

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday

February 16, 2006 - 3:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE ROOM B

200 Grand River Avenue, 2nd Floor, Port Huron, MI 48060

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Reid called meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Dianna Seifert, Ken Langmesser, Sue Sniegocki, Jim Reid, Jim Hayes, and Chuck Kwasnik

Support Staff: Dave Struck

Excused: Mike Lauwers

Absent: Terry Gill (Pat Anger Alternate)

3. Citizens Wishing to be Heard

None.

4. Approval of January 19, 2006 Minutes

Ken made a motion to accept the January 19, 2006 minutes as presented, Sue seconded, motion passed unanimously.

5. Financial Report

a. January Report

Jim Hayes made a motion to accept the January Financial Report as presented, Chuck seconded, all in favor, motion passes unanimously.

b. Budget Amendment

Prior estimated budget for 2006 was \$10,200. An amended budget presented at the meeting includes a \$1200 membership fee to join the statewide county association created to secure a lobbyist bringing the new estimated budget to \$11,400. Jim Hayes made a motion to accept the amended budget as presented, Dianna seconded, motion passed unanimously. There is a carryover of \$3532 from year 2005. This carryover along with a renewal of support from Farm Bureau (\$600), EMG (\$500), Eastern MI Bank (\$500), Michigan Milk (\$200) and St. Clair County Conservation District (\$3500) leaves us with a balance of \$2568 to raise for the 2006 estimated monetary needs.

6. Old Business

a. Newsletter

Dave will include in the next issue (late May early June) of the newsletter how and where residents can donate, and will distribute copies of the newsletter to township offices. Scott Everett was impressed with our newsletter – said there are very few boards that are doing a newsletter like we are. Articles for the next newsletter could

include the Lapeer fund raising campaign if successful; an article showing the need for hunters to get involved since they need farmland and open space to hunt; an article on the DNR public access program. March 7th Ken and Chuck will meet with Ernie Kafcas to discuss hunt clubs. Ken could do his board member feature on how he opens his farm up to the hunter access program for the fall issue.

i. *Distribute extras to places around town*

Ken volunteered to take some newsletters to TSC and K's Diner in Avoca. Donors need to be listed on each edition of the newsletter.

b. Winter Workshop

The State is in the process of overhauling the scoring system (which is a good thing – less discretionary points). Townships may not need all the Master Plan requirements anymore, so Charamy's talk will be altered from that planned to include case studies and how the State's requirements will change. Next State cycle calling for applications may not happen until 2007. Board members should do their best to attend.

c. Fundraising/Donors

Chuck gave a newsletter to the Bearded Turkey Club – they were interested in Farmland Preservation and Open Space Preservation - need to move on getting the local hunt clubs involved. (Dave is working with Stacey to get an example of an open space program.) Ken mentioned that the Board should approach Dakota Gold for donations with a new plant to open in Marysville. The new plant wants all of its corn supply to be within a 70-mile radius, which should make them interested in farmland preservation.

d. PDR Application Update

The State is in the processing of changing its selection criteria, so there will be no application cycle for now. St. Clair's application is posted on its website.

7. New Business

a. Update on P.A. 116

Dave presented a map with P.A. 116 parcels shown in green, and those that expired January 1, 2006, are outlined in red. Lynn Township has the most P.A. 116 enrolled land.

b. Earth Fair 2006

April 21 and 22, 2006. Dave will be there representing Metropolitan Planning and will do a much bigger display this year with map boards, a rolling power point presentation and extra newsletters.

c. PAL/Kellogg Grant to MSUE

An opportunity to acquire grant money to help fund a Farmland Preservation staff person through extension covering the tri-county area of St. Clair, Sanilac and Lapeer was struck down when Lapeer County withdrew support even when Sanilac offered to finance the first year.

8. Other Business

Staff Report

a. Staff Report

Metropolitan Planning has a new staff person, Kara, and she will work with our board also.

b. Items for March Meeting

Updating what we talked about today, recap on Workshop, more funding sources and contacts.

c. Newspaper Articles

Jackson County is looking to establish an Ag Board.

d. Other

April's meeting time will be changed to 3:00 on the 20th. Jim Reid presented a copy of Lapeer County's fund raising campaign pamphlet. The County Association is a few months away yet from officially forming.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dianna Seifert
Secretary