

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday

July 20, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE ROOM B

200 Grand River Avenue, 2nd Floor, Port Huron, MI 48060

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Reid called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Dianna Seifert, Sue Sniegocki, Jim Reid, Jim Hayes, Rick Mills, Chuck Kwasnik, Ken Langmesser, Terry Gill (Pat Anger's alternate).

Support Staff: Dave Struck

Guests: Doug Fournier Kathy Hale (Extension)

Absent: Mike Lauwers

3. Citizens Wishing to be Heard

None.

4. Approval of June 15, 2006 Minutes

Jim Hayes made a motion to accept the June 15, 2006 minutes as presented, Chuck seconded, motion passes unanimously.

5. Financial Report

March Report

Jim Hayes made a motion to accept the financial report, Sue seconded, all in favor, motion passes unanimously. Mr. Ray Bollaert of DTE gave the Ag Board a check for \$250.00.

6. Old Business

a. Newsletter

Will be going out soon.

b. Statewide Ag Board Summit

Ken was impressed that we seem to be ahead of most other counties. We need a "Statewide" organization to secure grant funding and to influence legislators. Disappointed that no dollar figure was presented in order to secure Bill Bobiar as a lobbyist. Sougi from Michigan Land Use Institute was the speaker at lunch and had a great presentation with lots of ideas – very knowledgeable! There should be another statewide summit this fall. A list of Ag Board contacts was provided by handout along with summaries of the break out sessions.

- c. Parade of Farms Tour – Fall 2006
The Soil Conservation District will co-sponsor the event with us. The date selected will be October 14. Members will ask farmers in the North Street area – Lewis', McCallum's Orchard, and Jim Reid.
- d. International Day Parade
Jim Reid passed out pictures that were taken of the float at the parade. They had a sound system that included songs like "Daddy Won't Sell the Farm," "Where the Green Grass Grows" and "Summertime." Dave Struck made the milk statistic billboards that hung from the truck and float.
- e. Selection of 4-H Poster Contest Winner
Miranda Jerlecki was chosen winner of the poster contest - "St. Clair County's Rainbow of Diversity" – thanks to Sue for donating the prize money.
- f. Farmer's Market
Ken and Dianna talked to Cynthia Parrish who heads the St. Clair County Farmer's Market and she said she would be happy to see us at the farmer's market and if people from our board could not man a table she would be happy to hand out literature. There is a North Street Farmer's Market just starting that will be open two days per month. Most farmer's markets go through the end of October.
- g. Formation of Subcommittees
Dave Struck came up with a list of four subcommittees for the group. The Open Space Subcommittee will include Ken and Terry. Chuck volunteered to be on the Landowner Cultivation and Marketing Subcommittee. As we move along others can volunteer to be on any subcommittee they feel they would like to be on – see handout.

7. New Business

- a. Yale Bologna Festival
We were unable to secure Daisy the cow for this parade – maybe next year.
- b. Planning for Agricultural Conference – August 29, 2006
Topic will be "Making Agriculture Viable in Your Community" – see brochure in packet. To be held in Clare, Michigan.

8. Other Business

- a. Staff Report
Staff continues to research other locally grown campaigns across the country – we may consider doing a directory which could include neighboring counties. Staff is continuing to explore the possibility of the Ag Board getting some research help from volunteer students or interns through a college course or program. The next issue will focus on Ken for the "featuring a board member" portion.

b. Items for August Meeting

Invite candidates to our next meeting and ask them to give a statement for our newsletter – share the info with the Times Herald and the Voice. Talk to new county commissioners after the election.

c. Newspaper Articles - See packet.

9. Adjournment

Chuck made a motion to adjourn; Jim Hayes seconds; motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianna Seifert
Secretary