

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

MAY 11, 2020

1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ron Bates, MSU

MSU Zoom Web Conference

ATTENDEES

Ron Bates (Co-Chair), Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Tom Zimnicki, Brian Geerlings, Scott Simon, Dean Letter, Mary Kelpinski, Lori Phalen, Dale Allen, Jennifer Silveri, Melissa Higbee, Emily Helsen, Jim Johnson, Chuck Lippstreu, Dan Zay, Warren Suchovsky, Kyle Harris, Christine Alexander, Shelly Hartmann

RESOURCE

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Jason Darling, Erica Rogers, Meredith Smith, John Switzer, Emily Reinart, Ben Schram, Laura Doud, Ben Tirrell, Erin Satchell, Dan Busby, Tom Young, Gib King, Heather Casteel (Scribe)

PARTNER/GUESTS

Sarah Fronczak, James DeYoung, Elaine Brown, Shelby Burlew, Tess Van Gorder, Jon Bartholic, Robert Bourge, Lisa Groom. Kelly Turner

WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Ron Bates started the meeting at 1:04 p.m.
No additional agenda items.

MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2020 . SECONDED BY LORI PHALEN. 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

FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT

Jason Darling read through the handout of recommended changes. (shared screen)
Jason reported that the FWH Sub-committee had many discussions on changing the heading for the column "Records or Evidence for MAEAP Verification".

The tool will use the heading "Referencing Information".

Jason walked through the Summary of Recommended changes, noting that the web-links will be removed, and they will remove the reference fact sheet section, and build it into Table 2.

Ben Schram added that special sites are standard in the American Tree Farm Association tool, and is required for someone to be certified in the American Tree Farm Association, not an environmental issues, but keeps it a mention of special sites to keep it consistent.

1.10b) suggested to update the language as it sounds vague, Jason will add some more language into this question. "To the best of their knowledge, is the landowner aware of any unused well, or abandoned well.

FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE (continued)

Josh Appleby noted that the question should remain consistent between A*Systs. The standard question in the current Farm*A*Syst will be used regarding abandoned wells.

Added legal citations and reordered numbers 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

4.02) recommended by Josh to update language and being able to soften the risk answers.

Laura Campbell suggested a future-focused answer would be more appropriate.

FARMSTEAD SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE

Laura Doud read through handout with recommended changes.

7.18) will have no boxed risk answers.

9.09) removed the 'and/or' language.

9.07) regarding animal mortalities will be updated to the same language as the Livestock*A*Syst.

9.01) and 9.02) will be updated to the same language as Livestock*A*Syst recommended changes this year.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP

Meredith Smith reported that later this week the results from our social media campaign from post cards will be available.

Last year the communications workgroup had several discussions on a public facing media.

Monroe County has a plan in place, and they will be discussing how to move forward next week during COVID-19.

The MI Farm is MAEAP Verified document has been updated.

CROPPING SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE

Josh Appleby read through the handout of recommended changes to the Greenhouse*A*Syst.

The suggested changes this year involve consistency between all the other Crop*A*Systs.

LIVESTOCK SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE

Josh Appleby read through the handout with recommended changes to the Livestock*A*Syst.

Josh explained the new language in the Siting GAAMPs. The guidance will do a better job helping farmers and technicians to have a systematic way to figure out siting issues.

The proposal is to remove all existing questions and replace them with one new question that asks, "Site Selection GAAMPs were approved." This means they will have an official letter that states the low and medium risk columns have been met.

This provides an opportunity to work with other MDARD staff asking questions, relying on farmers information, then gives the opportunity for Right to Farm staff to review the proper year of the GAAMP.

****ACTION ITEM** HEATHER CASTEEL TO FORWARD THE SITE SCREENING TOOL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AC AND PARTNERS.** (Action completed)**

MAEAP VERIFICATION REPORT

Joe Kelpinski read the MAEAP Verifications Over Time spreadsheet.

MAEAP UPDATE

Joe Kelpinski reported that MAEAP only had a handful of verifications this past month. COVID-19 has impacted the results.

MAEAP staff have focused on other efforts such as new online video sessions for technicians. Everyone is gearing back up now for more verifications, as we have visits scheduled now and moving forward.

Joe reported that MAEAP staff have been spending considerable time for new database sprints.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional public comments.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING

Host: TBD

Location: TBD

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel