

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday

February 22, 2007 - 1:00 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM

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

1. **Call to Order**
Chairman Jim Reid called meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**
Present: Jim Reid, Jim Hayes, Chuck Kwasnik, Ken Langmesser, Rick Mills, and Terry Gill
Support Staff: Dave Struck, Senior Planner, and Bill Kauffman, Planning Director
Excused: Dianna Seifert, Steve Simasko, and Sue Sniegocki
3. **Citizens Wishing to be Heard**
None.
4. **Approval of January 25, 2007 Minutes**
January's meeting minutes were not available for action for this month's meeting. They will be voted on at the March 15th meeting.
5. **Financial Report**
January Report
 - a. Jim Hayes made a motion to accept the January Financial Report as presented. Chuck seconded, all in favor, motion passes unanimously.
 - b. Jim Reid asked that Metropolitan Planning Commission staff send letters to existing donors asking for renewals. He also asked the Board to consider other potential donors.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Regional Meeting with Macomb/Lapeer Counties
Ken talked about his perceptions of the meeting with Macomb and Lapeer Counties. Macomb had one representative there. Lapeer had about five. St. Clair County was well-represented. Each community gave an overview of what they have been up to relative to agricultural preservation. Scott Everett was also there and he presented an overview of the new "Agricultural Preserve Boards of Michigan." Chuck Kwasnik thought it was interesting when Scott talked about Wisconsin. Jim Hayes talked about the conflict of interest issue going on in Macomb County and Jim Reid stated that the Ag Board should work with the legislators.
 - b. Newsletter
Dave Struck explained the problem the printing company was having with the color schematic. He suggested that the Board hold off on printing until the

color issues are fixed. Board members felt the color issues should be worked out first and suggested that the printing be delayed.

c. Earth Fair (April 13-14)

Dave mentioned that for this year, the Environmental Education Network that runs the Earth Fair wants all participants to have a hands-on activity that will appeal to children and families. MPC staff will not be attending Earth Fair this year. Jim Reid said he was meeting with the Farm Bureau next week and would discuss doing something in conjunction with the Farm Bureau. The other Board members felt that was a good idea. Jim Reid will call Dave to let him know if they will participate.

d. 2008-2012 St. Clair County Capital Improvement Program

Dave presented a draft of the Ag Board CIP proposal for the Board to consider. He explained the tables on the form and talked about the numbers breakdown from grants and donations. The Board discussed asking for a small amount from the County sometime in the next two years. Dave asked the Board to think about the CIP and they could finalize the proposal at the March meeting. The deadline to submit the CIP proposal is not until March 23.

e. Township Visits

Jim Reid discussed the visit to the Clyde Township Planning Commission on February 13th. Jim mentioned that a number of local farmers were in attendance and voiced support for a resolution. Bill Kauffman talked about the meeting and mentioned his conversation with the township treasurer and some planning commissioners. Bill stated the township's main concern centers on a perceived monetary commitment. Bill reiterated to them that the township does not have to put any money toward the program. Dave said he sent the township a revised resolution for their consideration. He will also work on setting up visits with some of the other townships we are targeting.

7. New Business

a. County Master Plan Farmland Preservation Goals

Dave referred to the list of preservation goals and objectives that are currently in the County Master Plan. The county is currently updating its Master Plan. Dave asked the Board members to examine the current goals and determine whether any changes or additions are necessary.

b. St. Clair DDA/Farmers Market Assistance

Dave talked about his discussions with Dan Lockwood of the St. Clair DDA regarding how the Ag Board can help promote and support the Farmers Market in St. Clair. Mr. Lockwood is wondering if the Ag Board can help in securing new local farmers to be at the market. Jim Reid noted that we can put an article promoting the Farmers Market in the next newsletter. He also said that the Board could share the promotional article with all the townships. Dave mentioned that we can highlight and promote the Farmers Market on

the Ag Board website. Ken said that many of the local farmers go to the bigger markets in Mt. Clemens, Detroit, and Rochester. Jim Reid said that the Board can help out in marketing as much as possible. Dave said that Dan Lockwood may be interested in coming to the next meeting to discuss the issue further.

8. Other Business

a. Staff Report

Dave said that everything in his staff report was covered earlier in the meeting. Jim Reid suggested contacting Jerry Sutton of Brockway Township to see if he would be interested in being Commissioner Simasko's alternate on the Agricultural Preservation Board.

b. Items for March Meeting

Discuss parade dates, talk about 2007 Farm Tour and suggested farmers, and discuss how to get hunters and outdoor groups involved. Ken suggested inviting Ernie Kafcas from the DNR to the next meeting. Dave will contact Ernie to check his availability.

c. Newspaper Articles

Dave mentioned that there were some interesting articles about ethanol in the packet.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dianna Seifert
Secretary

Prepared by:
David Struck, Senior Planner