

EATON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2011

A regular meeting of the Eaton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:22 by Steve Tennes, County President.

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

The special guests in attendance were the Olivet and Maple Valley FFA Chapter and Laura Hamlin, MFB Central Region Representative.

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

Derik Rickerd moved to accept the agenda. Duane Smuts seconded. Motion passed.

Ben Tirrell moved to place the January meeting minutes on file. Jamie Curth seconded. Motion passed.

Holly Schaeffer moved to place the January financials on file. Lynn Stanke seconded. Discussion pursued about revisiting the 3305 and 3400 accounts in March. Motion passed.

Duane Smuts moved to accept the January new members as. Lynn Stanke seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications – The next newsletter deadline will be March 28, 2011.

Membership – Lynn Stanke reviewed the Membership Drive Kickoff and that we need 15 new regular members total by the Victory Party on March 6th. He also discussed how to win tickets into the prize drawings.

Public Policy – Ben Tirrell discussed that Tim Walberg's office would like to set up a legislative event at the end of March for our membership. The board discussed this event taking the place of the Legislative Breakfast. Derik Rickerd volunteered space at Jansen's Equipment for the event.

Promotion & Education – Holly Schaeffer advised that the committee had a meeting to start planning the direction they will take for the year. They would like the board to assist in judging the poster contest when entries come in the beginning of March. Anne Pease and Carrie Orr will be reading to classrooms during the month of March. They are also updating the event brochure used last year and will be having those available soon. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 6:00pm.

Young Farmer – Brett Roberts announced that all four CORE spots are filled for the Young Farmer Leadership Conference this weekend.

Unfinished Business:

Lansing Legislative – There are still two county spots available if people are interested in attending.

Washington Elementary Science Day – Promotion and Education committee is willing to volunteers funds if any of our participants need supplies for the event. Derik Rickerd advised that his wife, Erika, may be willing to take pictures at the event.

Voice of Agriculture Conference – Deb Granger and Anne Pease will be attending the conference on behalf of Eaton County.

Duane Smuts moved to keep an electronic version of the county's board meeting minutes on the shared drive with home office and a second saved copy on disks in the safe. Brett Roberts seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

Duane Smuts moved to accept the new BCBS Servicing Agreement with Michigan Farm Bureau. Holly Schaeffer seconded. Motion passed.

Holly Schaeffer moved to accept the lawn care proposal from Gardenscapes for 2011 lawn service. Ben Tirrell seconded. Motion passed.

Political Action— Duane Smuts discussed getting elected officials more informed on agriculture issues and providing the Michigan Farm News to them. Legislators already receive the newspaper, so the board would like to arrange to have county commissioner receive the document. They would also like to put all townships and cities on the email distribution list for The Harvester.

Laura Hamlin discussed the Regional Rep Report and upcoming events, including the Discussion Meet and the Safety Day.

Steve Tennes briefly presented the results of the Membership Survey that was done at the Membership Drive Kickoff so the board could review what people thought was an important part of their membership.

Steve Tennes asked the board if they had any information about a new stink bug from Asia. Discussion pursued and the board decided to include an informational article in The Harvester to inform the public.

Holly Schaeffer moved to adjourn the meeting. Derik Rickerd seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nikki Beattie
Secretary/Administrative Manager