

**Van Buren County Farmland Preservation Board**  
**January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**Administration and Land Services Building**  
**219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw**  
**6:30 pm**

**Minutes**

**Regular Meeting**

Call to order at 6:34 pm

**Present:** Bill Lawson, Don Mackellar, Scott Cedarquist, Mike Thiel, Dave Foerster, Ryan Miller

**Absent:** Bill Mihelich, Wayne Hammond, Ted Major, Mike Pioch, Tom Erdman, Laura Strehlow

**Public:** Francis Ryan, Amy Lockhart

**Agenda:** Approved (Motion by Bill Lawson, Seconded by Mike Thiel)

Minutes of December 13<sup>th</sup> Approved (Motion by Bill Lawson, Seconded by Mike Thiel)

**Public Comment:**

**Reports:**

*County Commissioner* – None

*Township Representatives* – Mike Thiel pointed out that Gravel, Fish, and Cedar Lakes in Porter Townships will be installing sewer systems.

Bill Lawson claimed that Hamilton Township is in the process of printing their updated master plan.

Dave Foerster noted that he is not sure if Waverly Township is going to approve farmland preservation or not at his point. He discussed the possibility of having an educational conference in Van Buren County to talk about farmland preservation. Amy Lockhart noted that the Conservation District is having a similar educational conference in the spring, and that it may be beneficial to combine the two. Foerster also noted that Julie Pioch agreed to create a press release for the sign art competition.

*Planning Commission Representative* – None

*Other Local Visits* – None

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

*DVD Presentation on Renewable Energy* – A History Channel Modern Marvels DVD on Renewable Energy was brought in by Don Mackellar. The video covered important issues such as solar power, wind energy, geothermal energy, hydroelectric power, ground source geothermal energy, tidal barrage, and wave energy.

*Presentations from Ag Conference* – Dave Foerster presented information from the recent Agriculture Preservation Board Conference with a few power points. The first covered Rich Harlow's presentation on Michigan's Land Resources. Another power point was from Gene Garber of Lancaster County, PA, which spoke about their very successful farmland preservation program. The third power point was on Wind Energy and was presented by Rich VanderVeen at the conference.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Floor of the Administration and Land Services Building, 219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm**

Submitted by Ryan Miller

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