

**EATON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Eaton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:04 by Steve Tennes, County President.

Board Members in attendance were Rosalyn Brummette, Tonya Clough, Jaime Curth, Duane Eldred, Deb Granger, Ryan Hall, Jim Orr, Brett Roberts, Holly Schaeffer, Duane Smuts, Steve Tennes, and Claire White.

The special guests in attendance were the Alan Garner, MFB District 5 Director and Laura Hamlin, MFB Central Region Representative.

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

Duane Smuts moved to accept the agenda. Brett Roberts seconded. Motion passed.

Duane Smuts moved to place the February meeting minutes on file. Brett Roberts seconded. Motion passed.

Deb Granger moved to place the February financials on file. Jim Orr seconded. Discussion pursued about the 3305 and 3400 accounts in still being down. Will have Nikki explain why in April. Motion passed.

Duane Smuts moved to accept the February new members as presented. Duane Eldred seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

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

Membership – Deb Granger reported that there are only two new regular members so far. The Victory Party was cancelled and will be rescheduled later in April. The goal is to have all the new regular members written by April 18th.

Public Policy – Steve Tennes reminded the board that Congressman Walberg will be at the Legislative Breakfast on Monday, April 18th. RSVP to the County Office by Monday, April 11th.

Promotion & Education – Holly Schaeffer advised that the Washington Elementary Science Day went very well. Spring Fling is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st at the Tirrell's. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 6:00 pm.

Young Farmer – Brett Roberts reported that four members went to the Young Farmer Leaders Conference and that it was a great conference. There were many new faces at the conference, especially from District 5. Next year's YFLC is the American Farm Bureau YF&R conference and will be held in Grand Rapids. Brett encouraged the board to consider additional funding for the 2012 conference. Steve Tennes suggested sending "Save the Date" postcards before harvest for the 2012 conference. The District 5 Discussion Meet is Wednesday, March 16th at 6:30 pm at the MSU Pavilion.

Unfinished Business:

Lansing Legislative Seminar Review – Duane Smuts reported that members had good conversation with Representatives Shaughnessy and Shirkey at Lansing Legislative. Senator Jones nor his staff did not attend. Duane felt that the educational sessions of the conference were exceptionally strong this year.

Voice of Agriculture Conference Review – Deb Granger reported the conference offered lots of good parts to pull for both P&E events and other activities.

MFN Distribution to Commissioners – Steve Tennes mentioned that Tim Rogers at MFB has set up the distribution to the Eaton County Commissioners.

YPCS – The Junior Board Members reported that they are currently promoting YPCS at the schools. The registration deadline is April 22nd.

New Business:

The Ag Ecology Award deadline is April 30th. Steve Tennes asked board members to bring suggested names to the April board meeting.

The board would like Nikki to get additional snow plow removal proposals for the April board meeting to compare to Gardenscapes' proposal.

Duane Smuts reported on some building and maintenance issues. The installer of the front steps will be contacted to see if the crumbling is covered. The board would like Nikki to develop an approved contractor list for board approval in April.

Duane Smuts moved to sponsor record keeping at the fair, with no more than \$200 in prizes, and provide 3 judges. Brett Roberts seconded. Discussion pursued that we will determine the exact prizes at a later date. Brett Roberts will let Jenny O'Neal know that ECFB will be sponsoring this. Motion passed.

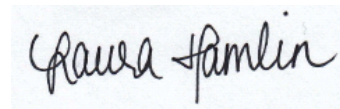
Alan Garner informed the board that the Central Region won the top award at the Farm Bureau Insurance Marketing Convention. He also mentioned that it looks like MSU funding will take a 15% cut in the State budget. The MAEAP bills have passed after many years of working on this program.

Laura Hamlin discussed the Regional Rep Report, highlighting Cabela's Exclusive Member Program and the presentation of the Educator of the Year Award to the Webberville FFA Advisor. She also discussed upcoming events, including the Discussion Meet.

The board discussed the possibility of doing a MAEAP educational seminar for members.

Duane Smuts moved to adjourn the meeting. Brett Roberts seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Hamlin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Laura Hamlin
Central Regional Representative, Michigan Farm Bureau