

MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 15, 2014

DEP SouthCentral Regional Office
Susquehanna Room A
Harrisburg, PA

In Attendance – Members

Jennifer Reed-Harry, PennAg Industries, Chair
Dana Aunkst, Acting Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
Jay Howes, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture
William Neilson, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Walt Moore, Dairy Industry
Darwin Nissley, Livestock Industry
Duane Hobbs, Ag Chemical Manufacturer
Susan Marquart, PA USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Judy Radel, Pennsylvania Farmers Union

In Attendance - Agencies, Advisors, and Guests

Denise Coleman, PA USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Marcie Dunn, PA USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grant Gulibon, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Kelly O'Neill, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Peter Hughes, Red Barn Consulting
Michele Tate, DEP Citizens Advisory Council
Frank Schneider, State Conservation Commission
Andy Zemba, DEP, Interstate Waters Office
Krinsten Wolf, DEP, Interstate Waters Office
Glenn Rider, Director, DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration
Steve Taglang, DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration
Ryan Kostival, DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration
Scott Heidel, DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration
Tom Juengst, DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration

The meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) was called to order by Board Chair Jennifer Reed-Harry at 10:05 a.m.

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

There was not a quorum, so the meeting minutes were left for future consideration.

Legislative Update – A revision to a streamside buffer bill, H.B. 1565, passed the Pennsylvania Senate and House.

PA Nonpoint Source Management Plan Update – Scott Heidel, DEP Water Program Specialist, reviewed the updates to the Pennsylvania Nonpoint Source Management Plan. This document outlines what Pennsylvania is doing to address nonpoint source pollution and is required by EPA for all states that receive Federal Clean Water Act, Section 319 funding. The Section 319 funds for Pennsylvania are currently at about \$4.5 million and go towards addressing agriculture, urban storm-water, stream restoration and acid mine drainage problems.

In addition to soliciting input from stakeholder groups, a public comment opportunity will be announced in the Pennsylvania Bulletin in December 2014. Finalization is planned for the beginning of 2015.

NRCS Geospatial Data Collection Pilot Project – Andy Zemba, DEP Interstate Waters Office, described a project being conducted by Pennsylvania NRCS to document and test the use of high-resolution Geo Observer aerial photographs for verification of agricultural BMPs. This project will occur in the Potomac Watershed in Pennsylvania. The purpose of the effort is to improve BMP data collection for the Chesapeake Bay Program model. This method could be expanded to the whole Pennsylvania Chesapeake Basin. Agricultural BMPs, such as terraces, diversions, waterways, waste storages and buffers, can be located and measured using this method. NRCS will retain this information to address data privacy issues. Peter Hughes mentioned that his company may have potentially reportable information for use.

Regional Ag Watershed Assessment Program Initiative Update – Steve Taglang, DEP Division of Conservation, went over the status of the agricultural watershed assessments that are being undertaken in each of the six DEP regions. This expands the model that was used in the Soft Run watershed in Mifflin County to six additional watersheds. Every farm in each of these watersheds is reviewed and inspected. So far, 124 farms were assessed and 32 were found to have water pollution problems. For each of these watersheds, \$600,000 has been made available for planning or BMP implementation. Also, comprehensive water quality monitoring of each watershed is being conducted. Six additional watersheds are planned to have these complete reviews for next year.

PA OneStop for Erosion and Sediment Control Planning – This topic was moved to the next meeting. Dr. Rick Day was unable to make it to the meeting, because of a serious accident on Rt. 322. (Two of the board members also did not make it to the meeting because of this accident.)

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17 at 10 a.m. at the DEP SCRO.

There being no additional discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.