

**Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) and
State Conservation Commission (SCC) Nutrient Management Advisory Board (NMAB)
Joint Meeting**

**August 26, 2021
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

AAB Members Present

John Bell
Jennifer Reed Harry
Matt Royer
Destiny Zeiders
Cara Laudenslager
Aneca Atkinson
Walt More
Darwin Nissley
Steve Hershey
Chris Uhland
Matt Matter

9:00 AM Welcome & Introductions
 Announcement of Quorums

Seven members of the NMAB were present, which did not constitute a quorum.
Nine voting members of the AAB were present, which did constitute a quorum.

9:15 AM Action on previous NMAB minutes
 Action on previous AAB minutes

Action could not be taken on the previous NMAB meeting minutes from the April 15, 2021 meeting due to a quorum not being present.

The AAB voted to approve the previous meeting minutes from June 10th.

9:30 AM Election of new NMAB Chairperson

Election of a new NMAB Chairperson could not occur due to a quorum not being present.

9:45 AM Overview of activities and status of AAB Biosolids, Manure Management and
 PAG-12 Workgroups; John Bell (PA Farm Bureau)

Several members have been appointed to the workgroups. All three workgroups have had at least one meeting. PAG-12 workgroup will offer comments to the board in the spring of 2022. The Biosolids workgroup meeting was held in July of 2021.

10:30 AM Phase 2 of the Chesapeake Bay Agriculture Inspection Program; Jill Whitcomb and Kate Bresaw (DEP)

Jill Whitcomb Director of the Bay Office gave both advisory boards an update on the ag inspection programs. The ag inspection program has part of the Chesapeake Bay Required Output measures. Guidance has been updated and data is gathered. Phase 2 inspections are more time consuming than initial inspections.

11:00 AM Nutrient Management Technical Manual, Version 12 – Final; Frank Schneider (SCC)

Frank gave a brief history and explanation on the NM Technical Manual update process. Frank reviewed and explained to the boards the proposed revisions to the NM Technical Manual addressing the comments received by the SCC for suggested changes to the manual.

Frank reported that 39 comments were received with 27 of the comments determined to have merit.

Due to a lack of quorum, Frank asked if there were any objections to the proposed revisions of the NM Technical Manual before taking it to the State Conservation Commission for approval in September. If revisions are approved, the manual will become effective in October 2021 with trainings occurring in November 2021. No objections were given.

11:30 AM Nutrient Management / Manure Management Administrative Manual, Version 6 – Final; Frank Schneider (SCC)

Frank gave a brief history and explanation on the NN/MM Administrative Manual update process. Frank reviewed and explained to the boards the proposed revisions to the NM/MM Administrative Manual addressing the comments received by the SCC for suggested changes to the manual.

Frank reported that 24 comments were received with 14 of the comments determined to have merit.

Due to a lack of quorum, Frank asked if there were any objections to the proposed revisions of the NM/MM Administrative Manual before taking it to the State Conservation Commission for approval in September. If revisions are approved, the manual will become effective in October 2021 with trainings occurring in November 2021. No objections were given.

12:00 PM Break for Lunch

1:00 PM Odor Management Program Guidance and Technical Manual, Version 4 – Final;
Frank Schneider (SCC)

Frank gave a brief history and explanation on the OM Program Guidance and Technical Manual update process. Frank reviewed and explained to the boards the proposed revisions to the OM Program Guidance and Technical Manual addressing the comments received by the SCC for suggested changes to the manual.

Frank reported that 13 comments were received with 11 of the comments determined to have merit.

Due to a lack of quorum, Frank asked if there were any objections to the proposed revisions of the OM Program Guidance and Technical Manual before taking it to the State Conservation Commission for approval in September. If revisions are approved, the manual will become effective in October 2021 with trainings occurring in November 2021. No objections were given.

1:30 PM NMP Spreadsheet Version 8 and NBS Spreadsheet Version 6; Don Orner (Penn State)

Dr. Charlie White of Penn State University presented the proposed changes to the Nutrient Management Plan spreadsheet template and the Nutrient Balance Sheet spreadsheet template. The structure and planning process remain the same with the spreadsheets. The changes made are to improve user experience, protect users from common errors, and alert reviewers to irregular planning scenarios.

Due to a lack of quorum, no vote could occur for the proposed revisions of the NMP spreadsheet template and the NBS spreadsheet template before taking it to the State Conservation Commission for approval in September. If revisions are approved, the spreadsheet templates will become effective in October 2021 with trainings occurring in November 2021. No objections were given.

2:00 PM Regulatory Revisions; Frank Schneider and Johan Berger (SCC)

- Chapter 83 State Conservation Commission; Subchapter D; Nutrient Management and Chapter 83 State Conservation Commission; Subchapter E; Nutrient Management Funding Program – Statement of Policy
- Regulatory Revision: Chapter 130b, Nutrient Management Certification; Chapter 130f, Odor management Certification;

- Regulatory Revision: Chapter 130e; Commercial Manure Haulers and Broker Certification

The State Conservation Commission (SCC) gave approval at their July 13, 2021 SCC meeting for staff to start looking into possible regulatory revisions. Frank provided an explanation and history of the Act 38 program, the Act 49 program, and the certification program. Frank also summarized the process of making these possible regulation changes as well as laid out a proposed 3-year timeline. The process will include the SCC, advisory boards as well as partners from PSU College of Agriculture Sciences, DEP, delegated county conservation districts, PACD, NRCS, private and public sector planners, commercial manure haulers and brokers, and other agriculture organizations such as the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and PennAg Industries to assist in the development of the proposed regulatory revisions. All CAOs, CAFOs, persons that commercially haul or broker manure, and persons that write or review Nutrient Management/Odor Management Plans will be affected by the proposed changes.

Frank identified some specific areas that will be looked at regarding the proposed regulation changes for Chapter 83 Nutrient Management. Johan identified some specific areas that will be looked at regarding the proposed regulation changes for the Nutrient Management, Odor Management, and Manure Hauler and Broker certification programs.

3:00 PM Adjournment