

**EATON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Eaton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00pm by Jim Orr, President.

Board Members in attendance Chris Densmore, Bobbie Garnant, Jim Orr, Henry Pray, Derik Rickerd, Brett Roberts, Holly Schaeffer, Duane Smuts, Steve Tennes, Ben Tirrell and Laura Hamlin.

Special Guests in attendance included were Doug Freeman of Edward Jones and Joe Solitro, Farm Bureau Insurance Agency Manager.

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

Strategic Planning:

Doug Freeman, Financial Advisor from Edward Jones, reported on the investment portfolio of the county.

Derik Rickerd moved to transfer the balance of the Farm Bureau money market account to the American Balanced Funds of Edward Jones recommendation. Duane Smuts seconded. Discussion pursued. Motion passed 6 votes to 3 votes.

Ben Tirrell moved to accept the February minutes. Duane Smuts seconded. Motion passed.

Duane Smuts moved to accept the February Financials and place them on file. Ben Tirrell seconded. Motion passed.

Ben Tirrell moved to accept the New Member Applications as categorized. Duane Smuts seconded. Motion passed.

Insurance Report:

Joe Solitro reported on Farm Bureau Insurance updates and answered questions about the company's progress in these economic times.

Committee Reports:

Steve Tennes moved to approve the March Article by Cindy Stanke. Ben Tirrell seconded. Motion passed.

Steve Tennes moved to approve the Student of the Month program. Ben Tirrell seconded. Motion passed.

Holly Schaeffer moved that the Executive Committee make the final decision about the lawn & snow contracts. Derik Rickerd seconded. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

Ben Tirrell moved to write a letter in support of the Watershed Proposal using the form letter provided. Duane Smuts seconded. Steve Tennes moved to amend the motion to reflect the opinion of neighboring counties. Ben Tirrell seconded. The motion to amend the original motion passed.

The new motion reads: to write a letter reflecting the opinion of neighboring counties regarding the Watershed Proposal. Motion passed.

Ben Tirrell, Brett Roberts and Jim Orr reported on Young Farmer Leader's Conference.

New Business:

Nominees for Educator of the Year, Ag Ecology Award and Ag Communicator of the Year were discussed. It was determined to not nominate anyone for this year's Educator of the Year program, and nominate the County Journal for the Ag Communicator of the Year.

Laura Hamlin, Regional Representative, gave her report.

Duane Smuts moved to start an executive session of the Board of Directors at 9:15pm.

The executive session was concluded at 9:40pm. Holly Schaeffer moved to increase Nikki's hours by 4 hours per week at the same "hourly" rate of pay effective May 1, 2009. Chris Densmore seconded. Motion passed.

Bobbie Garnant moved to adjourn. Ben Tirrell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nikki Dotson
Secretary/Administrative Manager