

Van Buren County Farmland Preservation Board
May 8th, 2008
Administration and Land Services Building
219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw
6:30 pm

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Call to order at 6:37 pm

Present: Ted Major, Dave Foerster, Jeff Radtke, Scott Cedarquist, Laura Strehlow, Amy Lockhart

Absent: Bill Lawson, Don Mackellar, Mike Pioch, Bill Mihelich, Tom Erdmann, Wayne Hammond

Public:

Agenda: Re-order of agenda items suggested by Foerster, move sign art contest award presentation to the first item.

Minutes of April 10th: Approval of minutes tabled to June meeting due to lack of quorum.

Public Comment: None

Presentation of Sign Art contest award: Courtney Cowan was present and accepted her prize money and congratulations from the Land Preservation Board. Courtney thanked the Board for the opportunity and said she learned a lot about Farmland Preservation through the process.

Reports:

Township Representatives – Jeff Radtke reported that Decatur/Hamilton are still working toward their joint master plan approval.

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 Farm Celebration re-cap –Overall the group felt the celebration went very well and were pleased with the attendance. What can we do better next time? Suggestions included announcing speakers with the invitation, getting the press release out earlier and be sure to use the tent even if the weather is not threatening (it provides an obvious location).

Scoring System Revisions– Dave Foerster reported more information about the status of the state scoring system revisions. There are not expected to be any major changes. There may be some changes to the “intergovernmental cooperation” points. Major differences are likely to be things farmers themselves have little to no control over, such as training levels of township officials and planning commission members and intergovernmental cooperation. The suggestion was also made to send the draft out to all the townships to allow them time to make changes if they wish. What we should be working on: Local requirements for conservation planning and MAEAP verification are highly desirable, should be incorporated at the county level.

New Business:

LPB Officer election –Item tabled to June meeting (lack of quorum) County BOC needs to re-appoint some spots. Also, Mike Thiel has submitted his resignation from the LPB due to his move out of the County.

Fundraising – Jeff Radtke led discussion about going through a local company to hold a “Texas Hold-em” fundraiser. Dave agreed to look into license fees and paperwork.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be June 12th, 2008 at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Floor of the Administration and Land Services Building, 219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 pm

Submitted by Amy Lockhart

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