

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday

April 19, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE ROOM B

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

1. **Call to Order**

Vice-chair Chuck Kwasnik called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Kwasnik, Dianna Seifert, Sue Sniegocki, Rick Mills,
Jim Hayes, and Ken Langmesser

Excused: Jim Reid, Steve Simasko and Terry Gill

Support Staff: Dave Struck

3. **Citizens Wishing to be Heard**

None.

4. **Approval of April 19, 2007 Minutes**

Dianna made a motion to accept the February 22, 2007 minutes as presented, Jim Hayes seconded, motion passes unanimously.

5. **Financial Report**

a. February Financial Report:

Motion to accept the February financial report made by Jim Hayes and seconded by Sue; motion passes unanimously.

b. March Financial Report

Motion to accept the March financial report made by Jim Hayes and seconded by Sue; motion passes unanimously.

6. **Old Business**

a. Sportsmen's Groups: Ernie Kafcas

Ernie works for the DNR. He made a list of sportsmen clubs and other groups that are prominent in the area. Bill Furtoff chairs the MUCC District 8 meetings. They have monthly board meetings and we need to send a representative from the Ag Preservation Board to their meeting and explain who we are. Ernie suggested starting with the District 8 meetings with a letter and packet of information – they meet on Saturdays. Mark Sergeant – Private Lands

Program – DNR. Ernie will talk to Mark and get back with us; Ernie thinks they would help support our program.

b. St. Clair DDA/Farmers' Market: Dan Lockwood

Dan Lockwood – St. Clair Farmer's Market. Dan said the St. Clair Library just published a directory of foundations in Michigan, along with other information – it is a non-circulating book. Dan said the one thing the farmers' market is lacking is eggs, meat and dairy products. The market runs from 7a.m. to 12:00 noon on Wednesdays. Cynthia Parrish who runs the market has rules that you must grow what you sell and be committed for the whole season. People mostly look for organic, locally grown foods. Most of the vendors are farmers from Macomb County. The Health Department does not inspect the market, and the plaza supplies electric, restrooms and water. Starts the second Wednesday of July and the cost for vendors is \$10. The next newsletter will call for more farmers to participate in the farmer's market.

c. Newsletter Updates:

The last issue was better in quality and cheaper with the new printing company. The next issue will include a Farmers' Market article, an article from county storm water personnel, and Rick Mills will be the next featured board member.

d. Earth Fair (April 13-14):

Chuck and Jim Hayes both attended.

e. MSU Urban Planning Practicum Project:

Students are currently wrapping things up. They will not have time to do a county presentation. We will get a full report at the next meeting.

f. Township Visits

Clyde was the last township that was visited by reps from our board and it doesn't look like they will make a decision to do anything any time soon. We are on the Brockway Township agenda for May 14 at 7:30 p.m.

7. New Business

a. Port Huron's Farmers' Market Update

May 19 will be the first day of the Port Huron Farmers' Market which will feature only flower sales. People will be surveying the customers for their opinions on what day it should be held on and what in particular they are looking for. It will be right next to the Maritime Center with tents and will officially open on the first weekend of August running two days per week. It does not have a market master yet, and seniors will get vouches to use as money. There are four or five vendors lined up right now; no vendor fee has been set yet.

- b. Primer on State Agriculture Preservation Fund:
See packet page 7.
- c. County Farm Directory for Locally Grown:
Need to revisit this issue and do a countywide directory. Ernie suggested that this could be a project that we could work on with the sportsmen's group.

8. Other Business

- a. Staff Report:
There are extra newsletters that need to be distributed. So far there are six interested in the PDR program. One landowner in Berlin Township is very interested, but Berlin Township has not passed a resolution yet.
- b. Items for May Meeting:
Funding sources - seed companies at a regional level. Looking for partners to support our cause.
- c. Newspaper Articles:
See packet.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dianna Seifert
Secretary