



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

April 10th, 2009

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Call to order at 6:35 pm

Present: Kurt Doroh, Laura Strehlow, Bill Mihelich, Don Mackellar, Dave Foerster, Denise Massey, Amy Lockhart

Public: none

Agenda: Agenda was accepted with addition.

Minutes January 8th: Motion by Bill Mihelich, 2nd by Kurt Doroh to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Reports:

Kurt Doroh reported that the *County Planning Commission* is waiting to get some information on what to talk to the Townships about, are working to get a grant from Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and will work on a script for discussions with Townships, provide talking points and help stir interest in getting townships up to speed with land preservation requirements.

Arlington Township has completed their master plan and zoning ordinance update.

Hamilton/Decatur Townships have submitted a joint plan to the County Planning Commission for adoption.

Almena Township: Dave will check on status

Lawrence Township: New supervisor, recently Lawrence has not given thought to PDR, Bill will speak with the supervisor (Doug Harrington) to answer questions.

Old Business:

Fundraising – Dave Foerster participated in a DVC fundraising event in January and mentioned the LPB's interest in hosting an event. The LPB is on the waiting list for a time slot with the Battle Creek group. Kurt Doroh also agreed to look into local options with the Lion's Club.

Ag Funding Board – According to Michigan Dept. of Ag, there looks like PDR will not have funding anytime in the next few years. The funding that does exist is being used to keep the department afloat. The fund will not likely hit the \$500,000 mark needed to open an application cycle. In the meantime, Counties should work on getting townships eligible for PDR when the program opens funding again.

New Business:

FRPP Conference Call – Lockhart distributed copies of the conference call noted and PowerPoint presentation.

Local PDR Application – In 2006, Gary Jones applied but the funding ran out. There are also some current landowners interested in getting applications in to be ready for funding when it does



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come. Interested landowners should look at the old application packet and work on completing items for scoring, get on the LPB contact list to keep up to date on funding information and apply when a new funding cycle is announced.

Other Business:

Open seat: Mike Alaga is interested in serving on the Board but will have conflicts from time to time. Dave Foerster will talk to Mike about working with a shared position or other options.

Next Meeting: ****NOTE:** there will be no LPB meetings in May or June, the next meeting will be July 9, 2009 at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 pm
Submitted by Amy Lockhart
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