

Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting

April 25, 2019

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
Darwin Nissley, Livestock
Kerry Golden, PA House
Destiny Zeiders, PA House
Jennifer Reed Harry, PennAg
Duane Hobbs, Syngenta
Walter Moore, Dairy
Matt Parido, PA Senate
William Evans, PA Senate
Matt Matter, Crop Farmer

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
Megan Porta, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Ron Ohrel, ADANE
Melanie Donnelly, PA House Ag
Dustin Shull, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Brian Chalfant, PA DEP
Tom Barron, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Matt Kundrat, PA DEP, Bureau of Clean Water
Frank Schneider, SCC
Amy Brown, PACD

The meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Board (board) was called to order by Chris Uhland at 9:30 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 December 20th meeting minutes.

The board voted for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. JV Lamb will be Chairperson and Bill Neilson will be Vice Chairperson.

Legislative Update—Kerry Golden mentioned the leadership of the House Ag Committee stayed the same this year. The PA Farm Bill has also generated much discussion. Many house members are questioning where the money will come from to pay for the bill. There is also a bill to allow milk haulers to access interstate highways during a state of emergency such as a snow storm.

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. The Board voted to approve the new bylaws.

Spotted Lantern Fly – Heather Leach from Penn State University gave the board an update on this new pest, efforts to control the pest and new counties infested with the pest.

Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan – Nicki Kasi from the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office updated the board on the progress with the Phase 3 WIP and the contents of the plan. Pennsylvania is working with neighboring states to clean up our shared waters that run to the Chesapeake Bay. The federal Clean Water Act, federal court orders, regulations, and the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) require annual loading reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. The goal is to return Chesapeake Bay waters to meet Maryland state water quality standards by 2025. The WIP contains targeted reductions four sectors, including Agriculture, Urban Stormwater, and Wastewater.

Water Quality Update – Tom Barron and Dustin Shull provided the board an update on the Water Quality Division’s activities. Dustin Shull demonstrated to the board the new interactive format of the DEP Integrated Water Quality Report. Tom Barron provided the board with an update on the Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards process. DEP is required to review, revise and update, as needed, at least once every three years, water quality criteria and standards found in **25 Pa. Code Chapters 93 and 16** to reflect the latest scientific information and new federal guidelines for criteria development, and other implementation guidance.

PAG-01 – Low Impact Chapter 102 NPDES Permit - Steve Taglang gave the board a very brief introduction to this proposed permit. The group expressed a strong interest in forming a workgroup to review this proposed permit before the next meeting.

The next meeting will be June 20, 2019 at the DEP Southcentral Regional Office.