

**MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM
(MAEAP) ADVISORY COUNCIL (AC)
OCTOBER 21, 2019
1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Michigan Farm Bureau**

ATTENDEES

Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Ron Bates (Co-Chair), Warren Suchovsky, Mary Kelpinski, Tom Zimnicki, Dean Letter, Brian Geerlings, Melissa Higbee

RESOURCE

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Heather Casteel (Scribe), Erica Rogers, Andrea Stay, Laura Doud, Shelby Burlew, Meredith Smith, Ben Schram, Emily Reinart

PARTNER/GUESTS

Tess Van Gorder, Emily Helsen, Sarah Fronczak, Deb Schumucker, Allison Kerr, Jerry Miller

WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Laura Campbell started the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

One additional agenda item: MFB 100 Year Anniversary PowerPoint presentation.

MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 10, 2019. SECONDED BY WARREN SUCHOVSKY. 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

LIVESTOCK

Erica Rogers reported that the Livestock System Sub-committee met on September 17th. Discussions on DEQ permits, the manure hauler program with Charles Gould, and poultry wash water.

FARMSTEAD

Laura Doud reported to the group that the Farmstead System Sub-committee has not met yet, first meeting will be in December.

Chemigation valves will be a topic of discussion again this year.

Livestock water facility standards will be discussed and reviewed.

CROPPING

Josh Appleby reported that the big topic this year for standards will be chemigation, back-flow protection.

Siting will require a fair bit of questions this year. Challenges to our growers have been significant regarding Siting.

FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT

Ben Schram reported that the American Tree Farm System certification will be consistent with our MAEAP Standards.

Warren Suchovsky provided background of GAFMPs, including harvesting systems, visual sensitivity, smoke prescribed burning, use of chemicals, and noise from harvesting.

FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT (continued)

Warren reported that historically that if someone had a complaint, it was assumed that it would immediately go to court. It was also expected that most complaints would be regarding activities on State Forest lands.

MAEAP FUTURE EFFORTS TASK FORCE

Tom Zimmicki reported that the group met and had discussions on the future of MAEAP. The group consisted of Tom, Dean Letter, Shelby Burlew, Josh Appleby, and Scott Lonier. Group discussed focusing on a value-added program for producers. From a philosophical standpoint how do we want to be viewed by the public.

Looking at national models, or other programs, what do those types of programs offer, and how does MAEAP stand up in contrast?

Discussed the need to line up with global customers working with our commodity groups. The group discussed how to align sustainability efforts from partners/commodity groups to MAEAP efforts and data tracking.

The new database will provide data that can be used.

Siting, record keeping, water use reporting, things that are a liability for farmers are all important things we should be reporting on, but no useful way to give outcomes.

Tom suggested taking a deeper look at the livestock-based industry to do a comparison of what we could compile for our state.

Joe Kelpinski suggested that Tom include animal numbers, below and above 700 Animal units.

Tom said that the group would reconvene and bring back recommendations to the AC.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP

Meredith Smith reported to the group that the new web site had launched in the second week of July.

The workgroup has discussed two potential audiences for focusing MAEAPs communication efforts: People that care about the environment and legislators, leaders etc.

Meredith reported that Wade the Water Drop will be at the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts conference at the end of October.

MAEAP VERIFICATION REPORT

Joe read the MAEAP Verifications Over Time spreadsheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Campbell reminded the group of the Wetland Mitigation Program and the NRCS Mediation Program services that are offered to farmers.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING

Host: TBD

Location: TBD

Date: Monday, February 10, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel