

**MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM
(MAEAP) ADVISORY COUNCIL (AC) NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Ron Bates, MSUE

Zoom Meeting/93609451981

WELCOME AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Laura began the meeting at 1:03

Laura asked if anyone has additional agenda items.

MICHIGAN MANURE HAULER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM – TESS VAN BORDER AND CHARLES GOULD

(PowerPoint Presentation) Presented by Tess MFB and Charles Gould MSUE, presentation questions also can go to Erica Rogers, MSUE and Sarah Fronczak, MSUE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON MAEAP REAUTHORIZATION- ASHLEY STEFFEN

Ashley said it passed 34 – 1, with Rep. Erwin as the no vote. After hunting break, the appropriations will be back in session. Jim Johnson and Tom Zimnicki are negotiating how to handle these funds.

REVIEW OF APPROVED SYSTEM STANDARDS/NEW ORGANIZATION OF MAEAP STANDARDS- JOE KELPINSKI

The systems committees did not have any recommended changes.

Joe did inform the group that they will have a different style and organization next year.

As we have developed the database and moved forward with that project, we have the option to complete a unification of our various systems and standards. Currently there are 8 different and lengthy documents for Livestock, Cropping and Farmstead systems, but these will be united except for the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System. For the coming year, the legislation will be going to an alternate cycle of the approval of standards. Previously we have been on an annual basis. Several things simultaneously, alternate year of approval, but more importantly it will become two assessments instead of the eight. Wholistically when looking at a farm, this will allow one tool to address all items necessary that pertain to the farm. Duplicative questions will no longer be an issue. We will be bringing a unified document back to the AC, and specifically addressing language consistency.

MAEAP COMMUNICATIONS WORKGROUP - MEREDITH SMITH

Meredith highlighted the past year, tech promotional pack which includes sample press release, list of outreach tools. Social media posts for environmental outcomes, and Meredith talked about successes in the program.

Upcoming year will be promoting to farmers with new and interesting ways to reach them. Using social media to reach the younger farmers. Bringing back the MAEAP Newsletter, the goal is to bring that back to share what is happening MAEAP-wise.

VERIFICATION UPDATE - JOE KELPINSKI

Joe read through the handout. 340 new verifications for FY21 and over 400 Re-verifications.

Numbers are still down. Winter meetings are starting back up in person that will help significantly for attendance and bringing in new producers into the program.

People working remotely, so farmers were not really reaching out.

We did not have Great Lakes Expo, MFB Annual meetings, wine and orchard shows, and the Northern Michigan small farmers conference this past year. Many of meetings that we normally would have provided a MAEAP booth for reaching out to farmers. Due to COVID there have been no in-person phase 1's. Essentially for 2 years, our major promotion of MAEAP (face to face relationships) has had a major shift and the numbers reflect that. One change in the near future, will be that there will be in-person back into the phase 1s, the second thing is that reverifications are down the past few years. Focus on reverifications is encouraged. We still expect 2022 to still be down on new verifications due to the above listed reasons.

DATABASE UPDATE - JOE KELPINSKI

Joe reported that it is going very well. There is a difference between what Con Hall Lansing Staff needs and what our technicians and verifiers would like to see with reporting. While we are changing the data that we collect as we move forward, we will still be able to provide a more robust reporting with regards to the impact of the program. Joe described the issues with merging the excel documents, access database and migration issues. Forecast that by the end of FY22, we should have robust accurate data to provide.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Additional public comments

Motion to adjourn Laura Campbell, Joe motioned to adjourn at 3:26 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned