

EATON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2008

The regular meeting of the Eaton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:20 pm by Jim Orr, President.

Board Members in attendance were Chris Densmore, Bobbie Garnant, Mike McManus, Jim Orr, Henry Pray, Holly Schaeffer, Sheryl Smith, Duane Smuts, Lynn Stanke and Ben Tirrell.

The special guest in attendance was Alan Garner, District Director.

President Jim Orr led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ben Tirrell moved to accept the agenda with the addition of a Building Committee Report. Duane Smuts seconded. Motion Passed.

Leyna Miller, Regional Representative, conducted a strategic planning activity with the group comparing county fact sheets to identify strengths and weaknesses for the benefit of long-term planning at the county level.

Chris Densmore made a motion to accept the minutes from the February meeting as amended. Duane Smuts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financials for February were reviewed and discussed. Duane Smuts moved to accept the financial report contingent on follow-up with the Edward Jones activity and the P&E Budget with Holly Schaeffer. Ben Tirrell seconded. Motion passed.

Lynn Stanke moved to accept the February membership list contingent on checking into the status of listed Associate Member, Jason Haigh. Chris Densmore seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bobbie Garnant led the group in the CAG Discussion and took group responses for submission.

Insurance Report:

Alan Garner, District Director reported that the Eaton County Agents are doing well, but that the company as a whole is not fluctuating greatly at this time of year so agents have to work a little harder. Also reported that due to the economy it is estimated that 25% of all drivers in Michigan are uninsured.

Executive Committee:

Jim Orr discussed the Ecology Leadership Award to see if the board had nominations. Nominations are required by May 5th at which point the nominee will be given a chance to complete the award. Leyna Miller, Regional Representative, has some suggestions she will follow-up on.

The Board received a request from Katie Fuerstenau to assist in funding her People to People Student Ambassador program in Australia. Holly Schaeffer moved to support her in the amount of \$100, contingent upon her speaking at the County Annual on September 9, 2008. Lynn Stanke seconded. Motion passed.

Jim Orr also reported on Young People's Citizenship Seminar (YPCS). Announced that we are looking for candidates and the deadline for registration is April 28, 2008.

Committee Reports:

Holly Schaeffer reported on the Promotion & Education Committee. Announced Eaton County had one participant in the statewide Poster Contest and they were rewarded with a gift certificate from Mooville Creamery and their class received a pizza party. The committee will be participating in Ag Week with Sheryl Smith reading to elementary children in the following weeks.

Jim Orr reported about the Young Farmer Committee. He announced that the Young Farmer Leaders Conference had over 260 people in attendance. Eaton County had three young men in attendance on Friday. Next year the conference will be held at the Amway in Grand Rapids focusing on the future of agriculture. He also discussed that the award applications for Young Farmers are due with the Star Awards as of July 1st, but we would like to have them prepared by June 1st. Nikki Dotson will prepare a breakdown of all Young Farmers in Eaton County for the next meeting.

Nikki Dotson gave the office report.

Chris Densmore reported on the Building Use Committee. He discussed the repairs done in February by Moon Construction, fixing electrical units, updating lighting and fixing the flooring in the lobby. The bill for Moon Construction was over the budgeted amount of \$500 for the fiscal year. Lynn Stanke moved to accept payment of the Moon Construction bill. Mike McManus seconded. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

Legislative Breakfast: The invitation list was passed out, all invitations have been mailed and RSVPs are starting to come in. The breakfast will take place April 14th at 7:30am in the basement of the MSU Extension Office. Speakers have all been lined up.

Membership Kick-Off & Victory Party: The membership kick-off went well with 30 people present and with over ten new regular members signed in the two-week kick-off period, the Victory party was a success.

Bylaw Review: Ben Tirrell noted that this discussion was still tabled until the April board meeting.

Fair Oaks Tour: After reviewing the Young Farmer budget, Ben Tirrell moved that \$20/person be put toward all Eaton County attendees of the Fair Oaks Tour in April. Bobbie Garnant seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

Ag Day at the Capital: We have two people attending, Jim Orr & Carrie Orr. Anyone else interested in attending can show up on Wednesday, March 19th at 9:15am.

Regional Representative Report: Written report on file at county office. Highlights included water legislation and contacting DNR about the size of the Michigan deer herds.

Motion to adjourn made by Ben Tirrell, supported by Lynn Stanke. Motion Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Dotson
Secretary/Administrative Manager