

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

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Radisson Lansing

111 N. Grand Avenue

Lansing, MI 48933

ATTENDEES

Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Dr. Ronald Bates (Co-Chair), Warren Suchovsky, Melissa Higbee, Scott Simon, Karel Bush, James Clift, Jen Silveri, Mike Bitondo, Phil Korson, Brian Geerlings, Dean Letter, Jody Sharrard, Jason Darling, Lori Phalen, Scott Lonier

RESOURCE

Joe Kelpinski, Jessie Sielski, Kip Miller, Ben Schram, Josh Appleby, Dan Busby, Ben Tirrell, Shelby Burlew, Heather Casteel (Scribe)

PARTNER/GUESTS

Larry Haigh, James DeYoung, Tom Zimnicki, Steve Schaub

WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES (2) AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Bates started the meeting at 10:38 a.m. and thanked all the attendees for coming. Meeting began with a round of introductions around the room.

No additional agenda items.

MOTION: WARREN SUCHOVSKY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 17, 2016 AND NOVEMBER 14, 2016. SECONDED BY MIKE BITONDO. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, BOTH MEETING NOTES WERE APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.

AROUND THE HORN

Everyone around the room shared their recent activities and events from their organization.

EXPEDITED MAEAP STANDARDS APPROVAL PROCESS

Laura informed the group on the change regarding the AG Commission's meeting schedule for 2017. The change requires us to have any recommended changes provided by their May meeting, which means we have to make them at the April 10th meeting. For those of you working on these, we will be very busy. The AC has to have a vote and approve any changes by April 10th. If any changes need to be tabled for further information we will need to accommodate that timeline. Laura thanked the sub-committees for their extensive work on these A*Syst tools.

SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORTS

Systems committees need to have recommended changes approved through the AC at the next AC meeting on April 10th, 2017.

LIVESTOCK

Dean Letter reported for the Livestock System Sub-committee that they do not anticipate any huge changes.

FARMSTEAD

Laura Doud reported the Farmstead System Sub-committee does have a few minor changes but nothing significant.

CROPPING

Josh Appleby reported for the Cropping System Sub-committee that they have a little rewording to do, but only minor changes this year.

FORESTRY

Ben Schram reported for the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System Sub-committee that there will be some serious additions and changes to the FWH*A*Syst. The sub-committee will be meeting at NRCS later today. The tool itself is currently very forestry targeted and the habitat and wetland portions need work. The sub-committee has made it easier and more helpful for technicians to use. This round of changes will broaden the scope of this tool.

2017 PARTNER MEETING RECAP

Discussion on the benefits of our Partnership meeting and suggestions were provided on how to include efforts to reach the public with ways to get the word out about MAEAP. The target audience is the general public that does not know what MAEAP is all about.

MAEAP FUNDING DISCUSSION/VOTE

Dr. Bates led the AC through each of the proposed supplemental funding recommendations for their votes.

Technician/CTAI Grant Level Increase:

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

Cost Share for Producers/Groups:

Suggested edit: Replace the word 'technicians' in the second sentence under Strategy, with "Conservation Districts" to read: "The first is to give MAEAP Conservation Districts base cost share funding in each fiscal year."

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION AS AMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

Edge of Field Research:

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

MAEAP Communications Staff Person:

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

GIS Spatial Database Add-On:

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

Provide New MAEAP Technician in St. Clair County:

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

Provide Cost Share For Partner Research:

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

Regional MAEAP Technicians:

The AC recommends to the Director that funds be set aside and the AC would assemble a committee to focus on reverifications. Recommendation to set aside \$150,000.

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION AS AMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

Plastic Pesticide Container Balers:

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

Augment CTAI Staff:

MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FUNDING RECOMMENDATION. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION: WARREN SUCHOVSKY MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. SECONDED BY LORI PHALEN. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING ADJOURNED.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING

Host: Phil Korson, Cherry Marketing Institute

Location: 12800 Escanaba Drive, Suite A, DeWitt, MI 48820

Date: Monday, April 10, 2017

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel