

**MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM  
(MAEAP) ADVISORY COUNCIL (AC) JUNE 14, 2021**

**1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Dr. Ron Bates, MSUE

Zoom Meeting/93327826483

Dr. Ron Bates (MSUE) and Laura Campbell (MFB) Co-chairs.

**WELCOME, APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Laura Campbell Meeting started at 1:04 p.m.

Ron Bates started with the housekeeping rules for Zoom meetings. Please put any messages into the chat if any questions and/or raise your hands via the actions button or enter a message into chat.

Laura asked for additional agenda items. Hearing none, no additional items.

Laura asked for around the horn.

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

**MDARD DIRECTOR GARY MCDOWELL**

Director McDowell thanked the group for their work and appreciates the Advisory Council.

**REVIEW OF DRAFT REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION FOR THE FRESH WATER PROTECTION FUND**

MFB Ben Tirrell provided draft copy to the AC. He described the high points of the Senate Bill 494. This bill will extend the sunset for the fees to 2026. Maintained at the same current level of funding. Asked for any questions, hearing none moving on.

Laura continued that Senator Daly wanted to ensure that the groundwater and surface water protections with a TMDL if you are following MAEAP practices for all relevant systems that apply. The draft made that language consistent that is provided for the benefits that MAEAP verified farms receive. The way the statute stands today there is no monetary funding by shifting it to part 82, that potentially expands the ability to benchmark and monitoring effectiveness.

Ben Tirrell said based on GAAMPs are so scientifically spelled out and MAEAP follows those.

Discussion on the need to narrow down focus for environmental goals on the countryside. Additional focus than MAEAP to put funding.

**SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE**

Jason Darling reported to the group that FWH Sub-committee had some discussion about minor changes, have nothing to present. Working on more changes for next time. Wetlands will have more thorough changes next cycle.

No recommended changes to the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System Standards.

**LIVESTOCK SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE**

Dean Letter said there are not any recommended changes for the Livestock System Standards.

**FARMSTEAD SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE**

Laura Doud said that there are no recommended changes for the Farmstead System Standards.

**CROPPING SYSTEM SUB-COMMITTEE**

Josh Appleby said there are no recommended changes for Cropping System (Greenhouse, Field Crops and Vegetables, Nursery, and Fruit) Standards.

**MOTION: THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ACCEPT ALL SYSTEMS TO REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR EACH \*A\*SYST. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED**

**CHANGE OF CYCLE FOR STANDARDS CHANGES – DISCUSSION**

Joe Kelpinski provided background on the previous cycle for approving standards changes. Over the last 4 years, had minimal to no changes on Cropping Farmstead and Livestock. The changes that were made were clarifications, educational questions, and grammar. The chairs of those committees feel a lot of pressure for standards to be approved by the Ag commission. tight timeline, Unrealistic expectations. Propose an alternate year, which gives us an 18-month window rather than the current 6-month window. Will save printing costs and staff resource employees timelines are more realistic to the Ag commission. In future years, there will be an expected two A\*Systs, the FWH and the other that contains LAS FAS and all CAS systems into one document. If we get into an emergency situation we could still go in the off year, to introduce new immediate recommended changes. Can and will still provide an update at the AC meetings throughout the year. Chairs will still report but can gain a lot of efficiencies. Offering it up for discussion for the AC.

Laura asked for clarification on the two ASYSTS mentioned. Joe clarified we have 7 ASYST documents, in their combined total 1200 questions. Duplicate questions, but with a different commodity, are same but separated out for systems. The goal has been to bring all ASYSTS into one complete document. A look at the entire farm will be evaluated now farm wide, by system, excluding the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat\*A\*Syst.

**MELISSA HIGBEE MADE A MOTION TO MOVE THE SYSTEM REVIEW AND APPROVAL, BARRING ANY IMMEDIATE NEEDS, TO AN EVERY OTHER YEAR SCHEDULE OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ASYST TOOLS. DEAN LETTER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE, UNANIMOUS AYES, HEARING NO NAYS, MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Laura asked for public comment. Hearing none.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

**NEXT MAEAP AC MEETING**

**Host:** TBD

**Location:** TBD

**Date:** October 11, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Casteel