

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

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Scott Simon
Greenstone FCS

ATTENDEES

Ron Bates (Co-Chair), Laura Campbell (Co-Chair), Tom Zimnicki, Scott Lonier, Brian Geerlings, Scott Simon, Dean Letter, Mary Kelpinski, Lori Phalen, Dale Allen, Jennifer Silveri, Kyle Harris,

RESOURCE

Joe Kelpinski, Josh Appleby, Ben Schram, Heather Casteel (Scribe), Meredith Smith

PARTNER/GUESTS

Jon Bartholic, Neil Sheridan

WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Ron Bates started the meeting at 1:04 p.m.
No additional agenda items.

MOTION: SCOTT LONIER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 21, 2019. SECONDED BY LORI PHALEN. 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

CROPPING AND FARMSTEAD SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEES

Josh Appleby reported that the Cropping and Farmstead System Sub-committees have combined their meetings and have discussed potential edits to the current Cropping and Farmstead Standards.

The sub-committee will be reorganizing the Emergency Planning for the Farm tool, in addition to possible changes to the Standards documents.

The sub-committee would like the Emergency Planning for the Farm bulletin to meet all GAP requirements.

Discussions on incorporating the food safety items that are required for a recall or fire in a building.

Discussions will involve guidance for public toilets, disinfectants, wastewater issues, frequency of manure pit inspections, back-flow prevention valves, and Siting issues due to the new changes in the Siting GAAMPs.

LIVESTOCK

Josh Appleby reported that the Livestock System Sub-committee will also look at the same items, as listed above, for consistency between the tools.

FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT

Joe Kelpinski reported that the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat tool is starting to mature so there should be less recommended changes this year.

Jennifer Silveri asked if anyone is interested in having the A*Systs translated in Spanish and asked if there is funding to do that.

Tom Zimnicki asked Joe Kelpinski to look into whether or not MDARD would fit that area. Discussion on how effective the Spanish versions would be for our tools.

****ACTION ITEM** Heather Casteel will send out the MAEAP promo items to this group that have been developed into Spanish versions dated in 2012.**

(Action Completed)

FUTURE OF MAEAP (continued)

Tom Zimnicki provided background on the Future of MAEAP workgroup and there was nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP

Meredith Smith reported to the group that this year's focus will be on young farmers, women in Ag, and Certified Crop Advisors.

Another round of postcards will be sent out and more Google and Facebook ads.

Van Buren, Cass, Ottawa and Kent Counties will receive two postcards.

There will be media trainings for technicians at M.A.C.D. Conference this year. There will be two sessions; 1: talking to the media, and 2: will be conducting an interview and receiving feedback from their efforts.

The MIClear group will focus on young farmers between 25 years old to 45 years old, in Monroe County.

Tom Zimnicki asked what does success look like regarding these efforts?

Answer was the data from maeap.org traffic and requested farm visits on the website, in addition to Facebook and Google metrics on click bait.

Discussion on what the committee considers successful.

MAEAP VERIFICATION REPORT

Joe Kelpinski read the MAEAP Verifications Over Time spreadsheet.

MAEAP UPDATE AND FRESHWATER FUNDING SUNSET

Joe Kelpinski reported that they had the CREP discussion, and we are on goal for total P reduction, FY17, 18 and 19 data shows that Total P in the River Raisin is increasing from the previous trend of declining.

New MAEAP database will hopefully be launched by November 1, 2020.

Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) was the most heavily monitored body of water in the world.

A white paper asking for funding for Saginaw Bay has been developed.

Funding sunset, clean sweep pesticide recycling, and water conflict resolution sunsets on December 31, 2021.

Ron Bates asked that before we move to public comment, we need to reschedule the Monday, June 9th MAEAP AC meeting.

All agreed to reschedule this meeting for Monday, June 22, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Campbell reported that she has been working with EGLE on renewals of ground water discharge permits, working through forms. They are attempting to clean up language on slaughterhouses, cooling fruit, washing sugar beets, etc. for using a ground water permit.

Laura reported that there has been a lot of talk about funding, and/or legislation, to sequester carbon.

No additional public comments.

MOTION: LORI PHALEN 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 2:53 p.m.

NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING

Host: TBD

Location: TBD

Date: Monday, June 22, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Casteel