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Timothy Huey
Director

To: Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator

From: Timothy Huey, Planning Director

Date: January 24, 2018

Re: Annual Re-Adoption of Master Matrix for review of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)

Fifteen years ago the Board of Supervisors first adopted the Master Matrix to allow Scott County's participation and input in the application process for new or expanded animal confinement feeding operations. Such operations which exceed certain capacity thresholds in Scott County are reviewed by the County to ensure that they meet state requirements for approval of a state construction permit. The IDNR rules require that a county annually adopt a construction evaluation resolution and submit it in the month of January to the State DNR to ensure continued participation. In order to be able to evaluate proposed sites for large confinement facilities submitted in 2018, counties must adopt these rules by resolution and notify the DNR by January 31, 2018. The Board reviewed two CAFO permit applications in 2017, 2016 and 2015. In 2017, the two applications were for expansions of the existing operations of Paustian Enterprises and Grandview Farms both in in Hickory Grove Township. In 2015 and 2016 two different expansions of Grandview Farm's sow farm were reviewed and the other application reviewed in 2015 was for a hog finishing building on Jeff Paulsen's farm. The Board did not review any CAFO permit applications in 2014.

In 2013, the Board reviewed a CAFO expansion submitted by Dennis Kirby for his existing operation in Lincoln Township. In 2012 the Board reviewed two CAFO expansion applications for compliance with the Master Matrix, one for Grandview Farms in Sheridan Township and one for Paustian Farms in Cleona Township. In 2012, the Board also reviewed and recommended approval of a third application which was not an expansion and therefore did not have to be reviewed using the matrix criteria for the replacement of a nursery building on the Paustian farm.

The Board did not receive any proposed permits to evaluate in 2011. The year before that, 2010, the Board reviewed two applications, one submitted by Bryan Sievers for a Confined Cattle Feeding Operation on his family farm in Liberty Township. The other was submitted by Grandview Farms for an expansion of its existing hog confinement operation. The Board did not review any applications the year before in 2009. Previously there was one application in 2008 and 2007, and two applications for expanded CAFOs in Scott County in both 2006 and 2005 that were reviewed using the Master Matrix. Scott County also received two other applications in 2005 for expansions that were not large enough to trigger review under the Master Matrix criteria.

New or expanded confined animal feeding operations that reach IDNR established capacity thresholds in counties with adopted Master Matrix review must meet higher standards than other

permitted sites. They must earn points on the master matrix by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on the environment and the community. Participating counties must evaluate and make a recommendation on all construction permit applications submitted to the DNR or they forfeit the right to evaluate sites until the next sign-up period.

The Iowa DNR website <http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/matrix.html> also has detailed information on the Master Matrix. There have been no changes to the requirements of the Master Matrix since the original adoption fifteen years ago.