



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting
Meeting Minutes | December 18, 2024 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

DEP Southcentral Regional Office – Susquehanna Room A/B and Microsoft Teams

Welcome & Introductions – Grant Gulibon, Chair

Bob Haines conducted a roll call of AAB members; 9 of the 10 voting members were present. The presence of a quorum was noted.

Members present:

Chair Grant Gulibon, Vice-chair Christopher Uhland, Lynn Dietrich, Jennifer Reed-Harry, Brenda Shambaugh, Matt Royer, Kerry Golden, Destiny Zeiders, Bill Evans, Jill Whitcomb*, and Peter Vanderstappen (For Tim Peters*)

Members absent:

Lily Guthrie, James Gillis* and Greg Hostetter*

**Non-Voting Member*

Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Action) – Grant Gulibon, Chair

Jennifer Reed-Harry made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2024 meeting. Destiny Zeiders seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Legislative Update – Destiny Zeiders

House

Destiny Zeiders shared that the House is currently not in session; swearing in for the new term will happen January 7, 2025, and the first session will begin the week of January 27, 2025. Kerry Golden did not have any updates to add.

Senate

Bill Evans did not have any updates. Lily Guthrie was not present.

Officer Elections (Action) – Grant Gulibon, Chair

Nominee for Chair was put forth as Jennifer Reed-Harry. Grant Gulibon made a motion to elect Jennifer Reed-Harry as chair nominee with Chris Uhland seconded. Motion to elect Jennifer Reed-Harry as Chair was approved unanimously.

Nominee for Vice-chair was put forth as Grant Gulibon. Kerry Golden made a motion to elect Grant Gulibon as vice-chair nominee with Chris Uhland seconded. Motion to elect Grant Gulibon as Vice-chair was approved unanimously.

Finalize 2025 Meeting Dates (Action) – Grant Gulibon, Chair

Proposed meeting dates for 2025 were finalized with no suggested changes. A motion to accept meeting dates was made by Chris Uhland and seconded by Jennifer Reed-Harry. Motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment – Grant Gulibon, Chair

No public comments were offered virtually or in-person.

General Discussion/Agenda Topics Request – Grant Gulibon, Chair

Grant Gulibon recommended regular 2025 updates to the Board on Ag Permitting Roundtable recommendations, Chesapeake Bay Program progress, and ACAP updates, with opportunities for Board input.

Jennifer Reed-Harry noted the productivity of small workgroups on issues like Chapters 102, 105, and CAFOs; highlighted the Ag-focused Chesapeake Bay group as an opportunity to share success stories and encouraged DEP efforts; and added that Penn Ag members, with experience in applying Food Processing Residuals (FPRs), along with the Board, could provide input on drafting FPR legislation to assist DEP.

Jennifer Reed-Harry informed DEP that some PennAg members reported issues with CAFO planners submitting through GreenPort. Jill Whitcomb and Kate Bresaw (DEP) acknowledged the system's bugs, and Gene Rickard (DEP) noted that DEP IT planned a fix later that day. Both Jennifer Reed-Harry and Grant Gulibon praised the CAFO system's usefulness but emphasized the need to resolve the remaining issues.

Jill Whitcomb proposed a presentation by the DEP Office of Transformation and Opportunity to update the Board on Ag projects under the Fastrack program. Jill Whitcomb is also seeking other opportunities to engage the Board on ongoing efforts, such as the FPR bill, to gather input and inform them of DEP's activities as they relate to these ongoing efforts.

Brenda Shambaugh acknowledged the excellent presentation delivered by Krystal Bloom and Sean Furjanic (DEP) to the Districts on the SPEED program.

Jill Whitcomb provided background information on the SPEED program and Ch 102 Pilot program and recommended that the Board receive an update on both efforts from the appropriate DEP divisions. Jill Whitcomb also recommended an update to the board on the PA Ag Conservation Stewardship (PaCS) program. Grant Gulibon agreed that all topics would be valuable for the Board's awareness.

Matt Royer asked if the Pilot Program focused on the local level for construction stormwater projects and described past projects delays with local stormwater permitting review. Jill Whitcomb replied that the Pilot program mainly focuses on aspects DEP can control and municipal review time is outside of that scope.

Brenda Shambaugh suggested an update from the SCC on the Dirt and Gravel Road program with a focus on ag-related projects and funding for ag BMPs and an updated from Jen Fetter with the Penn State Ag ACAP center.

Adjourn – Grant Gulibon, Chair

Jennifer Reed-Harry made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Grant Gulibon. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:32 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 1 p.m.