

Meeting Agenda/Brief Recap & Updates
8pm Monday January 7, 2013



Marion Township Library -Chickasaw, OH

1. **Jim Keller - Welcome, brief Introductions, meeting purpose.** – Jim advised the group that Terry Mescher would not be attending due to an illness in his family. Terry was prepared to discuss a couple of solution approaches he has been pursuing and an idea he has to make Ag Solutions more focused and effective.
2. **Kyle Van Tilburg & Bill Knapke – Manure Separation** - Kyle and Bill covered for Terry on this proposed solution which uses polymers and mechanical approaches to separate the solids out of swine pit manure. They participated in a demo in November of 2012. The approach still needs refinement but it has the potential to isolate 60 - 80% of the phosphorous in the solids' portion. The solids still retain from 70 – 80% moisture so while they do not require a tanker for transportation they still present some challenges regarding storage, trucking and spreading. The separated fluid also presents a challenge. You can learn more about GEA the company that built the unit by clicking on <http://www.gea.com/en/unternehmen/gea-farm-technologies.html>
Local representative, Mike Ontrop who has Mercer County roots is working with Ag Solutions to address the inherent challenges and implement a workable, effective approach. His company has a self contained pilot unit which they will bring to a swine pit site for further testing. Anyone with an interest in trying this unit on their farm is strongly encouraged to contact Terry Mescher at (419) 586-3289, email: terry.mescher@dnr.state.oh.us . A farm that has both a swine pit and a lagoon would be ideal since the separated fluid could be pumped into the lagoon. Per Kyle and Bill, the unit has the potential to have adequate capacity and would be cost effective.
3. **Jared Ebbing – General Update** - Jared advised that he too was involved the manure separation demo and added his encouragement to farmers to give it a try.
4. **Laura Walker – CNMP Implementation Workshop.** Laura encouraged farmers to attend the upcoming CNMP training sessions which start on January 15. An announcement was sent to all Ag Solutions email recipients on 12/27/2012. Another will be attached in the email accompanying this recap. Laura also

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discussed some upcoming Livestock Mortality Composting Workshops. An informational flyer will be attached to the recap email also.

5. **Glen Arnold – Manure Research Plots.** Glen shared a portion of the presentation he had made at our September 2012 meeting. His closely monitored trials in Putnam County are most informative and impressive. Over the past several years he has gathered extensive data regarding the application of manure on growing crops using various methods. Glen applies manure at an early stage of the foliage growth and compares the production with commercial fertilizer applications. A two page data sheet of his very positive results is attached to the recap email. He wants to set up some trail plots in Mercer County and is looking for land owners who will volunteer some acres for his research. He works closely with Terry Mescher so if you have some acres you're willing to let Glen use for trials please contact Terry (419) 586-3289, email: terry.mescher@dnr.state.oh.us . You can also contact Glen direct at (419) 235-4724, email: arnold.2@cfaes.osu.edu
6. **Jim Keller – Geno Kennedy Agriment Services.** Wants to meet on Feb 11th, 12th or 14th. Jim noted that the solution proposed by Agriment Services was first brought to his attention by Tom Rampe with the LIA. Geno Kennedy, Agriment representative would like to meet with Ag Solutions members. He will be in the area the week of February 11. Jim will coordinate a date, time and location and try to get at least a few members to hear what Mr. Kennedy has to offer.
7. **Jim Keller – Organic Pond has some ideas about “porous ceramic media, that use iron nanoparticles, to more efficiently remove larger amounts of phosphorous from water”.** Terry Mescher has met with Organic Pond and was going to brief our group about a proposal that they are exploring which has the potential to remove phosphorous from field water using state of the art technology. We have had conversations with researchers who propose using iron slag as a phosphorous filter. Organic Pond uses the same general approach however their ceramic media has the potential to be far more effective than iron slag. Terry will continue to work with them and more news on this approach will be forthcoming.
8. **Brother Nick & Jim Keller - Terry Mescher's Ag Solutions Restructuring Idea.** A quote from a Restructuring Proposal that Terry sent is as follows: *“To accomplish this, I think a steering committee of 5 to 7 people needs to be identified. The purpose of the steering committee would be to develop the demonstrations, and make sure the correct people are involved in these demonstrations. The steering committee would be responsible for coordinating the people, contacts, and equipment that may be needed to see a demonstration project or field day through. Once the steering committee is identified, a “General” meeting of Ag Solutions would be held more on a quarterly basis, and would be focused on the review and/or results of a given demonstration or demonstrations. The steering committee will meet on an as*

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needed basis to keep things moving forward, and could divide into a smaller group to manage an individual project.

Another proposed change for the Ag Solutions group is to identify a few primary areas of concentration for projects, demonstrations, etc. These areas of concentration are listed below, and would serve as a focus for the steering committee in evaluating and prioritizing potential projects.” Terry and other members of Ag Solutions will continue to flesh out these ideas and we will share them as they unfold.

9. **Milt Miller – News from the LRC** - Milt was not present to give us an update. The January 2, 2013 Dayton Daily News printed an article about Milt and the lake. It clearly emphasized his dedication to sticking with this challenging issue for the long haul. I have it scanned so if anyone wants a copy please advise and I'll send it on.
10. **Updates, ideas, suggestions from the floor.** Lou Brown noted that:
 - A person claiming to be with the EPA recently came to three farms in the vicinity of Lou's farm. He asked for records which the farmers declined to give him. A lady also claiming to be with the EPA followed a few days later and also asked for records sweetening her request by offering the farmers ball caps and tee shirts. None of the farmers volunteered any records to her either. Glen Arnold noted that the only records farmers need to keep for the EPA are those tracking the application of restricted pesticides. These need to be kept for three years and if the farmer has a commercial firm apply the pesticides, the firm will keep the records.
 - The EPA in Washington State is tracking large dairies for the emissions of nitrates, estrogen and testosterone among other things. Glen also noted that while phosphorous is the main local concern at the moment, concerns for these other substances will become an issue eventually.
 - Noted that AgriEnergy Resources is conducting a free Winter Seminar in Indianapolis, IN on January 24 & 25. Lou provided a brochure which you can review by clicking on <http://agrienergy.net> and clicking on the proper link. The link is printed in a long horizontal green bar toward the top of the page.
 - The OSU researcher who has been testing plots on Lou's farm will return this month (January) to conduct further tests. Lou noted that his entire farm is sown with cover crops and while every acre is most likely primarily dormant it is all green (under the snow). He said that a fortunate byproduct of the foliage was that the road past his house did not drift during the recent snow storm as it did in the past. The oats restrained it.
11. Pending our “restructuring” progress, our next “General” meeting will be held on February 4, 2013.