



**Van Buren County Farmland Preservation Board
Administration and Land Services Building
219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw**

August 14th, 2008

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Call to order at 6:40 pm

Present: Amy Lockhart, Tom Erdmann, Dave Foerster, Bill Lawson, Don MacKellar, Laura Strehlow, Kurt Doroh, Wayne Hammond

Absent: Bill Mihelich, Mike Rainey, Scott Cedarquist, Ted Major, Jeff Radtke, Mike Pioch

Public: Geralyn Waldschmidt, Mary Bauck

Agenda: Motion was made by Bill Lawson, 2nd by Don MacKellar to accept the August 14 agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes of June 12th : Motion by Bill Lawson, 2nd by Laura Strehlow to accept the minutes with changes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Geralyn Waldschmidt and Mary Bauck introduced themselves and discussed their interest in the Purchase of Development Rights program. Together they own a family farm near Bangor in Arlington Township. Dave Foerster explained the County Purchase of Development Rights process and welcomed any future questions and participation. Both Geralyn and Mary will be added to the LPB mailing list.

Reports:

County Commissioner – Tom Erdmann reported that he attended the South Haven Township meeting yesterday and their Master Plan will likely be finalized on August 20th. He also discussed the County wide phosphorous ban ordinance that is in the works. The Commissioners are generally in favor of the ordinance and it has been placed on the agenda for the August 26th Board of Commissioners meeting.

Township Representatives –

Wayne Hammond reported that Arlington is still moving toward adoption of the ordinance to allow for PDR. Columbia is also working toward an updated Master Plan to hopefully include land preservation elements.

Don Mackellar reported that Decatur has finished it's new zoning map and there will be a new Supervisor in November.

Bill Lawson reported that work is still under way on the joint Master Plan for Hamilton and Decatur and should be done by the end of the year.

Old Business:

Fundraisings – Dave Foerster reported that the Van Buren Development Council has updated their by-laws and agreed to work with the Land Preservation Board in fundraising efforts. A resolution has been obtained from the County and a financial report prepared for the 501c3. Foerster expects that we are about 3 weeks from the gaming license approval then we can work

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on scheduling an event.

Lachman Farm (annual monitoring) – The easement monitoring report needs to be completed by October 1. Jeff Radtke had stated in an earlier email that he had been out to the farm and took pictures; we just needed to prepare the paperwork. Lockhart and Foerster will work on the report in September.

PDR training update – Amy Lockhart, Dave Foerster and Kurt Doroh attended the training seminar offered by MDA in July. Lockhart reported that the information was very useful and that she would like to pull ideas from the Kent County program for marketing and outreach in the coming months.

New Business:

Farmland Preservation Meeting (Joint meeting with Planning Commission) – Dave Foerster reported that a joint meeting with the Land Preservation Board and the Van Buren County Planning Commission will likely be scheduled for Sept. 24 at 6:30pm. The meeting will focus working with planner Chuck Eckenstahler to create a county wide land use map. Townships would be able to adopt this map and expedite the process for PDR eligibility in their township.

Next Meeting: ****NOTE:** The regular LPB meeting will be moved to **September 24th @ 6:30 pm** (joint planning commission meeting) The next regular Land Preservation Board meeting will be held on October 9th at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 pm
Submitted by Amy Lockhart
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