

**EATON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 19, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Eaton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:05 by Steve Tennes, County President.

Board Members in attendance were Jaime Curth, Deb Granger, Ryan Hall, Jim Orr, Derik Rickerd, Brett Roberts, Holly Schaeffer, Duane Smuts, Lynn Stanke, Steve Tennes, Ben Tirrell and Claire White

The special guest in attendance was Laura Hamlin, MFB Central Region Representative.

President, Steve Tennes led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Duane Smuts moved to accept the agenda. Lynn Stanke seconded. Motion passed.

Brett Roberts moved to place the March meeting minutes on file. Ben Tirrell seconded. Motion passed.

Holly Schaeffer moved to place the March financials on file. Lynn Stanke seconded. Nikki Beattie discussed the financial account questions from the previous meeting. Motion passed.

Holly Schaeffer moved to accept the March new members as presented, with the exception of Yvonne Visger who should be classified as a Regular member. Duane Eldred seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications – The newsletter will be coming out this month.

Membership – Lynn Stanke reported that the committee is working on recruiting and asked people to review the inactive lists provided and make phone calls. We need nine more new members by the end of April.

Public Policy – Ben Tirrell reviewed the Legislative Breakfast and asked that people start thinking of a new location for the event for 2012.

Promotion & Education – Holly Schaeffer announced that the Spring Fling will be held on April 21st and they will be looking for volunteers to help at the Tirrell Farm. She also announced that the poster contest awards are being presented the last week in April to students around the county.

Young Farmer – No report.

Unfinished Business:

Ag Ecology Award – No nominations this year.

Audit Review – Steve Tennes advised that he would like the board to use the auditor's report when preparing the budget for 2011-2012.

Building Maintenance – The board discussed repairing the failing bricks on the front steps. They would like another bid to review about getting the lights replaced.

Fair Record Keeping – Brett Roberts discussed the sponsorships for the record keeping and advised that the board will have a chance to present the awards at the fair as well. Jamie Curth advised that Mr. Saari may have judges available to help with the contest.

Snow Removal – No further bids came in from last month's meeting. The board would like another bid to review before accepting anything.

YPCS Participants - Claire White and Rosalyn Brummette will be attending for Eaton County.

New Business:

Derik Rickerd moved to exclude the AFBF Annual Meeting for 2012 in Hawaii from the budget for 2011-2012. Holly Schaeffer seconded. Motion passed.

Farm Bureau Day at the Fair was discussed and Deb Granger advised that promotions have already been printed advertising the event.

Duane Smuts moved to participate in the MSU Land Policy Survey for farmers, providing mailing assistance to our members at their cost. Lynn Stanke seconded. Motion passed.

The Young Farmer Awards were discussed. All entries are due by July 1st to home office.

Deb Granger discussed the Farmers Market the fairboard is trying to organize in conjunction with their Tractor Show at the fair. The board suggested she partner with the Charlotte Farmer's Market for that weekend.

Laura Hamlin discussed the Regional Rep Report and upcoming events.

Steve Tennes brought up changing the venue of the County Annual from the Senior Center to Kardel Hall at the fairgrounds and having a pig roast instead of a catered meal. More information will be gathered and presented at the May meeting.

Jim Orr discussed Policy Development and how they need to get started organizing materials. The deadline for the policies will be the July board meeting.

Holly Schaeffer moved to adjourn the meeting. Duane Smuts seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nikki Beattie
Secretary / Administrative Manager