



FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING – Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Spartan Room (MSU Extension) - Human Services Building

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry “Casey” Jones, Earl Collier, Ed Reimick, Tasha Smalley, Harvey Jipping, and Mark Evans.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Richard Haugh

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING COMMENTS:

Chairman Jones addressed the board on discussions and email contact with the Michigan State Farmland Fund. Their meeting in October stated they only had \$500,000 in the fund. They were going to follow-up with a report at the end of January 2009. The last contact Chairman Jones received was they would not have an application cycle this year (2009). After the stimulus package was announced, they set up a phone conference on March 25, 2009 to cover both the State Budget and Stimulus money.

The GAAMPS committee and Michigan Farm Bureau will have 6 Regional Meetings to discuss zoning rules as they relate to Farmland and Farmsteads. When the dates are set, Chairman Jones will make the announcements.

Michigan State has just announced the 2007 Census on agriculture. Allegan County is now the #1 county in the state and in the top 100 in the United States.

Allegan County produced \$397 million of food and fiber to edge out Ottawa County. Other information will follow.

On February 24, & 25, Paul Wylie, Scott Corbin and Chairman Jones will attend the Agro Security Planning Conference in Kalamazoo County. This will include Kalamazoo, Allegan, and Van Buren Counties.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mark Evans, seconded by Tasha Smalley to approve the November 24, 2008 minutes. Motion carried. January 26, 2009 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Review of Applications:

Discussion was held regarding the low scoring points on the applications we have received. Not all applications included the soil conservation applications or they were not filled out correctly. After a test scoring of the Jipping Farm, the soil portion was submitted to the NRCS department and we have yet to receive the report. The board asked Chairman Jones to follow up on what needs to be done and to contact Shawn McKinney regarding the process. Chairman Jones will report at the next meeting. He will also contact Barry County.

Other Pending Business:

There was not other pending business brought to the board.

Election of Board Chairman & Vice Chairman:

A motion was made by Earl Collier, seconded by Harvey Jipping to retain Chairman Larry "Casey" Jones and Vice Chairman Mark Evans. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ed Reimick and seconded by Harvey Jipping to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Spartan Room, Human Services Building.

Minutes taken by Larry "Casey" Jones.