

SENECA COUNTY AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Minutes

1/2/08

- **Call To Order:** Called to order @ 7:25 pm by Jeff Cassim, outgoing president;
- **Members Present:** Jeff Cassim, Shawn Bossard, Keith Tidball, Doug Freier, Chris Tarr, Patsy Amidon, Julie Thompson
- **Previous Meeting Minutes:** Keith moved to approve, Doug seconded – approved.
- **Ex Officio Reports**
 - County Planning Rep: none
 - Real Properties Rep: none
 - Farm Bureau Rep: Keith reported that they have cycled through the annual meeting business. Things pretty quiet now; membership is being concentrated on currently. Amish and Mennonite populations slowly coming on board as members.
 - Environmental Rep: Keith reported that Farm Bureau is fully supporting ag AEM work in the county. The Cayuga Lake Watershed group is reinventing itself, and is seeking support – both financial and moral. Looking for more synergies between their work, land preservation groups, and the farming community. It is also time to apply for federal programs at this time.
 - Board of Supervisors Rep: Seneca County has a new county manager. Re-organizational meeting scheduled for Jan 8. Committees may change in terms of individuals.
 - Agri-buisness Rep: Jeff reported that urea prices are continuing to increase. Most fertilizer prices are increasing.
 - Farmer Rep: Doug reported that corn prices are continuing to increase, still profitable to crop despite the increasing fertilizer costs. Hay is also up – about \$220/ton for reasonable hay. Grain markets in general are strong.
 - CCE Rep: Ag district packets have gone on to Albany. Jim Capron is also at the end of his project – waiting for Phil to seed more funding for Jim's continuation of this work.
- **Old Business:**
 - Ag district renewals ongoing – starting on the south district. Keith moved that Harriet at county planning get Shawn the spreadsheets with current ag district property ID numbers, and to get a mailing out to all property owners within those districts. Time is critical, as PDR applications may hinge on renewals. Patsy seconded. Approved.
 - Shawn needs to revise the Cayuga County PDR application guidelines – will get to Town of Fayette within the week (Keith).
- **New Business:**

- Three terms are up – Keith's, Jeff's, and Greg's. Keith is willing to serve another term. Greg will be contacted, and Jeff may retire from the board depending on Greg.
 - Officers – Jeff nominated Doug as the new Chair. Doug accepted. Patsy nominated Keith as vice-chair. Keith accepted. CCE will
 - Meeting dates will be the first Wed of every month. Patsy strongly suggested that meetings be limited to 1.5 hours – anything after gets tabled, unless it is a very important issue or required action. Meetings will begin at 7 pm.
 - We received a notice of intent from the town of Seneca Falls, and regarding a proposed water line looping River, Kingdom, Bauer, and County House Roads. The board will need to make a recommendation on the proposed action. Shawn will create a map overlay of the project onto the central district map for further analysis and e-mail to the board. The public hearing seems to be coming up fast – Shawn will contact Peter Same in Seneca Falls to delay the hearing so that this board can properly analyze the proposal.
- **Adjourn** – Keith moved to adjourn – Patsy seconded – adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Bossard
CCE Rep