

TMACOG Agriculture Committee

Meeting Notes

August 19, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting utilizing Google Meet

Attendees:

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>AFFILIATION</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>AFFILIATION</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wade Smith | Ohio Farm Bureau | Laura Campbell | MI Farm Bureau |
| Becky Himeline | Ottawa SWCD | Rick Johnson | Applied Environmental Solutions |
| Regina Collins | COT-Environmental Services | Matt Kennedy | TMACOG |
| Andrew Gladden | Luckey Farmers | Mark Coppeler | Ottawa County Commissioner |
| Andy Swerlain | Luckey Farmers – IT Director | Deanna Boback | CEC |
| Roger Wise | Ohio Farmers Union | Elizabeth Murcuski | Sandusky SWCD |
| Jim Carter | Wood SWCD, Vice-chair, AG | Marjorie Mulcahy | LEW/ACLE |
| Laura Page | Hull and Associates | Joey Sink-Oiler | Lucas SWCDd |
| Mike Libben | Ottawa SWCD, Chair AG | Kari Gerwin | TMACOG |
| Barbie Kalta | TMACOG | MaryPat McCarthy | TMACOG |
| Joy Minarcin | Administrative Asst., TMACOG | Megan Grammar | Sandusky County SWCD |
| Elizabeth Keller | Sandusky County SWCD | Cobi Brough | Sandusky County SWCD |
| Ron Snyder | Wood County Farmer | Stephanie Singer | Nature Conservancy |
| Sandra Kosik-Sills | OLEC | Chris McGibbeny | City of Toledo |

Welcome and Introductions:

Mike Libben, Ag Committee chair, welcomed everyone. Since this is a virtual meeting, attendees were asked to enter their name and affiliation in the chat box of Google Meet. The chat box record serves as the record of attendance. Those in attendance are so noted in the table above.

Virtual Tour of the Nutrient Management Process:

Andy Swerlein, General Manager and CEO, Luckey Farmers

Andrew Gladden, IT Manager, Luckey Farmers

The virtual presentation explained the process Luckey Farmers uses from soil sample to application. Because of government regulations and unpredicted weather conditions there a very limited window for application. Luckey Farmers developed a very streamlined analysis that once took 7 – 10 days to complete down to 3-5 days. The process begins with creating a sampling job in Ag World. The first step is creating a soil sample, create a prescription for the soil, assign to an operator, load and mix the fertilizer, and finally select the VRT to apply. Each step was thoroughly explained.

Mike Libben reviewed the various reports and data that obtained from the analysis. The mindset of farming needs to go from price per bushel to an overall revenue mindset.

The presentation was followed by Q & A.

Member and Committee Report:

Wood SWCD:

Jim Carter reported that the H₂OH program re-ups have ended. Of the initial 150+ signed up, 130 have re-signed. For 2020 there were approximately 2100 acres signed for cover crop practices and for 2021 there are around 1900 acres signed up.

Lucas SWCD:

Jody Sink-Oiler reported that 28 farmers have signed up for H₂OH funds.

Sandusky SWCD:

No report

Ottawa SWCD:

Crops for this season are doing very well. This can be attributed to timely rains and good warm, sunny weather.

Michigan SWCD:

Laura Campbell stated there is a drainage workshop field day coming up September 1-2 in Riga, MI (near the Lenawee/Monroe County line).

More information can be found in the following link:

<https://www.michiganfarmnews.com/free-farm-drainage-event-to-be-held-sept-1-2>

Staff Report:

Sara Guiher, TMACOG

- Work continues with the updating of the Agenda for Lake Erie. Committee input was solicited through work sessions in May, stakeholder input has been open June – August, and TMACOG staff has been working to compile and incorporate input and edits.
- The Wastewater committee is currently working on writing a white paper on bio-solids.

Future Meetings:

November 18, 2020 – Location to be determined.

Public Comments:

None

Adjourn