

**AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD
MINUTES**

Thursday

July 19, 2007 - 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 the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**
Present: Chuck Kwasnik, Dianna Seifert, Sue Sniegocki, Jim Hayes,
Ken Langmesser, Jim Reid, Terry Gill, and Steve Simasko
Absent: Rick Mills
Support Staff: Dave Struck
Visitors: Kathe Hale
3. **Citizens Wishing to be Heard**
None.
4. **Approval of May 17, 2007 Minutes**
Jim Hayes made a motion to accept the May 17, 2007 minutes as presented,
Chuck seconded, motion passed unanimously.
5. **Communications**
Jim Hayes moves to send out communications in report form; Sue supports;
motion passed unanimously.
6. **Financial Report**
 - a. June Report
Motion to accept the June financial report made by Jim Hayes and
seconded by Sue; motion passes unanimously.
7. **Old Business**
 - a. International Day Parade – July 18
The parade was rained out. Entry fee if \$25.00 will be reimbursed.
Jim Reid had \$50.00 worth of cheese to pass out; he will freeze it, and
save it for the farm tour.
 - b. Farm Tour
Chuck said the EMG is willing to participate. The date is set for
October 13, 2007. Jim said that Travis Faley will also participate. Ken
said that C-Roy will take part; they have three farms in the area. No
definite answer from Creutz's dairy farm yet. Jim Reid will talk to Carl

Vermeesch. Gromack's Alpacas is one farm that contacted us about being in the farm tour for 2007. Possibly talk to Michelle Lutz about having Maple Creek organic vegetable farm in the tour as well.

Confirmations are needed by the end of July.

Steve suggested a waiver for no-fault insurance. Jim Hayes said he will ask Lapeer what they did for insurance for their parade. Steve will talk to Shaun Groden to find out about the County's coverage – there may be a general waiver.

There will be a brochure and a map in the next issue of the newsletter along with a farmer's market and storm water article. The next issue is set to go out early August. Ken, Chuck, Sue and Kathe Hale volunteered to be on a farm tour sub-committee. Jim Hayes will work on having more signs for the tour along with overlays for the new date.

- c. Newsletter Update
Still looking for a printer who uses better software like "Publisher." Suggestions were made for those receiving the newsletter to ask for an email version instead of a paper copy if they so choose. Another suggestion was to drop the acreage minimum to 20 acres and only send the newsletter out twice a year instead of quarterly.
- d. St. Clair County Capital Improvement Program
See page 15 of packet. Our Purchase of Development Rights program scored the highest it has ever scored.
- e. 4-H Fair Photo Contest
There are three prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) and only four (4) participants. Committee members all chipped in to supply the prize money.

8. New Business

- a. Farmland Preservation Target Area Mapping
Made a map for each township based on a request for help by an Emmett Township resident, Scott Mueller.
- b. Regionally Grown Director – Kathy Hale
Kathe has been working with Acheson since last March on the Farmer's Market. 700 people were surveyed at the first flower day. First two choices for day of the week to hold the market was Sunday and Saturday – ended up with Tuesday and Saturday. Council on Aging agreed to bus seniors over if it was held on a weekday. Kathe needs a maple syrup and honey grower.

Kathe would like to do a farm directory for the St. Clair, Lapeer, Sanilac

and Macomb area. She mentioned two different grant opportunities that could help fund the directory.

- c. Locally Grown Events/Catering
See story in packet. The county has an entrepreneurial support team and they would like to see more value added farming and/or direct sales from grower to caterer and/or restaurant.

9. Other Business

- a. Staff Report
See packet.
- b. Items for Next Meeting
Jim's letter to the Times Herald.
- c. Newspaper Articles
See packet.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dianna Seifert
Secretary