

**December 9, 2021
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB)
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

John Bell
Mike Eby
Matt Royer
Brenda Shambaugh

Tim Peters
Kerry Golden
Destiny Zeiders
Aneca Atkinson

Walt More
Darwin Nissley
Chris Uhland
Matt Matter

Convene Meeting

Chairperson John Bell conducted a roll call of members on the Teams Meeting. There were sufficient members for a quorum.

Legislative Update

The only update was mention of a fertilizer bill that was voted out of committee.

Election of Officers for 2022

Jennifer Reed-Harry was voted Chairperson. Chris Uhland was voted as Vice Chairperson.

2022 Meeting Dates

The board considered and discussed dates for 2022 meetings. The board agreed to the following dates for 2022.

- March 24, 2022
- June 23, 2022
- August 18, 2022 – Joint Meeting with NMAB
- October 20, 2022
- December 8, 2022

Overview of activities and status of AAB Biosolids, Manure Management, and PAG-12 Workgroups – John Bell, PA Farm Bureau

John gave a report on the manure management manual workgroup. There have been two meetings held by the workgroup in September and November. A third meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2021. The workgroup has reviewed and offered comments on the proposed manure management manual worksheet. The workgroup also worked through nearly all the proposed language changes in the manure management manual guidance document.

There were some recent materials that were circulated to the workgroup, regarding phosphorous indexing and research papers evaluating effects of biosolids applications on large land masses.

The PAG-12 workgroup has met three times and is looking at the current language to identify areas that need clarification or areas where workgroup members have different interpretations than DEP. The workgroup comments will be compiled into one document.

Pennsylvania Climate Program – David Althoff, DEP Energy Programs Office

Mr. Althoff presented an overview of the PA Climate Program to the board. The Climate Change Program was established by the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act, Act 70 of 2008. This Act requires DEP to administer a Climate Change Advisory Committee (which meets bimonthly), to develop an inventory of greenhouse gases (and update this inventory annually), to develop a climate impacts assessment (which is updated every 3 years), and to prepare and update a climate action plan (which is also updated every 3 years).

Manganese Rulemaking – Kristin Schlauderaff, DEP Bureau of Clean Water

The Department will be presenting its recommendations on the final-form rulemaking for the water quality standard for manganese and implementation to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in the spring of 2022. During the proposed rulemaking, the EQB sought public comment on two alternative points of compliance for the manganese criterion. Based on all applicable existing laws, regulations, and policies, as well as the public comments received on the proposed rulemaking, the Department intends to make the following recommendations: the point of compliance for the human health manganese criterion remain at the point of discharge consistent with 25 Pa. Code § 96.3(c); and deletion of the existing Potable Water Supply criterion for manganese of 1.0 mg/L from Table 3 in 25 Pa. Code § 93.7 and the addition of a human health toxics criterion of 0.3 mg/L to Table 5 in 25 Pa. Code § 93.8c. This rulemaking does not directly regulate agricultural activities; however, the adoption of a more stringent manganese criterion applicable in all surface waters will provide additional protection to the statewide protected water uses of Livestock Water Supply and Irrigation.

A couple members of the board expressed concerns regarding the Department's final recommended water quality criterion for manganese of 0.3 mg/L. However, the board did not characterize any concerns specific to agriculture or the agriculture industry.

Integrated Report – Dustin Shull, DEP Bureau of Clean Water

Mr. Shull provided an update on the 2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report). DEP produces an Integrated Report every 2 years. Mr. Shull focused on the differences between the 2022 report and older reports. The 2022 Integrated Report is accessible on your computer, phone, or tablet. The report highlights the 50th anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act.