

DRAFT

MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2013

DEP Southcentral Regional Office
Susquehanna Room A
Harrisburg, PA

In Attendance – Members

Michael Firestine, Agri-business

Kelly Heffner, Department of Environmental Protection

Greg Hostetter, USDA Farm Service Agency

Carl Meiss, Pennsylvania State Grange

Susan Marquart, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Robert Maiden, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

William Neilson, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Darwin Nissley, Livestock Producer

Destiny Zeiders, PA House - Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Kerry Golden, PA House - Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Hannah Smith, PA Farmers Union

In Attendance - Agencies, Advisors, and Guests

Erin Smith, PA Department of Agriculture

Frank Schneider, State Conservation Commission

Matt Matter

Peter Hughes, RedBarn

William Fink, Country View Farms

Kelly O'Neil, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Erin Smith, Pa Department of Agriculture

Christopher Uhland

Kim Snell Zarcone, Conservation PA

Walter Moore

Grant Guilbon

Sean Gimbel, Andrea Blosser, Glenn Rider, Kenn Pattison, Steve Taglang – DEP

The February 20, 2013 meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) was called to order by Steve Taglang, DEP staff to the AAB, at 10:00a.m.

Mr. Taglang announced that several members had asked to be excused and that there would not be a quorum for this meeting.

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

Approval of the minutes and the election of the chair and vice-chairperson were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

Mr. Taglang noted that there are two handouts provided on EPA's Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans. Farms now have about two months to prepare or amend and implement their SPCC plans by May 10, 2013. EPA's SPCC rules include requirements for oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response to prevent oil discharges to navigable waters and adjoining shorelines.

Legislative Updates were provided by Kerry Golden and Mike Radar. Both discussed the Governor's budget proposal and the interest that conservation district funding was generating.

Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Status Update. Steve Taglang, DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration, provide an update on the Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for agricultural. Items discussed included the increase in DEP inspections at non-CAFO farms and that county conservation districts had completed 6200 site visits.

CAFO General Permit Renewal - Kenn Pattison, Bureau of Conservation and Restoration provided an update on the status of the Renewal of the CAFO General Permit (PAG-12). The revisions were subject to a 30 day public comment period and have been presented to the AAB and an AAB CAFO Workgroup. Revisions were based on input for the public, the AAB Workgroup and US EPA. The publication of the PAG-12 will occur before March 31, 2013. Discussion focused on the winter spreading of manure and the new requirement to notify DEP

prior to winter manure application. Comments were provided and additional language for the notification was suggested.

Soft Run Initiative - Andrea Blosser, DEP South Central Regional Office, provide an update on the Soft Run Initiative. Soft Run, located in the Upper Kishacoquillas watershed in Mifflin County, is the subject of a DEP targeted watershed compliance and enforcement effort. The Soft Run Initiative is a pilot process to focus DEP compliance efforts to a small ag-impaired watershed. DEP began this effort in October 2012 with the inspection of about 20 farm operations. Of these operations, six had potential water quality impacts. These six were notified of their regulatory requirements, directed to prepare all necessary plans, correct water quality problems and notified that DEP will follow up within 90 days. At the end of the 90 days, all six were re-inspected. Two operations 2 farms were found to be in continued violation—with no apparent attempts made to initiate planning. These 2 farms determined to be in continuing violation during the follow-up inspection were issued Field Orders requiring development and submission of Ag E&S plan and Manure Management Plan within 90 days and a plan implementation schedule requiring installation of BMPS to address identified resource concerns.

There being no additional discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.