

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

APRIL 9, 2018

1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Laura Campbell, MFB
7373 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

ATTENDEES

Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Dr. Ronald Bates (Co-Chair), Warren Suchovsky, Tom Zimnicki, Dean Letter, Emily Helsen, Scott Lonier, Betsy Dierberger, Jason Darling, Christine Alexander, Brian Geerlings, Melissa Higbee, Dale Allen

RESOURCE

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, John Switzer, Laura Doud, Emily Reinart, Shelby Burlew, Meredith Smith, Gib King, Erica Rogers, Andrea Stay, Heather Casteel (Scribe)

PARTNERS/GUESTS

Allison Trierweiler, Sue Spagnuolo, James DeYoung

WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Rob Bates started the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Meeting began with a round of introductions around the room.

No additional agenda items.

Meeting notes approved from February 5, 2018.

MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2018. 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 SUB-COMMITTEE (LAS)

Dean Letter reported to the group that the next LAS sub-committee meeting will take place tomorrow at Greenstone, April 10th.

The sub-committee members are not expecting significant changes.

FARMSTEAD SUB-COMMITTEE (FAS)

Laura Doud reported to the group that the FAS sub-committee members are not expecting huge changes. They will be looking at the fuel section and will be meeting tomorrow at Greenstone, April 10th.

Any changes will be based on fuel regulations.

CROPPING SUB-COMMITTEE (CAS)

Josh Appleby reported to the group that the CAS sub-committee also meetings tomorrow at Greenstone, April 10th.

Josh said they have had a good discussion about Corrective Action Preventive Action (CAPA) drift issues and record keeping.

There will now be some new forms for technicians to use to help with CAPA. Additionally, the sub-committee could introduce an educational question regarding CAPA. CAS sub-committee will be discussing bats and bees. Some changes are expected in the Food Safety*A*Syst, as well as possibly developing a new Vineyard*A*Syst, which will be handled respectively by those groups.

****ACTION ITEM: HEATHER WILL FORWARD ALL DOCUMENTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES TO THE A.C. MEMBERS WITH EACH SYSTEMS RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS THEY ARE SENT IN TO MDARD.****

FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT (FWH)

Jason Darling reported that the FWH Sub-committee has developed recommended changes for the Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat*A*Syst.

Jason read through the recommended changes for discussion and will provide a new version of recommended changes based on the edits from the AC.

Recommended changes will again be addressed on June 11, 2018 at the next AC meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP

Meredith reported that they will be running a radio spot for 10 weeks. These radio spots will be a farmer-focused campaign through MI Ag Information Network (MAIN).

The current MAEAP website should be completed within the next month. The website should be easier to navigate.

Water Words That Work is still looking at our brochure.

The MAEAP Newsletter will be coming out this month.

MAEAP VERIFICATION REPORT

Joe read through the MAEAP Verifications Over Time spreadsheet.

Joe informed the group that MDARD staff will be planning a big event for reaching 5,000 verifications.

MAEAP DATABASE UPDATE

Joe informed the group about the developments and progress with the new MAEAP online database.

Joe reported that after 17 years with the program, we now have a need to indicate on farms that they are no longer farming, have sold the farm site, or the producers have passed away.

MAEAP FARM/SYSTEM STATUS

Joe explained that MAEAP is in its 17th year, and producers have always been verified by site, with perhaps more than one cropping, one livestock, one FWH for that site address.

Because we have been doing this for so long, we have farmers that are retiring, selling the farm, etc.

We need to find a way to generally indicate that a farm falls into this category, no longer eligible for reverification.

MOTION: MELISSA HIGBEE MOVED THAT THE AC DECIDE THE WORDING USED TO DETERMINE DISCONTINUED MAEAP VERIFICATION AND ALLOW THE PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE A FARM STATUS FOR FARMS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR REVERIFICATION. SECONDED BY WARREN SUCHOVSKY. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION APPROVED.

FOCUS GROUP 'WHERE WE GO AFTER 2021'

Heather listed the people who have volunteered to serve on this workgroup: Tom Zimnicki (Chair), Shelby Burlew, Dean Letter, Ben Tirrell, Joe Kelpinski, and Scott Lonier.

It was decided to go back to the meeting minutes from the Incentive Taskforce group meeting and review the recommendations sent to the MDARD Director, Jamie Clover Adams.

Emily Reinart will send out those meeting minutes to the group.

****ACTION ITEM: EMILY REINART WILL FORWARD ALL DOCUMENTS FROM THE INCENTIVE TASKFORCE GROUP FOR REVIEW BY THE AC.****

PUBLIC COMMENT

Emily Reinart asked the group to be considerate of the current condition of the farming economy and encouraged the group to talk to their producers.

MOTION: BRIAN GEERLINGS MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. SECONDED BY SCOTT LONIER. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MEETING ADJOURNED.

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING

Host: Scott Simon, Greenstone FCS

Location: 3515 West Road, Room 112, East Lansing, MI 48823

Date: Monday, June 11, 2018

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Meeting Only)

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel