



# Delaware Nutrient Management



## Meeting Minutes-May 2, 2017

### The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission

#### **In attendance:**

*Commission Members Present: Kenny Blessing, Laura Hill, Brenna Goggin, Robert Palmer, William Vanderwende, Scott Webb, Kenneth Horeis, Bud O'Neill, Jessica Inhof, Jim Elliott*

*Ex-Officios Present: Chris Brosch, Kenny Bounds (for Michael Scuse), Jennifer Singh, Heather Hudson, Shawn Garvin*

*Commission Members Absent: Michael Scuse, Richard Sterling, D. Mark Adkins, Lisa McCormick*

*Others Present: Bob Coleman, Clint Gill, Brooke Walls, Julia Moore, Victor Clark, Garry Killmon, Wayne Hudson, Sydney Riggi, Sally Kopfer, Tina Gland, Donald Gland, Bryan Ashby*

***This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.***

#### **Call to Order/Welcome:**

Chairman Vanderwende called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and reminded those seeking education credits to sign the sign-in sheet.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was heard to approve the minutes of the Full Commission Meeting of March 7, 2017. The minutes were approved by Scott Webb and seconded by Laura Hill.

#### **Discussion and Action Items:**

##### ***Update on Commissioner appointments – Chris Brosch:***

- Current Commissioners Scott Webb and Ken Horeis were both reappointed by Representative Peter Schwartzkopf, but are awaiting confirmation letters.
- Those that expired mid-March (Commissioners Bud O'Neill, Jessica Inhof, and Chairman Vanderwende) are in process for reappointment by their supporting officials.
- We are getting ready to put up names for current vacancies of an Applicator and a New Castle County grain farmer.
  - Larry Jester, as a member of the State Technical Standard Committee, has been groomed to take the spot vacated by Dave Baker. Chris has a biography to submit to the Senate Pro Tempore (David McBride).
  - Wayne Hudson's biography will be submitted to the House Minority Leader (Daniel Short). His experience is from Perdue AgriRecycle & AgriSoil.

##### ***Mortality Freezer Cost Share Initiative:***

- Victor Clark was introduced as a guest. He is the Vice President of Greener Solutions, a supplier of mortality freezers.
  - He attended to propose a pilot cost share program to support the transport of frozen mortalities to help promote that practice in DE and reduce the cost to the growers for this stewardship effort. He provided several pieces of literature to review the background of the Commission's involvement with farm freezers and to propose and new incentive to promote the use of mortality freezer units.
  - The three objectives of the proposed program were explained:

- An Annual Incentive Payment. Greener Solutions already provides a Nutrient Reduction Statement to its growers annually, and Mr. Clark advised they could edit it to include the costs incurred by the grower. This could double as a submission to the Nutrient Management office for reimbursement purposes.
- Payment directly to the growers.
- A simplified, streamlined program procedure for growers and Commission staff.
- Several anticipated benefits were considered: biosecurity, cost savings (in time, effort and money), quality of life (no smell to bother grower or neighbors), and as an alternative use, the benefit of moving material out of the farm setting entirely so nothing is field applied.
- Some of the questions from the Committee included:
  - Commissioner Jim Elliot's interest in what happens after the resulting bi-products leave the rendering plants. Mr. Clark reviewed the rendering procedure and advised that water (largely lost as steam), poultry meal and poultry fat result. The meal and fat are then sold as commodities and re-used as agricultural feeding ingredients and as feed stock for biofuels.
  - Commissioner Vanderwende asked about the number of rendering plants in the area and Mr. Clark advised that while the closest one to us is in Accomack, VA, they can divert to many other plants as necessary.
  - Commissioner Brenna Goggin asked if this effort was in the Chesapeake Bay model and Chris Brosch replied that we will be able to take credit for them as they have been provided provisional credit as an alternative use thereby leaving the watershed. This BMP would probably be an easy review for full credit- just plug in the tissue analysis where manure transport is currently credited
  - Commissioner Scott Webb asked about Antibiotic Free farms and how their mortalities would play in this plan, and Mr. Clark responded that after the first 3 weeks of high mortalities these growers experience, the numbers should balance out. He also suggested that maybe a second calculator could be made in the future to address this specifically.
  - Commissioner Vanderwende asked about cost.
    - Mr. Clark referred to one of his handouts that displayed 3 suggested scenarios of farms. These included review of varying flock sizes and projected results based on use of the calculator created for the specific purpose. The anticipated cost would be \$5,164 per unit, with an average of 6 units per farm, plus electricity of about \$94.00 per flock. There would also be an initial outlay of up to maybe \$1,200.00 up front from the grower.
- Discussion took place, considering a 50% or 75% funding. Full funding was discouraged by several, noting that the grower should have some "skin in the game". It was noted that 75% is the common NRCS percentage.
  - The merits of this proposal were also considered:
    - Poor composting habits causing smells and flies resulting in public complaints to Bob Coleman would be reduced.
    - Poor composting outcomes resulting in partially decomposed birds ending up in fields would be reduced.
    - Biosecurity would be increased.
    - Time and effort savings by growers, who can have a better quality of life and possibly maintain the farm for many additional years as a result.
    - Reduced effects to wildlife.
- Commissioner Kenny Blessing made the motion to fund a continuous Pilot Program at 75%. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Laura Hill. The Commission approved the motion unanimously.

***State Technical Standards Committee update – Chris Brosch***

- Review of technical standards related to Nutrient Management have been completed, with about 7 more to be done still by next week.
- It was committed that the completed document would be emailed to everyone on May 10, in order to give Commission time to review for the June 6 DNMC meeting and be prepared to vote on its approval. Hard copies were offered if requested.
- UPDATE: the email was sent on the afternoon of May 3.

### ***Administrators Report – Chris Brosch and staff***

- Complaints - Bob Coleman reported that in addition to the 7 complaints in the report, 2 more had come in. There are 2 that will need continual monitoring for several months. Issues included odor, flies, and 2 for improper mortality handling. Composting was a mess & fundamental public nuisance.
  - Jim Elliot asked if there was any way to educate, and Chris Brosch responded that Dr. Amy Shober (Nutrient Management Extension Specialist at UD) is scheduled to speak at the June 6 DNMC meeting to address this specific issue.
  - Sally Kepfer advised that there has been an effort in place already to get flock supervisors involved to help with this issue but it's not working.
- Certifications - Chris Brosch highlighted that we have added roughly 30 more certified individuals to our program, mostly Nutrient Generators, since our March meeting.
- Audits and Inspections – Chris Brosch reported up to 22 CAFO and Nutrient Management inspections were completed since 12/1/16.
- CAFO Update – Chris Brosch reported while there is no change in covered farms, as of this afternoon there are 55 farms about to be published into state newspapers on public notice. It will be a 1 month process. Still waiting on Hearing Officer's Report from November on 1 individual farm. There was no change in the NOI withdrawals.
- Salesforce update – Chris Brosch reported the following statistics: more good news
  - 865 Annual Reports have been returned and entered as of 5/1/17.
  - No response notices were mailed out and have had a high response rate.
  - Current acreage summarized in these reports resets our all-time high to 314,461 acres and climbing.
  - Only a handful of reports still require follow up phone calls to be completed.
  - We sent a second notice out to for annual reports that were not sent in this year but had been in years past. Incredible response rate.
- Meetings and Training - Chris Brosch referred to the Administrator's Report, calling to attention that on April 12 we employed the first of what we hope to be 4 meetings with Poultry Integrator Flock Supervisors (with Perdue). A May 5 Mountaire Flock Supervisors meeting is also scheduled. We provided massive packets of information to be passed on to growers who have not been involved with CAFO to get them on the road to contacting us and getting the permanent coverage if they are no land poultry operations.
  - Additionally, Commissioners O'Neill and Blessing attended an Emerging Contaminants Symposium with Chris Brosch
- Reference was made to the budgets on the next page of the report.
- An updated Approved Soil Testing Laboratories list is attached to the report for reference & listed on the website. This is in line with soil testing technical standards that would presumably lead folks to choosing a lab.

### ***Special Items / Public Questions***

- DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin was introduced and welcomed by Commissioner Vanderwende. Secretary Garvin shared a short biography noting that he was born and raised in DE, and although he has worked in Philadelphia for much of the last 20 years he has always lived in DE. He noted that he was active on the ground floor of the DNMC as it was developed and is pleased to be back.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular Full Commission meeting will be June 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Vanderwende adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Approved,

B. Vanderwende, Chairman  
Delaware Nutrient Management Commission  
jlm