

# MINUTES

## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

December 22, 2016

DEP Bureau of Labs  
Harrisburg, PA

### In Attendance – Members

William Neilson, PA Farm Bureau  
Brenda Shambaugh, PA Association of Conservation Districts  
Jennifer Reed-Harry, Penn-Ag Industries  
Judi Radel, PA Farmers Union  
Darwin Nissley, Livestock Farmer  
Walter Moore, Dairy Farmer  
Christopher Uhland, Ornamental Horticulture  
Matt Royer, Penn State University  
JV Lamb, PA State Grange  
Matt Matter, Grain Producer  
John Stefanko, Executive Deputy Secretary, DEP  
Greg Hostetter, Deputy Secretary, PA Dept. of Agriculture  
Susan Marquart, PA USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Kerry Golden - House Ag Committee  
Destiny Zeiders – House Ag Committee  
Nelson Hagey – Fruit Producer

### In Attendance - Agencies, Advisors, and Guests

Greg Robertson, Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association  
Kelly O'Neil, Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Frank Schneider, State Conservation Commission  
Hayley Jeffords, Policy Office, DEP  
Jordyn Lloyd, Bureau of Clean Water  
Mark Richards, Wojdak Assoc.  
Steven Taglang, DEP Bureau of Clean Water  
Jay Braund, DEP Bureau of Clean Water  
Tom Juengst, DEP Bureau of Clean Water  
Diane Wilson, DEP Bureau of Clean Water  
Grant Gulibon, PA Farm Bureau

The meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) was called to order by William Neilson at 9:05 a.m.

Members of the AAB introduced themselves, as did the other meeting attendees.

**Meeting Minutes** The previous meeting minutes were approved. Mr. Moore made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Nissley.

**Legislative Update** – Representative Causer will remain Chairman of house agriculture committee. Senator Vogel will remain Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Senator Schwank will be Minority Chair.

**Update on Standard Animal Weights under Chapter 83.** The consensus of the group was each organization, if interested, can submit their own comments on the animal weights to the State Conservation Commission.

**Growing Greener and Federal Section 319 Projects and Funding** - Doug Goodlander gave an overview of the two programs and what the funds are used for. Mr. Goodlander also described the application process.

**Drones and Crop Management in Agriculture** – J. Craig Williams from PSU Extension described the potential uses of drones in agriculture and the FAA Regulatory structure for various types of drones and how they are used.

**PA Farm Practices Survey** – Matt Royer gave the group a summary of a survey that was sent to farmers in the Bay watershed. The survey was an attempt to capture non-cost shared BMP's or BMP's that farmers are voluntarily using. PSU has expertise in survey design and data collection. The survey mailing resulted in a 33% response rate which is considered good. Some members of the group are concerned that EPA may require additional requirements in the CAFO Permit. The CAFO General Permit is up for renewal soon. The industry feels that it can demonstrate that many acres are under nutrient management planning.

**PA Agriculture in the Balance Conference Update** – Matt Royer reported on the 3-day conference. The conference participants developed four priorities for the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay; 1) Increase technical capacity, including training. 2) Promote culture of stewardship. Protect streams and soil health; 3) Develop standards of excellence that goes above baseline compliance; and 4) Focus on priority watersheds.

**Board/Public Comments/Concerns** –

There being no additional discussions, the meeting was adjourned:

The next meeting is set for Thursday, February 23, 2016 at 9 AM, in the DEP Laboratory.