

Commissioner Chris Trubac  
Barbara Andersen  
Nichole Biber  
Fred Cowles  
Sarah Mullkoff  
Claire Nowicki  
Matthew Lincoln  
Brenda Gray

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION WILL MEET ON JANUARY 24, 2024 AT 5:30 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM D AND E OF THE HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING.

## Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of Draft Minutes

Additions to the Agenda

Limited Public Comment

1. Election of Officers for 2024
2. Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
  - a. *Presentation* – Gracen Zaremba, Eaton Conservation District
3. Manager Activities Summary

Announcements

Public Comment

Adjournment

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

November 15, 2023

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Barbara Andersen, Fred Cowles, Commissioner Trubac, Nichole Biber, Matthew Lincoln

Members Absent: Clarie Nowicki, Brenda Gray, Sarah Mulkoff

Others Present: Morgan Feldpausch, Elaine Fischhoff, Rachel Prettenhofer, Maggie Striz Calnin

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Trubac at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room A of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing Michigan.

Approval of September 27, 2023 Draft Minutes

The minutes stood approved as is.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

1. Michigan Clean Cities EMPOWER Workplace Charging Program (Discussion)

Ms. Feldpausch stated that they had connected with MI Green Cities a couple of months ago when they and Mr. Canning started looking into Electric Vehicles (EVs) being installed at the new Justice Complex. They then introduced Maggie Striz Calnin from Michigan Clean Cities and Next Energy to give a presentation.

Ms. Striz Calnin stated that their mission is to increase availability and use of green fuels in Michigan. They are part of a national network, and they share resources and transfer knowledge to help movement across country through local activities. They then began the presentation.

Ms. Feldpausch stated that the potential opportunities are to: 1.) have an expert come in and help with assessing the County's needs and interest in workplace charging; 2.) go through an engagement process; 3.) gain insights, recommendations, and stats for establishing and looking at policies and procedures; and 4.) identify and receive recommendations on the next steps, such as looking at expanding into public charging, readiness, fleet charging, etc.

Mr. Lincoln stated that it makes sense to have someone give recommendations in terms of what we plan. They further stated that looking at where we want these is great and we could look at planning for the future. In last 5 years, the type of charging unit has evolved, new batteries are coming out, and they are hoping EV infrastructure can be planned to adapt to changes as we move forward.

Ms. Striz Calnin stated that that is a good point, the idea of future proofing. They explained that there will be differences over time and have been over last 5-10 years.

Mr. Lincoln stated that gas stations have been thinking about this as well. Someday, it may be as easy as filling up on gas and potentially all other EVs could become obsolete.

Ms. Striz Calnin stated that most people charge at home. The other side of that is that, as more people are interested, they may or may not be able to charge at home.

Ms. Biber stated that they would like to talk about public transit. They explained that no young people picture themselves affording EVs and that it maybe makes sense with things more like fleets. It may make sense to start with electrifying fleets that have a job and where there is a need.

Ms. Striz Calnin stated that that is definitely something to incorporate into the project.

Ms. Andersen stated their agreement with Ms. Biber. They stated that they would like to see us get away from America's addiction to single occupancy vehicles, but that doesn't solve the bigger issues of land use. We need walkable neighborhoods and public transit. They stated that they want to know what MI Clean Cities is doing to get away from cars. There are much healthier, cleaner, and greener ways to go.

Ms. Striz Calnin explained that they are focusing on one thing: making sure we are getting to the lowest emission option of what a vehicle does. They further stated that they do not want to see more single occupancy vehicles as the end all, be all. There is always talk about priorities and needs and interests; how people want to get around; and what the best low/zero emissions for equipment are for fleets. Often, it ties in with talk about transit.

Mr. Lincoln stated that we could look at putting charging stations at public transit hubs, unfortunately it comes down to city planning. We should reinvest into walkable communities and city structures that are already there.

Discussion.

Commissioner Trubac stated that EVs could be a stopgap in getting us where we want to be and in lowering emissions.

Discussion.

Ms. Striz Calnin stated that they do look into what the County can address within their abilities to address issues in a reasonable amount of time. They can assess county buildings, interest in EVs, charging, vanpools, carpools, etc. While this project is specifically related to workplace charging (EV infrastructure), other areas of interest could be incorporated. Ms. Striz Calnin then listed various different ways to achieve this. They asked what the County is looking to do and how can they support it.

Mr. Lincoln asked how planning services are paid for and whether or not there is a cost.

Ms. Striz Calnin stated that, yes, it is paid for already. There is a 3-year grant project which allows them to provide services without cost to the county.

Ms. Biber asked whether or not there is flexibility in the engagement with the project; for example, surveys of workforces, to have an option of preference, would it be to have modernized, electric, or public transit?

Discussion.

Mr. Canning stated that they are working on things in the County and trying to cut down on emissions. In the next CIP process, they believe they will be talking more about the fleet process.

## 2. Materials Management Plan (Update)

Ms. Feldpausch stated that the information provided in the write-up is a high-level overview about the upcoming Material Management Planning Process and that additional information is available from the State of Michigan. The updates to Michigan's Solid Waste Laws were passed in December of last year. The update will require all counties to develop a Materials Management Plan's (MMP). These new plans will replace counties current Solid Waste Management Plan's (SWMP). There is not a current timeline as to when the State will initiate this process. As is, the County will have 3 options initially, but we don't have enough information to make an educated decision regarding a recommendation at this time. Ms. Feldpausch further stated that there will be grant funding available for this planning process. The Plan and planning process will require looking at the County's waste capacity, recycling infrastructure and capacity, strategies for implementation, public engagement, public education, and more. The basic high-level goal is to reduce the volume of waste and ensure the capacity of the waste that is produced. . This plan is intended to detail a roadmap, resources, and tools to do that sustainably. Once the plan timeline is announced by the State, the County Board of Commissioners will receive a letter of request and the County's must respond indicating intent. Ms. Feldpausch then went on to list several of the pros and cons associated with the initial options in responding to the letter of intent – planning as an individual county, planning as part of a multi-county approach, or choosing not to plan.

Mr. Lincoln asked how strong the relationships within the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) is as well as how much we collaborate.

Discussion.

Ms. Feldpausch stated that Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham are three very different counties. One has a landfill while others do not, for example. They explained that the County's will likely all have different priorities and goals.

Discussion.

Ms. Feldpausch stated that there are not a lot of counties that have done anything yet due to the lack of direction and information from the State at this time. This topic was brought up as an educational item.

Discussion.

Commissioner Trubac asked whether or not we have reached out to TCRPC to see if they are considering a plan or if there is any potential to do so.

Ms. Feldpausch stated that they have not yet reached out TCRPC.

Commissioner Trubac instructed Ms. Feldpausch to reach out to Senator Sarah Anthony to get some clarification on the plan.

Mr. Cowles stated that they are concerned that numerous counties will try to hire a consultant at the same time for this plan. We may want to do it earlier rather than at the last minute.

Discussion.

Ms. Andersen left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Lincoln stated that the EMPOWER presentation had led to another discussion and they would like to hear more from them.

Ms. Feldpausch stated that they will go back to Ms. Striz Calnin and get a recommendation on how to

look at proceeding.

Mr. Lincoln left at 6:32 p.m.

3. Sustainability Action Plan (Update)

Ms. Feldpausch stated that they are still working on the Request for Proposals (RFP). They received additional information from the State on the grant that will be received for the project. Ms. Feldpausch further stated that they are working on getting the application around and submitted. The application is due on January 15.

Commissioner Trubac asked how much funding was offered, asking if it was around \$200,000.

Ms. Feldpausch confirmed that it was.

Commissioner Trubac stated that the legislative office of Representative Tsernoglou acts as a sponsor for the grant.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

Ms. Fischhoff stated that the new environmental organization, Capital Area Friends of Environment Café, had their first meeting last night. It was successful. They are a 501(c)3 and have collected money. Their first project is underway and is regarding groundwater/wells in the Lansing Board of Water Light purview that are contaminating water. An expert has been contacted.

Ms. Fischhoff then stated that, in other news, tomorrow afternoon from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., MSU is having a recycling program involving the film called Plastic War, with a panel, so that people can ask questions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Trubac at 6:37 p.m.



## What is MAEAP?

Gracen Zaremba, Agriculture Specialist/MAEAP Technician from Eaton and Ingham Counties

## What does MAEAP stand for?

- M: Michigan
- A: Agriculture
- E: Environmental
- A: Assurance
- P: Program





## MAEAP General


- MAEAP is a voluntary program. We recognize and reward top stewards of the land. Open to anyone that can be verified in one of the categories or more.
- This program is free and is suitable for both large and small farms. Everything we learn about your farm is 100% confidential. This is guaranteed by state law.
- Water pollution comes from many sources, and some of it comes from farms. We are here to help and recognize farmers who reduce erosion and runoff from private land into public waters.
- We help farms make sure they are being environmentally friendly, from education to risk assessments
- Implemented by conservation districts and MDARD



## The Steps to Becoming MAEAP Verified:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Phase One Education Event- Learn about MAEAP
  - Examples: MSU Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update & Cover Crop Boot Camp
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Risk Assessment performed by your local MAEAP Technician that serves the county you live in.
  - This can lead to management plans being created or sensitive area maps
  - We will recommend practical steps you can take too reduce erosion and runoff into public waters
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Do the work at your own pace on your farm, we can guide farmers with cost-share
- 4<sup>th</sup>: When the work is done, the Verifier that serves the county you live in will check your farm, then you can get a sign and send you a certificate signed by our director of MDARD if meeting requirements





## What can you be verified in:

- We have categories that you can ask to be verified in, if you meet the criteria.
- The Categories:
  - Livestock
  - Farmstead
  - Cropping
  - Greenhouses
  - Orchards
  - Forest, Wetland & Habitat



## Ingham County Data

- How many people in Ingham County are verified in MAEAP
  - 29 verified farms as of now
  - There are more that have been lapsed that will need to be followed up with in the next coming years
  - New Verifications will happen this Fiscal year as well
  - These farms are verified in one to four of the systems
    - Farmstead, Livestock, Cropping, & Forest, Wetland & Habitat



# Incentives for MAEAP

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program's (MAEAP) partner organizations offer incentives after producers become verified in the program. See the list below to see what is applicable for your farm.

- **Michigan Corn Growers Association:** Free 3-year membership for first-time verification ([Verifiers have membership forms](#)).
- **Crystal Flash:** Will offer up to 10 percent off a fuel tank purchase to meet MAEAP verification. Crystal Flash also offers other benefits, to learn more about all your options contact your local Crystal Flash sales representative. ([Mention MAEAP to any salesperson or customer service agent and they will either handle it or get help from internal experts](#)).
- **Michigan Pork Producers:** Will offer to help pay for a second MAEAP sign for pork producers (contact Michigan Pork Producers <https://www.mipork.org/who-we-are/contact-us/>).
- **Farm Bureau:** Discount on the liability portion of a farm owners' policy for verification in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP):
  - Complete an environmental risk assessment and receive a 10 percent discount.
  - Complete one system of MAEAP (farmstead, cropping, and livestock) and receive a 15 percent discount.
  - By completing verification in two or more systems of MAEAP, you may be eligible for a 20 percent discount (<https://maeap.org/maeap-farm-bureau-insurance-discount-2/>).
- **Michigan Wheat Program:** Offers a one-time \$50 financial award for documented wheat farmers (one award per farmer, not per farm) who are currently growing wheat and have obtained their first cropping system verification in MAEAP (guidelines and forms located on wheat website <https://miwheat.org/farmer-perks/maeap-assistance/>).
- Cost-Share opportunities from MAEAP and can lead producers to NRCS (USDA)
- If anything ever happens on a farm like a pesticide spill/fertilizer spill, MDARD can help.
- Also, in case if a farm gets a complaint they can say they are MAEAP verified

## Could you Qualify?

If you have livestock, live on a farmstead, have cropping fields, and have forests, wetlands, or any other types of habitat like prairies, grasslands, etc. You could qualify for MAEAP.

I made this a phase one event in case of anyone does want their property MAEAP verified.



## Any Questions?

- ▶ I started in September, so I am still learning and gaining knowledge on MAEAP.

# Ingham County

## Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC)

### Environmental Sustainability Manager Activities Summary

#### November 2023 – January 2024

#### Materials Management Planning (MMP)

- Attended the Michigan Food Waste Reduction Road Map presentation and event by the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum that discussed strategies to achieve the goals related to food waste reduction listed in the MI Healthy Climate Plan.
- Participated in Michigan Municipal League's Materials Management cohort sessions. Sessions are designed to educate and prepare communities for material management.
- Attended and participated in EGLE's Recycling Program Stakeholders meeting.
- Coordinated, conducted, and scheduled necessary conversations regarding the upcoming planning process with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and Ingham County Health Department.
- Performed additional research regarding the materials management planning process – specifically in light of the planning indication announced by EGLE.

#### Energy Audit Implementation Plan

- Perused participation in the Catalyst Leadership Circle (CLC) Fellowship program.
  - Performed program research including evaluating participation requirements, internal/external approval process, feasibility, etc. Including experience inquires to surrounding communities/past program participants and discussions with CLC/University of Michigan program staff.
  - Worked with Glenn Canning, Ingham County Facilities Director, to evaluate various project opportunities, determine project selection, and develop project description.
  - Worked with CLC/University of Michigan program staff, Oakland County, and City of Royal Oak to modify project description and pursue a partnership application due to limited participation slots and proposed project similarities.
  - Proceeded with required steps to pursue required county approval process – process is near completion.
- Pursued the Community Energy Management Program Grant.
  - Performed program research including evaluating participation requirements/eligibility, feasibility, internal/external approval process, etc. Including direct inquiries to grant administration and internal inquiries to various department staff members.
  - Worked with Glenn Canning, Ingham County Facilities Director, to evaluate the opportunity, determine project for application, and begin collaborative work on the grant application.

#### Sustainability Action Plan

- Conducted research for the Community Enhancement Grant. The grant is to be received by the County for the development of the County's Sustainability Action Plan. Including direct inquiries to grant administrators/facilitators and to internal departments.
- Continued progress on the development of the project's request for proposals.
- Completed and submitted the Community Enhancement Grant application and additional required information.

#### Additional/Misc.

- Participated in the MI Healthy Climate Public Input Session, Capital Area Sustainability Partnership meeting, Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board Meeting, and other relevant meetings/ programs.
- Answered inquires from Environmental Affairs Commission members regarding various topics.
- Researched and coordinated presentations and information for upcoming Environmental Affairs Commission Meetings. Pursued discussions with Derrell Slaughter as previously directed by the commission.