

# AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

## MINUTES

**Thursday**

September 21, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

**CONFERENCE ROOM B**

200 Grand River Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Port Huron, MI 48060

1. **Call to Order**  
Chairman Jim Reid called meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**  
Present: Dianna Seifert, Sue Sniegocki, Jim Reid, Jim Hayes, Rick Mills, and Ken Langmesser  
Support Staff: Dave Struck  
Excused: Mike Lauwers and Chuck Kwasnik  
Absent: Terry Gill (Pat Anger)
3. **Citizens Wishing to be Heard**  
None.
4. **Approval of July 20, 2006 Minutes**  
Dianna made a motion to accept the July 20, 2006 minutes as presented, Sue seconded, motion passes unanimously.
5. **Financial Report**
  - a. July Report: Motion by Jim Hayes, seconded by Sue Sniegocki to accept receipt of July financial report. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. August Report: Motion by Jim Hayes, seconded by Sue Sniegocki to accept receipt of August financial. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. 2007 Proposed Budget: Jim Hayes made a motion to approve the 2007 Proposed Budget, Sue Sniegocki seconded; motion passes unanimously.
6. **Old Business**
  - a. Newsletter  
The latest edition went out early September. The next newsletter will go out the end of October featuring Ken. Jim Hayes has a forestry article for Dave from forester Jeff Tuller -may include an article from Ernie Kafcus is he is able. Dave said that Kristen O' Jurs would do a "storm water" article for the newsletter with a focus on preserving farmland for storm water recharge of the groundwater.
  - b. Parade of Farms Tour  
St. Clair County Conservation District made very nice black, white and red signs to advertise the parade of farms tour that can be re-used each year. The signs will be put out three to four days before the tour date. Lapeer County has their parade scheduled for the same day as ours – Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>.

- c. Subcommittees – Letter to Larger Group  
A copy of the letter can be found in the packet. The letter is to be sent out the end of October inviting the larger group to attend the November meeting.
- d. 2006 Planning for Agriculture Conference  
This meeting was in Claire with Chuck, Dave and Ken in attendance. Topics of discussion included marketing in Michigan, wind energy, ethanol and Louie Martis talked about the vote in Lapeer County. They got the most votes from the urban areas and lost in some rural areas. They ran out of campaign money near the end before the vote. They chose the primary election hoping to reach a select group of “more educated” voters who tend to vote in the primary elections.
- e. St. Clair Farmers Market  
A stack of the “Parade of Farms Tour” fliers were taken to the St. Clair Farmers Market for distribution.

## 7. New Business

- a. Cultural Heritage/Preservation Millage Concept  
The idea of encompassing the word “HERITAGE” into who we are and what we want to preserve was thought of when it was noticed that Clyde Township has signs out asking for donations to preserve its original township hall, and Marine City is trying to save its old city hall. Many towns in our county have special “save our heritage” type projects that groups of people want to see preserved but usually do not have the money to make it happen. If we could include monies to go to towns and villages for said purposes it may prove a sure bet for a millage campaign in the future winning more support from the urban areas. “Something in it for everyone” concept.
- b. MSU Urban Planning Practicum Project  
The MSU planning department has their students work on a real world project with real clients. To be a contender for a group of students, a proposal needs to be submitted along with a \$2500.00 commitment which helps pay for student travel and other expenses. November 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit a proposal. This would be a good project to submit to Scott Everett to see if it qualifies for his “mini grant” fund.
- c. Farm Bureau Annual Meeting  
This meeting was last week with a few from our committee attending.
- d. Farm Raisers for Schools Article  
This article can be found in the packet. Instead of selling candy as a fund raiser, one Michigan parent in Kalkaska came up with the idea of having school kids sell locally grown food from local farmers. Michigan Department of Agriculture, Mitch Irwin, wants to see the program spread across the state.

**8. Other Business**

a. Staff Report  
Covered.

b. Items for October meeting

We need to investigate all conservancies that have land preserved in our county, talk and possibly meet with them and form an alliance with one of them that best meets our needs. We want a conservancy that is willing to work with a landowner as a resource to help them preserve their land tailored to the landowner's wishes for anyone interested in donating their development rights. We have at least two landowners in the county who if given the right conservancy would donate their development rights. Ken still wants our committee to meet with Lapeer and Macomb this winter to discuss common goals and see if we can help each other. Jim Reid will talk to Lapeer sometime to see if they would like to meet sometime.

c. Newspaper Articles  
See packet.

**9. Adjournment**

Dianna made a motion to adjourn; Jim Hayes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianna Seifert  
Secretary