

Van Buren County Farmland Preservation Board
April 10th, 2008
Administration and Land Services Building
219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw
6:30 pm

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Call to order at 6:36 pm

Present: Scott Cedarquist, Dave Foerster, Jeff Radtke, Bill Lawson, Bill Mihelich, Tom Erdmann, Ted Major, Mike Theil, Amy Lockhart

Absent: Wayne Hammond, Mike Pioch, Laura Strehlow, Don Mackellar

Public:

Agenda: Approved (Motion by Jeff Radtke, second by Mike Thiel)

Minutes of February 14th Approved (Motion by Tom Erdmann, Seconded by Ted Major)

Public Comment: None

Reports:

County Commissioner – Tom Erdmann reported that South Haven is close to finalizing their master plan and is talking about having a workshop on the 23rd and mentioned someone might want to go to discuss land preservation.

Township Representatives – Dave Foerster reported that Waverly township is set to release their new plan any day, that farmland preservation is addressed but not adequately

The Columbia Township planning commission has been working with the Black River Watershed project and the Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission to review the master plan and zoning ordinance. The next step will be for the Planning Commission to make recommendations; the township will then open the master plan to include farmland preservation language.

Planning Commission Representative – Jeff Radtke reported that Hamilton and Decatur are working on a joint master plan and are aiming to be finished in July. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24th. No County planning commission meeting was held last month.

Other reports: Ted Major reported that he plans to attend the Gates Drain meeting and will provide input on farmland preservation and ways farms can help alleviate problems with sediment and drain maintenance.

Old Business:

Lachman Celebration – Discussion was held to finalize details for the event. Invitations will be mailed to local and state officials, cooperating organizations and others. Invites will also be sent to all sign contest finalists and winner. Dave Foerster has a tent we can use if another is not available.

Sign art contest winner announcement– Lockhart will mail letters to all participants stating the

finalists and winner. Official presentation of certificates and prize money will be at the Lachman Celebration on May 3. Finalists and winner will receive invitations. The Conservation District will arrange refreshment.

"Preserved Farmland" sign purchase- 36"x48" sign with reflective lettering, 2 sided printed in 4 colors. Cost for both sides will total \$260.

New Business:

Scoring system revisions –Discussion was held regarding the 2008 scoring system. VBCO LPB needs to decide which items will be necessary for the application to proceed to the scored portions. Also, the consensus is to have the VBCO scoring match that of the state, therefore revisions must be tabled until the state releases a final version of the 2008 scoring system. VBCO LPB should also include "tie-breaker" items that will only factor into a farm's ranking if they score closely to another farm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be May 8th, 2008 at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Floor of the Administration and Land Services Building, 219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 pm

Submitted by Amy Lockhart
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