

**Van Buren County Land Preservation Board**  
**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Administration and Land Services Building**  
**219 Paw Paw St., Paw Paw**  
**6:30 pm**

**Minutes**

**Regular Meeting**

Call to order 6:40 pm

**Present:** Jeff Radtke, Ted Major, Bill Mihelich, Bill Lawson, Tom Erdmann, Dave Foerster, Ryan Miller

**Absent:** Mike Thiel, Don Mackellar, Scott Cedarquist, Laura Strehlow

**Public:** Charles Lachman, Wayne Hammond

**Agenda:** Approved (**Motion by Bill Lawson, Second by Jeff Radtke**)

Minutes of January 11<sup>th</sup> Approved (**Motion by Jeff Radtke, Second by Bill Lawson**)

**Public Comment:** Wayne Hammond showed interest and inquired about the farmland preservation program. Dave Forester explained the purpose of the board and the annual grant that is submitted to the state.

**Reports:**

*County Commissioner –*

Tom Erdmann reported that the Board of Commissioners had approved the re-appointment of the LPB members of Ted Major, Bill Lawson, Dave Foerster, and Don Mackellar.

*Township Representatives –*

Bill Lawson noted that Hamilton Township meeting is next week and that he had nothing for Keeler Township.

Ted Major had nothing new for Almena and Antwerp Townships.

Bill Mihelich had nothing to report.

Dave Foerster noted that Waverly Township is still in the process of updating their master plan and that it is almost complete. He also noted that he is not sure which direction Columbia Township is going to go in terms on farmland preservation.

Jeff Radtke reported that Decatur Township, the Village of Decatur, and Hamilton Township are all in the process of updating their joint master plan and that they may be

including farmland preservation in it. He also claimed that Ted Thar had provided Decatur Township with the section of Paw Paw Townships master plan that focuses on farmland preservation.

*Planning Commission Representative –*

Jeff Radtke reported that the county planning commission re-appointments were approved by the Board of Commissioners. He also was concerned about the budget issues that they have had.

*Other Local Visits – none*

**Old Business:**

*Update on Lachman Property-* Foerster reported that he, Ryan Miller, and Charles Lachman attended a meeting in Lansing with Rich Harlow and Elizabeth Juras. The meeting consisted of information from the MDA on the steps that need to be taken to close the easement on Lachman's property. Foerster explained that there is baseline documentation that needs to be completed that included monitoring practices, pictures of the property, legal descriptions, and an interview of Lachman. He noted that Ryan Miller would be taking on the responsibility of this task.

**New Business:**

*Mike Pioch Position-* Foerster stated that he had talked with Mike Pioch and Laura Strehlow about the possibility of splitting the responsibility of being a board member.

**Motion by Jeff Radtke, Seconded by Bill Lawson** to approve this position. Dave Foerster will write a letter to the BOC for approval.

There was discussion and a **Motion by Jeff Radtke, Seconded by Bill Lawson** to approved Wayne Hammond to be appointed the LPB. Dave Foerster noted that he would write a letter to the BOC for the approval of this position.

Foerster noted that he had asked the State if they had prepared a press release about the awarded grants for 2006. According to Foerster, the State also liked the idea about placing a sign on the preserved farmland.

**Jeff Radtke moved to adjourn, Seconded by Bill Lawson**

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday June 14th, 2007 at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Floor of the Administration and Land Services Building 219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:25 pm  
Submitted by Ryan Miller