

SENECA COUNTY  
AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT BOARD  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting  
9/5/7

- **Call to order** by Jeff Cassim at 19:20
- **Members Present:** Harriet Haynes, Jeff Cassim, Greg Wadhams, Kevin Swartley, Doug Frier Other members: Shawn Bossard, Mike Dennis
- **Previous Meeting Minutes** Motion to accept by Kevin, second by Greg, discussion; Harriet: correction, Dave Kaiser not listed under “members present”. Jeff made motion to accept minutes with additions and corrections, all in favor.
- **Ex Officio reports**
  - County planning rep: Harriet, resolution at the county level for farmland protection plans in two towns in the county. The county grant writer is working on a plan (application) for Junius and Lodi, two towns with the least amount of land use regulation in place. Lodi is interested in this related to the national forest. Discussion ensued on the use of digital tax maps. Harriet made a motion to the board for a letter of support for the Lodi and Junius farmland protection plans. Will re-visit under new business.
  - Real Properties rep: none
  - Farm Bureau rep: Kevin, not present at last Farm Bureau meeting, however, the big issue is that the Indian land claim doesn’t proceed any further. Currently planning for the annual meeting. This is the time when members submit proposals for policy change(s) at the state level. If anyone has any please send to Kevin (Seneca County FB VP).
  - Environmental rep: (rep not present) Discussion ensued however on lake friendly farmer signage; also the state committee working with Phil Griswold at SWCD and Seneca CCE on some more AEM in the county. This continuation of work would do so via CCE. Shawn commented that it was a toss up if this work would continue based on discussion amongst state and county agencies involved.
  - Board of Supervisors rep: none
  - Agri-buisness rep: Jeff Cassim, already gearing up for 2008. Wheat prices very high and expected to be next summer at harvest, seed prices for other commodities expected to go up. Farmers are encouraged to get their orders for inputs in now!
  - Farmer rep: Greg, buying of last years hay due to shortage of this years crop while also buying in product from out of the area; Doug, volume at the farm about one half compared with the average year.

- CCE: Shawn, ag district renewal is moving along as well as integrating the process with ARCview computer program. Currently putting together letters for Doug's (Purchase of Development rights) PDR. Public meetings are being set up for ag district renewal. This notice will also be printed in the county CCE newsletter. He will work closely with county planning to set the date and publish it in local media outlets. Harriet will meet with Shawn to put some dates on the calendar. A discussion and visual of layout of district maps in ARC View to produce a visually cleaner map having visible only the map characteristics that we need.

- **Old Business**

- Review central ag district – Some of this discussion was done prior to start of tonight's meeting, i.e. getting acquainted with format of arc view. Kevin, parts of depot need to be entered into the district? Harriet, as long as Depot still in IDA there is not a tax advantage. Kevin commented that protection under ag district law would be the incentive. Shawn highlighted different map layers that he has for central district on the computer. A light discussion ensued on these different views and how the images look. Shawn took the group through the different screen views that may be shown. For example ranking soils based on productivity. Presentation maps will be needed for the public hearing. Maps need to be altered and made viewer friendly, i.e. remove the thick boundary lines and integrate the soils into the ag district, properties needing to be removed, properties that are in, town boundaries, etc. Also large and small hard copies of maps are needed for the public meeting in addition to the electronic presentation.
- Doug's PDR application – Jeff inquired to the status of Doug's PDR application and the Fayette planning board. Doug – have a letter from Judy Wright and from himself plus Shawn will send a letter to Judy on behalf of AEB. Everything else appears to be in order if all is carried through correctly.

- **New Business**

- Harriet, requesting a letter of support for the Lodi and Junius farmland protection plan grant applications, motion by Harriet, second by Kevin, discussion followed. Letter to ag and markets referencing both grants and that the AEB supports these applications. This letter also needs to go to county planning. Harriet will send a draft to Shawn. Greg advises that towns are Cc'd on this, no further discussion, all in favor.
- Side discussion related to term of board president. Shawn reviewed when the term of each present expires and for those that expire at years end. Harriet asked about ex-officio spots. Shawn commented that there are four year terms and will look into how new members are solicited. Harriet suggested that the local CCE and Farm Bureau newsletters carry a blurb to ask for new members. Shawn read verbatim the by-laws regarding term length and limits for regular and ex-officio members, nominees will go

before board of supervisors. All members whose term is due to expire are interested in continuation of service. Doug would move into the president position.

- **Adjourn** Motion to adjourn by Kevin, second by Jeff at 20:38
- **Next meeting** Next meeting will be on Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 19:00.

Respectfully Submitted

Mike Dennis  
CCE Seneca County