

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

AgroLiquid
3055 West M-21
St. Johns, MI 48879

and

Remote Technology via Microsoft Teams
Dial: 1-248-509-0316; Conf. ID 603 965 247#

MEETING MINUTES September 14, 2022

PRESENT:

Charlie Meintz, Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Andy Chae, Vice Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Patricia Bergdahl, Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Juliette King-McAvoy, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Monica Wyant, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Gary McDowell, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Meintz called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 9:32 a.m. on September 14, 2022. Roll call was taken with Commissioners Bergdahl, Chae, King-McAvoy, Meintz, and Wyant, and Director McDowell announcing themselves as present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2022. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WYANT. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 20, 2022, MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is November 2, 2022, location is currently to be determined, possibly Frankenmuth.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL

Commissioners shared information relative to their farm operations, as well as agriculture in their respective areas.

Commissioner Bergdahl attended the Michigan State University Upper Peninsula Potato Field Day, the Alger County Fair and Upper Peninsula State Fair. She also was a judge at the Farm Bureau Young Farmer Discussion Meet.

Commissioner King-McAvoy noted the cherry crop was exceptional, however due to issues with labor and processing, many cherries were left on the trees. She expressed the apple crop was looking to be exceptional as well. However, there were concerns on transportation and input increases.

Commissioner Chae was excited to have welcomed U.S. Senator Stabenow who visited his farm. They discussed the new United States Department of Agriculture's Urban Agriculture offices that will be in Grand Rapids and Detroit. They also discussed the current Farm Bill in the federal government.

Commissioners Bergdahl, Chae, King-McAvoy, Meintz, and Wyant traveled to attend today's meeting. There was no other travel submitted for approval.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY. MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director McDowell announced that Angie Lake joined MDARD as the Executive Assistant to Chief Deputy Director McFarlane, as well as Assistant to the Agriculture Commission. The Director thanked Jen Eyde for her help with the department and commission these last few months to fill in.

The Director shared that MDARD staffer Gina DeWitt passed away in August. Gina was the manager in the Chemistry Section at the Geagley Lab and had been an MDARD employee for over 31 years.

The Director shared with the Commission the Spotted Lantern Fly is a current emergency in the State of Michigan. The department is continuing to monitor and treat the infected area. The Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division will continue to work and monitor the situation.

The Director informed the commission of a water main break in southeast Michigan on August 13. The State Emergency Operations Center was activated and assisted with getting water procured and delivered. The replacement was completed August 31, and the boil water advisory is expected to continue until at least September 15. MDARD Ag Development staff reached out to the affected areas and only Lapeer County reported a problem with Conagra Foods/Vlasic

Foods. Their estimated loss (including the loss of product) is \$6 Million. The entire plant was up and running by the beginning of second shift on Aug 31.

The Director has participated in tours throughout the state since the last July meeting. Including a Food Truck Tour in Mason, Planted Detroit and Rehlig Farms in Carleton. He attended multiple key industry meetings including the Rural Development Fund Board meeting in Marquette, Michigan Craft Beverage Council meeting in Northport, Ag Preservation Fund Board meeting, Corteva Ribbon Cutting in Midland, UP State Fair and Governor's Luncheon in Escanaba, and Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa.

The Director highlighted a few events coming before the next meeting Commission meeting. One being the MDARD Employee Awards Ceremony on November 1 and invited the Commissioners to join the department in celebrating MDARD's staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Bee Friedlander, representing Attorneys for Animals and the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, testified with concerns on the Animal Care Standards Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP) STANDARDS – APPROVAL OF 2023 STANDARDS: Chad Rogers, Deputy Division Director, and Joe Kelpinski, MAEAP Manager, both in Environmental Stewardship Division

Mr. Rogers advised the MAEAP Standards, as introduced at the July meeting, are before the Commission for approval today. They would be implemented and used for risk mitigation and MAEAP verification for individual operations during fiscal year 2023. This is a very important program in which farmers are being proactive in addressing environmental issues. The Commission has the statutory responsibility to annually review and approve the MAEAP Standards.

Mr. Kelpinski indicated no issues being identified this past year, there are no recommended changes for the 2023 standards. However, seven of the A*Syst tools have been combined into one standard Farm A*Syst tool. The consolidation will result in cost savings by significantly reducing staff time to update the various documents, as well as saving approximately \$25,000 to print the documents. The consolidation will also eliminate waste by reducing the large number of unused documents recycled at the end of each year. However, the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System will not be combined with the new Farmstead Assessment tool.

Development of the new MAEAP database focused on how to identify specific practices producers are implementing to become MAEAP verified. Partners need this information to determine how they can continue to assist producers.

Sustainability and growth of the program relies on being able to better assist and serve the producers.

In response to question from the Commissioners, Mr. Kelpinski discussed what other states are adopting to follow MAEAP verifications throughout the country and how the State of Michigan is unique in our system. He also explained what the participation rates are for the MAEAP program.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR 2023 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMBINATION OF A*SYST TOOLS INTO THE FARM A*SYST, AND APPROVING THE FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT SYSTEM TO STAND ALONE IN THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR 2023. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAE. MOTION CARRIED.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED PROCESSING PRACTICES (GAPPs): Chad Rogers, Deputy Division Director and Laura Doud, Environmental Engineer, both in Environmental Stewardship Division

Mr. Rogers advised the Commission is statutorily required to annually approve the Generally Accepted Fruit, Vegetables, Dairy, Meat, and Grain Processing Practices for Noise and Odor (GAPPs) as dictated by the Legislature in 1998. Practices were developed specifically around noise and odor related issues that provide nuisance protection for agricultural processors who are following the standards.

As indicated in the materials provided to the Commission, Ms. Doud stated there are no changes recommended this year and they can be approved as they currently exist.

In response to question from the Commissioners, Ms. Doud discussed some proposed changes and concerns on the production practices that have been discussed for the 2024 GAPPs changes.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED FRUIT, VEGETABLES, DAIRY, MEAT, AND GRAIN PROCESSING PRACTICES FOR NOISE AND ODOR AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL. MOTION CARRIED.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs): Chad Rogers, Division Deputy Director, and Mike Wozniak, Right to Farm Program Manager, both Environmental Stewardship Division

Mr. Rogers noted the Right to Farm (RTF) Act provides nuisance protection for farm operations that are in conformance with Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs). The Act gives the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development responsibility for the GAAMPs, which RTF staff use to determine compliance with the conditions necessary under the RTF Act. The Act dictates the GAAMPs be reviewed annually by the Commission and revised as necessary. Today, the proposed 2023 GAAMPs are introduced for the Commission's review between now and the November meeting, with anticipated decision regarding the 2023 GAAMPs at that time.

Mr. Wozniak recognized the outstanding efforts of the GAAMPs taskforce committees. He provided a summary of the recommended revisions to the 2023 GAAMPs. The most significant changes were in the Care of Farm Animals GAAMPs and the Manure Management GAAMPs. He noted discussion of changes were stated in documents provided to the Commission.

Mr. Wozniak stated the rest of the GAAMPs include minor text and formatting changes, references to new research, and language. He further reviewed specific recommendations within each GAAMP, which included consistency between GAAMPs and a change to the preface for each.

Chairman Meintz applauded the committees and reminded the Commission and public the GAAMPs are living documents and always evolving as the industry changes. In response to question from Commissioner McAvoy, Mr. Wozniak advised there are no minimum requirements of how often the committees meeting.

Mr. Wozniak took a moment to recognize Dr. Dale Rozeboom, who will be retiring from the advisory committee.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Chairperson Meintz recessed the meeting at 10:42 a.m. for a brief break. He reconvened the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

BUDGET UPDATE: Sylvia Renteria, Director of Finance and Budget

Ms. Renteria gave an overview of the next steps and processes of the three open fiscal years the department is currently working on. The department is currently working to close out Fiscal Year 2022, implementing Fiscal Year 2023, and working with the State Budget Office to prepare for the proposed Fiscal Year 2024. Ms. Renteria discussed a proposed supplemental for the 2022 budget to allocate grant programs from federal appropriations.

In response to question from the Commissioners, Ms. Renteria discussed her team has taken field trips to understand where the funding goes once divisions are allocated funds. Discussion was also held on the current budget and the issues arising due to inflation, and if the increase in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget has been sufficient.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Ashley Steffen, Legislative Liaison

Ms. Steffen referred to the MDARD Legislative Update provided to the Commissioners and reviewed current status and activity around bills of interest to the department. Ms. Steffen discussed legislation that is expected to advance in the next few weeks of legislative work. The legislation pertains to updates to the drain code and updates to the rural development fund for mining funding in the future.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN MICHIGAN: Ashley Steffen, Legislative Liaison

Ms. Steffen explained a proposed weights and measures update that is expected to be in the Senate Agriculture Committee next week. Within this update, the legislation would put into regulation measuring electric vehicle charging stations. MDARD staff would be responsible for these stations, similar to gas stations.

In response to questions from the Commissioners, Ms. Steffen explained the department already owns a device to measure EV Charging stations. Field Staff would be facilitating measuring these stations where electricity is to be sold for these vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment on non-agenda items was requested.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WYANT MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER KING-MCAVOY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes July 20, 2022*
- C) *Director's Update – September 14, 2022*
- D) *Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Standards*
- E) *Generally Accepted Fruit, Vegetables, Dairy, Meat, and Grain Processing Practices for Noise and Odor*
- F) *2023 Draft Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs)*
- G) *Summary of Recommended Changes to 2023 GAAMPs*

- H) Public Input Meeting Summary – 2023 GAAMPs*
- I) Public Comment Relative to the 2022 Draft GAAMPs*
- J) Budget Update Presentation*
- K) MDARD Summary of 2022-2023 Michigan Legislature 9/14/2022*