

SENECA COUNTY AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Minutes

6/4/08

- **Call To Order:** Called to order @ 7:24 pm
- **Members Present:** Doug Freier, Keith Tidball, Patsy Amidon, Greg Wadhams, Dave Kaiser, and Kevin Swartley. Shawn Bossard arrived at 8:30 pm.
- **Reports:**
 - **Farm Bureau** – The county Farm Bureau Board of Directors is meeting 6/5/08. Farm Bureau is planning on addressing the PDR idea/issue with the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce, as they have some concerns. They may also take up the topic of puppy mills with them as well. Farm Bureau has state guidelines for larger kennel operations.
 - **Environment** – Keith Tidball discussed the meeting held with the Finger Lakes Land Trust with interested partners, including SWCD, the National Forest, Montezuma Refuge, ect. The main idea is to preserve open space, agriculture, view space, ect. They may hold future meetings. There is EQIP money in the new farm bill.
 - **Board of Supervisors** – Patsy Amidon discussed where the board should be on endorsing programs and the discussion held on the ranking process and it's impact on soils that are typical for vineyards. The county may possibly develop a comprehensive plan, and may hire a community planner.
 - **Ag Business** – The markets are up and down – very busy time of year.
- **Old Business:**
 - **Seneca Falls water line** – will continue, as Seneca Falls is using private donations from the landfill. The suggestion was made to contact Ag & Markets to see what their stand is on the water line, then have a discussion with Seneca Falls and Peter Same. Kevin motioned that Doug, Kevin (on behalf of Farm Bureau), and Patsy should meet with Peter. Dave seconded. The motion was then revised; Doug, Kevin, or Shawn should contact Peter Same to see what Seneca Falls is doing, and contact Ag & Markets to see if the project is ok. This revised motion was seconded by Dave; motion passed.
 - **PDR** – The board discussed the PDR proposals and the resolution going in front of the Board of Supervisors.
- **New Business:**
 - **Meeting w/county manager** – Doug and Shawn met with Suzanne Sinclair, the new county manager for Seneca County. They discussed the participation of county representatives on the board, PDR's, and ag district updates. Doug said that the meeting went well.

- **PDR** – the board discussed the scoring sheet and possibly tweaking the scores for better competition of vineyards, so that they can compete more evenly with farms with better soils, as their crops tend to do better on poorer soils. Keith moved to revise the scoring sheet to include vineyards, wineries, ect. Dave seconded; motion passed.
 - **Stone quarry** – the issue is ag land in Fayette. The quarry has allowed the use of barns on the quarry to obtain the ag tax rate on those buildings. Some local farms do use them. The quarry is losing this tax rate, and is planning on tearing down the barns due to high taxes.
 - **Seneca Falls water line** – Shawn talked about the project. Ag & Markets wanted Seneca Falls to concede that land would not be developed if they allowed the water line to proceed. Seneca Falls refused, and indicated that their funding for the project was private. As such, Ag & Markets had no recourse, and approved the project. The board is planning on contacting Peter Same for closure on the issue.
- **Adjourn** – Dave moved to adjourn – Keith seconded – adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Wadhams