

Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting

December 20, 2018

DEP South-Central Regional Office
Harrisburg, PA

In Attendance—Members

William Neilson, PA Farm Bureau
Aneca Atkinson, DEP, Office of Water Programs
Christopher Uhland, Ornamental Horticulture
JV Lamb, PA State Grange
Darwin Nissley, Livestock
Kerry Golden, PA House
Destiny Zeiders, PA House
Jennifer Reed Harry, PennAg
Brenda Shambaugh, PACD
Nelson Heagy, Fruit Producer
Matt Royer, PSU
William Evans, PA Senate (Conference Call)

In Attendance—Agencies, Advisors, and Guests

Kelly O’Neil, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Jay Braund, PA DEP Bureau of Clean Water
Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Steve Taglang, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Lee McDonnell, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Megan Porta, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Doug Goodlander, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Peter Vanderstapen, NRCS
Erin Wachster, Governor’s Office
Ron Ohrel, ADANE
Nathan Crawford, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Susan Despot, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water

The meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Board (Board) was called to order by Chris Uhland at 9:10 am.

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

Meeting Minutes— A quorum was achieved. The Board voted to accept the October 25th meeting minutes.

The Board voted for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Chris Uhland will be Chairperson and JV Lamb will be Vice Chairperson.

Legislative Update—Kerry Golden mentioned the leadership of the House Ag Committee could change in the new year. She mentioned that Act 162 of 2018 will take effect soon. This bill makes changes to the State Conservation Commission Nutrient Management Advisory Board and the DEP Ag Advisory Board. Act 162 adds two CAFO members to the Board.

Bylaws- A subcommittee of the Board has been working on updates to the bylaws since summer 2018. The subcommittee has provided the Board with a draft. Kerry Golden and Susan Despot have additional comments that will be incorporated into the draft. The bylaws will be discussed at a subcommittee meeting on February 28, 2019.

Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual for Agricultural Operations. Jill Whitcomb gave a presentation on the manual. Copies of the manual have been emailed to the Board and paper copies were brought to the meeting. The manual was developed in conjunction with a variety of stakeholder's including a subcommittee of the Ag Advisory Board. After the manual is finalized some type of training will be offered. The board voted to support the process and expressed their appreciation for being involved in the update.

Manure Management Manual Update. Jill Whitcomb gave the Board an update on results of a survey that was developed requesting feedback on revisions from Conservation District (CD), Certified Nutrient Management Specialists (public and commercial), Certified Manure Haulers and Brokers, the Board and the Nutrient Management Advisory Board. 136 of 156 respondents believe that revisions to the MMM are needed. After the results came in, the survey ranked the top suggestions for changes to the Manure Management Manual.

Chapter 102/105 ePermitting. DEP is currently developing ePermitting for Chapter 102 and 105 permits. The Chapter 102 permits will include new, amendment, and renewal applications for the PAG-02, Individual NPDES, E&S, and ESCGP-3 for transmission facilities.

Currently ePermitting is being developed for electronic submissions only, paper applications would no longer be submitted.

- Chapter 102 permitting is different from permitting for Chapter 105 general permits for many reasons
 - Chapter 102 permits require detailed calculations which cannot typically be performed by the average applicant.
 - Chapter 102 permits require high level plan drawings; whereas 105 general permits can usually be authorized by hand sketch drawings and Chapter 105 general permits have standard details and specifications.
- The ePermitting system can be run by any web browser, however, it is only supported for the latest version of Microsoft Internet Explorer and Chrome.
 - ePermitting can be accessed by any type of connection; a particular data speed is not required.
- Applicants for ePermitting can set their consultant rights levels. In other words, they can give a consultant full access to upload and submit or just only to upload.

- Applicants who don't have the ability or knowledge to use a computer can work with their consultant to gain access to the system when the Applicant must access the system.
- If someone must reapply or switch to a different permit type, they can simply copy previously uploaded data to a new application.

This will be beneficial for DEP, CDs, and the regulated community for many reasons, including;

- This will allow for more timely communications; from potential deficiencies to permit approval. When the manager hits their approval button the permit will be instantly available for the permittee, as opposed to waiting several days for it to be mailed.
- Better data management for DEP and CDs.
- Will help to ensure that all appropriate information is provided. If a required question/information has not been answered or provided, the applicant will not be able to submit the application.
- Increase review times, as all information should be provided.
- Facilitate data entry by CDs and DEP into our eFACTS system and the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) for Environmental Protection Agency. This will leave more available time for districts to provide a field presence.

2019 Meeting Dates – The Board voted to accept the following 2019 Meeting dates and locations.

Susquehanna Conference Room B
South-Central Regional Office
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Apr. 25,
Jun. 20,
Aug. 29, PA Dept of Agriculture
Oct. 24
Dec 19.

The next meeting will be April 25, 2019 at the DEP Southcentral Regional Office.