



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

July 9th, 2009

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Call to order at 6:32 pm

Present: Dave Foerster, Scott Cedarquist, Jeff Radtke, Don MacKellar, Bill Lawson, Doug Stiles, Laura Strehlow, Kurt Doroh, Ted Major, Amy Lockhart

Public: Charles Lachman

Agenda: Agenda was accepted as presented.

Minutes April 9th: Motion by Kurt Doroh, 2nd by Bill Lawson to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Introduction of new member: Dave Foerster introduced Doug Stiles, Almena Township Supervisor and discussed basics of the PDR and land preservation programs & ordinance.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Written report was provided

County Commissioner: None.

Township Representatives:

Kurt Doroh is planning to attend upcoming Arlington Township Meeting. Dave Foerster reported on Arlington's Master Plan update status and need to present the plan to the County.

Bill Lawson attended the Keeler township meeting Tuesday and updated them on the PDR program; suggested interested landowners contact the LPB. Also, Decatur/Hamilton Master Plan will be going up for final adoption soon.

Dave Foerster spoke with new Bloomingdale Township Supervisor about program logistics. Geneva Township is interested in Land Preservation, but is not likely to incorporate zoning. Waverly Township is starting to think about land preservation – a Master Plan update is due soon.

Scott Cedarquist reported no changes in Bloomingdale Township with regards to incorporating land preservation into the Master Plan.

County Planning Commission: Jeff Radtke reported that the Antwerp Township Master Plan re-write is currently in front of the board. There was no June P.C. meeting.

Old Business:

Fundraising – In May/June an opportunity came up with a Battle Creek sports bar to be placed on a back up list for events. Dave Foerster applied for the license and along with Julie Pioch, staffed an event on June 6. The event netted \$994.00 to the Van Buren Development Council's



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dedicated account for the Van Buren County Land Preservation Board.

North Point Conservation Easement Status – The North Point easement has been in progress for about a year and is nearing final language. Should be adopted by the County Board of Commissioner in the next few months.

New Business:

Election of Officers – Current Chair, Dave Foerster opened the floor for nominations.

Motion by Scott Cedarquist, 2nd by Bill Lawson to nominate Dave Foerster for Chair. Accepted by Foerster.

Motion by Scott Cedarquist, 2nd by Bill Lawson to nominate Ted Major for Vice Chair. Accepted by Major.

Motion by Scott Cedarquist, 2nd by Bill Lawson to nominate Mike Pioch for Treasurer. Mike had previously stated interest in continuing the office.

Motion was made by Scott Cedarquist, 2nd by Bill Lawson to accept the officer slate as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Staff Transition – Amy Lockhart will be leaving the Van Buren Conservation District before the next Land Preservation Board meeting. The Van Buren Conservation District Board of Directors plans to continue its partnership with the Land Preservation Board and will see that the LPB secretarial duties remain a part of the VBCD Executive Director's position description. A planned overlap is planned for training purposes.

State Program Update – Dave Foerster shared an email from Beth Juras regarding the State PDR program. A bill amendment is currently in the works which would discount all PA116 liens by 15% for 3 months, followed by a 10% discount for another 6 months before starting to accrue interest. The State is hoping that this will help to incentivize PA116 penalty paybacks, thus provide funding for future PRD application cycles. There will not be an application cycle for 2009.

Next Meeting: ****NOTE:** there will be no LPB meetings in August of September, the next meeting will be **October 8th at 6:30pm**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 pm

Submitted by Amy Lockhart

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