



**Macatawa Area
Coordinating Council**
A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government



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AGRICULTURAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 AM
MACC Office
301 Douglas Avenue, Holland**

Agenda

□ Executive Committee I. **REPORT ON GEOMORPHOLOGY ANALYSIS**

Over the last 6 months, FTCH has conducted an in depth geomorphology analysis of 3 tributaries to the Macatawa River: Noordeloos Creek, South Branch Macatawa, and North Branch Macatawa (also called the Tulip Intercounty Drain). FTCH staff will present the results of the analysis in which they documented sites of stream bank erosion, proposed best management practices and made conclusions about the causes of channel erosion throughout these corridors.

II. **FARMER ASSISTANCE: MDNRE STAFF INFO SESSIONS**

To facilitate a better relationship and more information sharing between farmers and staff from the MDRNE, we'd like to discuss a proposal for a series of casual information sessions with local MDNRE agricultural staff (Bruce Washburn, Kalamazoo District Office-see attached information).

III. **GENERAL UPDATES**

- a. *Upcoming Annual Meeting of Midwest Cover Crops Council*
- b. *Next GLRI funding opportunity*
- c. *Wetlands Workshop held Dec 6*
- d. *Spanish Watershed Brochure Available*

IV. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, March 24, 2011**

Breakfast with Bruce

A good start to environmental regulation appreciation

Biography

I hate to share my secrets, but then again are there any secrets with public employment? But the secret is, maybe someday I want to be a farmer and sit where you are sitting today. I just haven't figured out how I am going to do that or even if I could make it.

While I may be young and still learning many things about my own job and farming, I am slowly gaining experience in both areas. I come from a row crop farming background and you can bet I would rather be sitting in a tractor than my cubicle any day of the week. In fact, in the spring and fall, if I take time off, it's to play in the field. So yes, I do have some farming background.

However, I haven't been around animal agriculture much. And that may be pretty evident when you see me trying to clean off my boots as I walk around the farm. Someone once told me I must not have animals as I was about tripping over myself to clean my boots off. So I'm trying to let my boots stay dirty a little longer these days and learn something.

I grew up on a row crop farm in southern Michigan run by my father and it continues today with my brother and him sharing the responsibilities. I went to college after high school to earn a degree in environmental engineering and get an education in life. I'm still learning how to do both. Prior to coming to the DNRE I worked for the conservation district in Flint as an engineer. Now with the DNRE I work as an environmental quality analyst and occasionally use my engineering skills. I've been with the DNRE and specifically the CAFO Program for just over two years now. I also work in the non-point source pollution area, which includes all farms.

I hope these sessions will be informative for both you and me. I want to provide some insight as to what we do and why we do it. I hope to get some feedback from you as well. I know some of you think these regulations are a waste and excessive, but they are here for now and we have to manage with them. My objectives are:

1. To explain what the permit is,
2. How it came into being,
3. What it's like to be under the permit,
4. What we hope to accomplish,
5. What my role is,
6. What you can do to be proactive,
7. What will cause a visit by DNRE,
8. Why maybe we aren't as bad as some may think,
9. and finally, to learn a little about your industry or more appropriately your lifestyle.

Topics

A Brief History of the CAFO Permit

Requirements of being under the permit

- Discharge
- Animal numbers
- Permit Termination

What is required under the permit?

- Application
- CNMP

- Annual Report
- Annual Fee
- Reapplication Fee & Documents (5 Years)

Tasks under the permit

- Daily inspections
- Weekly inspections
- Land application related
 - o Equipment
 - o Weather
 - o Tile
- Annual Requirements
 - o Review CNMP
 - o Manure Sampling
 - o Soil Sampling (3 years)

Environmental Friendly Practices

- Waterways
- Buffer strips
- Monitoring weather
- Monitoring soil conditions
- Soil sampling
- Manure sampling
- Planning
- Incorporation
- Emergency preparedness

Partners

- Watershed Groups (Grant recipients)
- Concerned residents
- NRCS
- Conservation Districts
- MDA
- Landowners
- Etc.

Why

- Protect Water Quality
- Improve Water Quality
- Ensure Ag is doing its part
- Protect Public Health
- Ensure compliance with the law

What happens if you get a call from us?

- Follow up
- Site visit?
- Enforcement?
- Referral
- Management changes & improvements
- Structural improvements
- Develop a plan
- Fine?
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