

MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 21, 2017

DEP South-Central Regional Office
Harrisburg, PA

In Attendance – Members

William Neilson, PA Farm Bureau
Brenda Shambaugh, PA Association of Conservation Districts
Jennifer Reed-Harry, Penn-Ag Industries
Darwin Nissley, Livestock Farmer
Christopher Uhland, Ornamental Horticulture
Matt Royer, Penn State University
Susan Marquart, USDA-NRCS
JV Lamb, PA State Grange
Lisa Daniels, Acting Deputy Secretary for Water Programs, DEP
Kerry Golden, House Ag Committee
Michael Matter, Grain Producer
Walter Moore, Dairy Producer

In Attendance - Agencies, Advisors, and Guests

Kelly O’Neil, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Karl Brown, State Conservation Commission
Hayley Jeffords, Policy Office, DEP
Ron Orell, Advance
Jay Braund, DEP Bureau of Clean Water
Lee McDonnell, DEP Bureau of Clean Water
Marel King, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Doug Goodlander, DEP Bureau of Clean Water
Sean Gimbel, DEP
Ramez Ziadeh, Acting Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs, DEP

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

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

Meeting Minutes –The meeting minutes for the previous two meeting were approved. JV Lamb made the motion and it was seconded by Kerry Golden.

Legislative Update – Kerry Golden brought to the groups attention two bills. One bill is HB790, the Noxious Weed Bill and HB1486 the High Tunnel Stormwater Exception Bill.

Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control and NPDES Permits – Lee McDonnell gave the group a general overview of some of the challenges of the Chapter 102 Program. DEP held 7 listening sessions in the first quarter of 2017 with stakeholders. Questions asked of the stakeholders included what is working well and what is not working well in the program. In addition, DEP solicited recommendations on program improvement. DEP is exploring how to implement that list of recommendations. The top recommendation of the listening sessions was a small project or low impact General Permit.

Chapters 91/92a Fee Package Update – Lee McDonnell gave the group an update on DEP’s draft proposed rulemaking to raise fees for Water Quality Management and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. When DEP first presented this fee package to the Board, there was a five- and ten-year rollout plan to increase the fees. However, due to new budget analysis, DEP determined that it must raise the fees as soon as the rulemaking package is published as final. The NPDES CAFO program currently costs DEP more to administer than the fees it collects. Farm Bureau expressed opposition to a fee increase on CAFO’s.

Update on DEP Ag Inspection Initiative – Doug Goodlander give the group an update on the status of the Initiative.

Updates to Regulatory, Technical Guidance and Advisory Committee Policies –

Hayley Jeffords informed the Board that the Policy Office was now accepting comments on three revised policies. There is an open comment period that is the first step in the effort to enhance public engagement with DEP. The policies are available online on DEP’s eComment website and interested parties may provide comments to DEP through Wednesday, December 13.

Board/Public Comments/Concerns –

There being no additional discussions, the meeting was adjourned:

The next meeting is set for Thursday, December 21, 2017, at 9 a.m., in DEP’s South-Central Regional Office.