systs.
- Jan Wilford reported that the Ag Commission recognized, and complimented, the AC on the presentation of these standards.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CROPPING AND FARMSTEAD SYSTEM CHAIR APPOINTEES

- Jim Johnson reported that Allen Krizek will be retiring in March, 2014. His retirement will provide an opening for the new System chair.
- Jeff Zimmer has volunteered to take on the role of the Cropping System Sub-committee Chair.
- Jim Johnson also recommended that if Jeff Zimmer moves to the Cropping System Sub-committee Chair, that Laura Doud, MDARD, ESD, Engineer, to become the Farmstead System Sub-committee Chair.
- Scott Piggott suggested that a motion be made to approve both of these appointees.

MOTION: JIM JOHNSON MOVED THAT JEFFREY ZIMMER BE APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE CROPPING SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY KEN BLIGHT. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: JIM JOHNSON MOVED TO APPOINT LAURA DOUD AS THE CHAIR OF THE FARMSTEAD SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY KEN BLIGHT. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING REPORT

- Lauri Elbing reported that the committee was well represented by the industry and read through the Executive Summary and Recommendations from the Water Quality Monitoring Report. (Attached)
- Lauri asked if the AC would move to pass these recommendations along to the Director for approval.
- Discussion about the recommendations.

MOTION: LAURI ELBING MOVED THAT THE WATER QUALITY MONITORING REPORT BE PROVIDED TO THE DIRECTOR. SECONDED BY KEN BLIGHT. MOTION CARRIED.

FORESTRY RELATED CHANGES – UPDATE

- Jim Johnson reported that the MAEAP AC will be augmented by three more individuals whose names have been recommended to the Director.
- A Forestry Sub-committee will develop a completely separate tool, specific to forestry area lands, wetlands, and wildlife aspects.
- The Forestry Sub-committee will be discussed at the Partnership meeting in January.
- The Forestry*A*Syst is in its development stage.
- There was discussion about the tax incentive for property values on forested lands.
- Approximately 29% of the forest industry is properly managed in Michigan.
- Larry Haigh reported that a study has been done on hard maple trees in Michigan. We have the largest amount of maple trees, but have the least amount tapped for syrup.
 - Larry also stated that he feels the Forestry*A*Syst would significantly help in growing the maple syrup industry.

ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT

- Jan Wilford reported that the annual report for the Director is coming along nicely. She has received almost all of the required items from the System chairs and will compile the report before the next AC meeting in January.
- Next year's report will be larger and have more information.
- It is expected that an interview with Chairs of each committee: Advisory Council, Livestock, Farmstead, and Cropping, will be shown at the Partnership meeting in January.

VERIFICATION NUMBERS AND FISCAL YEAR END PROJECTION

- Jan Wilford reviewed the Verifications-Over-Time handout, (attached).

MAEAP PARTNERSHIP MEETING

- Jim Johnson announced that the Partnership meeting will be on January 30, 2014.
- Topics will include: where our program stands, and what issues we have had to deal with.
- Jim asked for suggestions on more topics.
 - AC members suggested that we ask all the partners what they are doing to promote MAEAP and what is possible?
 - It was requested that partners target the areas that could really change the culture if certain counties or areas are resisting MAEAP. What could they do to show MAEAP's value?
 - It was suggested that we could acknowledge the folks that have one sticking point which stops them from verification.
 - 'Breakfast on the Farm' events are a good way to reach the community.
 - It was recommended to have the MAEAP partners connect with the MAEAP technician to show the doors that can be opened. (i.e. the next generation of farmers, young kids coming from school, returning veterans, etc.)
 - It was suggested to have a slide that shows 'Numbers by County' to show verifications.

FY2014 AC MEETING HOST SIGN-UP SHEET

- Scott Piggott asked that the AC members volunteer to host a meeting in FY14.
- The sign-up sheet was passed around the table.
- Scott will request electronically that members review their ability to host an AC meeting in 2014.
- Lauri Elbing, The Nature Conservancy, will check on available dates and conference room availability.
- Lori Phalen, MACD, has volunteered to host the July 14, 2014 AC meeting.

MAEAP AC APPOINTMENTS, REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS, NEW APPOINTEES

- Scott pointed out the handout in the meeting packet that listed the appointees and their timeline. (Attached)
- Scott requested that the members review and decide if they wish to continue to serve the AC and their respective committees and workgroups.
- Scott and Tom will electronically request whether or not AC members intend to continue to serve.

****ACTION ITEM** HEATHER TO SEND THE MAEAP AC MEMBERS TIMELINE ELECTRONICALLY TO SCOTT SO HE CAN INCLUDE IN HIS EMAIL.**

****ACTION ITEM** SCOTT WILL SEND OUT AN EMAIL REQUESTING AC MEMBERS TO RESPOND WITH THEIR WISH TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE AC, OR THEIR WISH TO BE REMOVED, AND SIGN-UP TO HOST AN AC MEETING IN 2014.**

MAEAP LOGO USAGE WORKGROUP UPDATE

- Heather Throne provided an update and asked that people volunteer the name of an individual or organization that is using the MAEAP Logo to join the workgroup discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Steve Tennes asked if we could provide something to hand out to his customers that describes the program.
 - Jen Silveri offered to bring him our promotional rack cards that he could distribute.

MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECONDED BY LORI PHALEN. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING

Host: TBD

Location: TBD

Date: January 13, 2014

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - MAEAP AC Meeting

NEXT MAEAP PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Location: LCC, West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, MI 48917

Date: January 30, 2014

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel