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AGRICULTURE

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Delaware Nutrient Management

Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2018

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission

In attendance:

Commission Members Present: Acting Chairman F. Kenneth Blessing, Jim Elliott, Brenna Goggin, Laura Hill, Kenneth Horeis, Wayne Hudson, Jessica Inhof, Larry Jester, Bud O'Neill, Robert Palmer

Ex-Officios Present: Chris Brosch

Commission Members Absent: Chairman William Vanderwende, Mark Adkins, Jon Nichols, Jr., Richard Sterling, Scott Webb

Ex-Officios Absent: Secretary Michael Scuse, Shawn Garvin, Jamie Mack, Jennifer Singh

Others Present: Deputy Secretary Kenneth Bounds, Bob Coleman, Clint Gill, Julia Moore, Brooke Walls, Aaron Givens, Maria Pippidis, Sally Kepfer, Amanda Fabi, Bryan Ashby, Shelia Lomax, Jennifer Walls

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

Call to Order/Welcome:

Acting Chairman Kenneth Blessing 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 last Full Commission Meeting of June 5, 2018. The minutes were moved for approval by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Hudson, resulting in a final vote of unanimous approval.

Discussion and Action Items:

Linking Farmer Health and Farm Vitality – Risk Management Tools You Can Use: Maria Pippidis, County Director, Extension Educator, Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

In the last year, Maria has been working on a team, along with the University of MD Extension office, on developing health resources specifically for farm audiences. She will hold two forums (see below) that aim to bring Agriculture, Finance, and Healthcare – key farm stakeholders – together to figure out how to address Farm Vitality & Farmer Health together. Deputy Secretary Kenneth Bounds is on the Steering Committee as well, and they are

looking forward to discussing how farmer's health is related to farm health. The supporting documents provided include:

- Farm Operations and Health Care Insurance Options, from the University of DE Cooperative Extension College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - Farmers are risk managers, and a critical area for risk management is the health and wellbeing of the owner operator, their family, and the employees of the farm operation. This 8-page reference document seeks to provide health insurance options for farm operators and family members.
- Farm Vitality and Health Reliable Resources from the Web from the University of DE Cooperative Extension College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - Delaware's Health Insurance Marketplace website is listed here, along with many others related to health insurance information.
 - Farm Stress Management Resource websites are also included.
- How to Cultivate a Productive Mindset, from MI State University Extension
 - There are many factors in agriculture that farms have no control over, and this sheet advises that the one powerful factor that we always have the opportunity to control is our mindset, and what tactics to use in this endeavor.
 - Additional resources are also included.
- Recognizing Symptoms of Stress During Farming Challenges, from SD State University Extension
 - Lists the symptoms of stress and offers different management strategies to manage it.
- Flyer listing upcoming programs to educate farmers, from University of DE Cooperative Extension College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and University of MD Extension, and Smart Choice–Smart Use Health Insurance™ Programs.
 - Smart Choice Health Insurance for Farmers, Wednesday, October 10, 12:00 to 1:30 pm EDT
 - Description: Session helps you understand why health insurance is so important to protecting your financial wellbeing, farm operations and health by exploring important factors to consider when choosing a plan. Reviews options and provides tool for comparing plans.
 - This session is part of the Women in Ag webinar series provided by University of DE Cooperative Extension.
 - Register at <https://extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars>.
 - Strengthening Health and Farm & Ranch Vitality: Tools You Can Use, Wednesday, October 24, 1:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
 - Description: Health, access to care, and health insurance affect the vitality of agricultural enterprises and farm and ranch families. Designed for Extension, agricultural advisors, tax, loan, health insurance and health professionals as well as farm operators.
 - Introduces research findings and practical tools to help farmers and ranchers make informed decisions for their health and farm vitality.
 - Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strengthening-health-and-farm-ranch-vitality-tools-you-can-use-tickets-48219795707>.
- Maria closed with the reminder that you (the farmer) are your most important farm asset, and you need to take care of you.
- Commissioners Elliott and Blessing expressed thanks for an informative presentation.

Administrators Report – Administrator Brosch and staff

- Complaints – Bob Coleman: This has been an extremely busy time as far as complaints and their resolutions go. Almost all thirteen were quality of life complaints – most were odors, some were flies. Based on personal observations, it's just that now so many poultry farms are so much more close to residential areas, and here in DE we've reached critical mass and that is why we're getting so many more complaints. The good news is we've been able to solve all the complaints with the farms. As always there are a couple kept open for monitoring because they may be recurring problems. The farmers are always very cooperative, even if that doesn't always completely satisfy the neighbors, but it definitely helps to get a short term solution, if not one that is long term.
- Certifications – Administrator Brosch: Sessions are going on now, so there haven't been any changes since the last report.
- Audits, Inspections, Reporting – This has been pretty quiet on account of the Fair and growing season making it difficult to get into the field and find farmers to talk to. But that's worked into our schedule and we expect those to pick back up again soon.
- CAFO – Administrator Brosch: The table is the same as well. Introduced Amanda Fabi, DNREC's new Coordinator, who is working on getting General Permit II out the door as well as Public Noticing the thirty-one farms waiting in the wings.
- Annual Reports – Administrator Brosch: Brooke is following up with anomalies on the phone and gearing up for the mailing to go out in December.
- Meetings and Training – Administrator Brosch: The Chesapeake Bay Program is very much alive and well.
 - We are working diligently on the 3rd round of the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay Team. There is a 12 person Agriculture Work Group that is drafting that 3rd WIP. We know through about a year of work trying to finalize the model that DE's pollution reduction goals and specifically, especially, the agricultural expectations for those pollution reductions, are easier in the round 3 WIP than in the round 2 WIP. So we are not anticipating a tremendous amount of public outreach for this. We're trying to cull some of the BMP's that we know were too aggressive in their goals, and trying to leverage some of the new programs for the maximum extent of pollution reduction in the model and just document those.
 - We know that we've talked about getting a draft available ahead of Ag Week so that we can talk about that in December – what the new goals look like compared to the old goals - but that's probably going to be the extent of the outreach because everything's supposed to be getting easier and that's a good thing.
 - So I and my co-chair Jenn Volk have just been very engaged in the Chesapeake Bay Program advancing some of those WIP 3 Work Groups here in DE.
- Relocations and Cost Shares – Bob Coleman: We really are back in business in a serious way in relation to the PA mushroom facilities. For a while last year there really wasn't much activity on that line but in the last 60 days the brokers have been moving a lot more out there and that looks really good.
- Financials – Administrator Brosch: There was a somewhat major change in the budget for this fiscal year – we asked the Budget Committee to combine our lines for Cost Share and they did that for us. [See the below excerpt pulled from the Budget Spreadsheet on the 3rd page of the Administrator's Report.] The top line, Nutrient Management Programming for FY19, is at \$790,300.00. The 3 lines below that – the 2018 Budget References – add up to that amount, minus about \$800.00 that was offered back to the Budget Committee in exchange for them doing this consolidation. It's going to give us a lot of flexibility to run our planning Cost Shares and our Manure Relocation Cost Shares when one is low and one is high. We can now prevent all the extra work that was required with Finance when this happened while they were separate lines. But we do plan on reporting the money spent towards those goals independently, because that transparency is important for this Committee.

Budget Items (Fed Grant Proj. Code)	Budget Ref.	Appropriation	Beginning Balance	Expended	Encumbered
Nutrient Management Programming	2019	00407	\$ 790,300.00	\$ -	\$ 790,300.00
Poultry Litter Transport General Fund	2018	00225	\$ 246,000.00	\$ 217,481.35	\$ 28,518.65
Education & Certification	2018	00406	\$ 131,700.89	\$ 127,017.03	\$ 4,683.86
NM Planning	2018	00407	\$ 411,800.00	\$ 396,585.33	\$ 15,214.67

Public Comment –

- There were no public comments voiced.

Next Meeting: Unless otherwise advised, it is very unlikely that there will be a September meeting. Therefore the next regular Full Commission meeting will be scheduled for October 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Acting Chairman Blessing adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Approved,

B. Vanderwende, Chairman
Delaware Nutrient Management Commission
jlm