

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

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Weyerhaeuser Company  
4111 West Four Mile Road  
Grayling, MI 49738

**ATTENDEES**

Scott Piggott (Co-Chair), Ray Hammerschmidt (Co-Chair), Warren Suchovsky, Jeffrey Zimmer, Melissa Higbee, Jan Wilford, Karen Potter-Witter, Laura Doud, Rich Bowman, Todd Johnson, Doug Buhler, Laura Moser, Jody Sharrard

**RESOURCE**

Tom Young, Erin Satchell, Dan Busby, Ben Schram, Heather Casteel (Scribe) Elaine Brown, and Emily Reinart

**GUESTS**

Laura Campbell, Jodi Venema, Chris Anderson, Brittany Mauricette

**WELCOME TO THE WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY**

- Scott Piggott started the meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- Scott thanked Todd Johnson for hosting this AC meeting, the tour and luncheon.
- Scott introduced the new Co-Chair of the MAEAP Advisory Council meetings, Ray Hammerschmidt, MSUE, and Doug Buhler, AgBio Research.
- There were introductions around the table.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM MARCH 10, 2014**

- Scott Piggott asked if there were any corrections to the July 13th meeting notes. No changes were suggested.

**MOTION: TODD JOHNSON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 13, 2014. SECONDED BY RICH BOWMAN. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.**

**AROUND THE HORN**

- Scott reported that he has heard about 7 or 8 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP) possible proposals regarding additional Farm Bill funds that will help producers through the last few roadblocks toward verification, along with addressing other conservation needs.
- Jan Wilford informed the group that while protecting the confidentiality between MAEAP and producers with tools that are in place, we are still able to provide reporting with practices that technicians implement on the farm.
- Erin Satchell suggested that a possible outreach tool could be an aerial photo of a before and after picture of implemented environmental practices on a farm.

- Scott suggested that we ask the MAEAP Communications Workgroup to connect the environmental outcomes and the farmer's perspective. This could help us understand how to use that information.

### **VERIFICATIONS OVER TIME SPREADSHEET**

- Jan highlighted totals in the handout provided. (Attached)

### **ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE – JAN**

- Jan reported that she is waiting to hear back from the Director if the narrative with details were acceptable for reporting updated numbers in the annual report.
- Jan just wanted to make the Chairs aware to look for that in the near future.

### **FOREST, WETLANDS, AND HABITAT SYSTEM STANDARDS – KAREN POTTER-WITTER**

- Karen Potter-Witter informed the group that the Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat\*A\*Syst has been produced and sent for printing.
- It is expected to have formal training for Foresters at the MACD Convention in October.
- Warren Suchovsky inquired if it would be possible to attend a verification visit in Dickinson County with Erin Satchell. Erin will get with Warren on a scheduling a visit.

### **LIVESTOCK SYSTEM STANDARDS**

- Jan Wilford passed around the MAEAP AC Sub-committee directories for all Systems and asked for suggested names to be added to the committees. MDARD will follow up with recommendations and see if they are interested in attending.

### **FARMSTEAD SYSTEM STANDARDS**

- Laura Doud reported that there are not any Farmstead Standards related issues other than fuel regulations that are waiting on the Legislature to pass, no major changes. The fuel regulations will be less stringent, but those items that may be changed would affect the educational questions, not the boxed requirements in our \*A\*Systs.
- If the fuel regulations pass, they will be effective on October 13, 2014.

### **CROPPING SYSTEM STANDARDS**

- Jeff Zimmer informed the group that the Cropping System Sub-Committee will have the same number of meetings this year.
- Discussions at these meetings will include possibly consolidating the various Cropping Standards into one \*A\*Syst, due to redundant questions.
  - Greenhouse A\*Syst will stay separated from the other various Cropping A\*Systs.

### **TENTATIVE OCTOBER 30 MAEAP EVENT – JAN**

- MDARD Director, Jamie Clover Adams would like a Southeastern Michigan location for our 2500 MAEAP Verification Event at the end of October.

### **STANDARDS APPROVAL – JAN**

- Jan described the current notebooks that are provided to the Ag Commission when Standards changes go through the adoption process.

- MDARD has provided them this way consistently since 2011, and it is appreciated by the Ag Commission.
- Jan anticipates that the Ag Commission may have more questions regarding the Right to Farm and Siting GAAMPs changes before they are adopted.
- The Ag Commission meets next Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2014.

### **MAEAP RELATED PROPOSAL UPDATES**

- Jan provided an update on grant related proposals for Elaine Brown.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- The next MAEAP AC meeting will be at the Nature Conservancy hosted by Rich Bowman.
- Rich confirmed that the conference room is all set for November 10<sup>th</sup>, and offered that the room is available in the morning if anyone would like to use it for meetings, just let him know.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

### **NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING**

**Host:** The Nature Conservancy, Rich Bowman

**Location:** Large Conference Room, 101 East Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

**Date:** November, 10, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. - MAEAP AC Meeting begins

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Casteel