

Franklin Township Agricultural Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 15, 2007
Minutes

1. **Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.** At 8:07 Chairman Puskas called the meeting to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.
2. **Roll call.** Present were members Marshall, Hasner, Puskas, Manioudakis and Consultant Loos.
3. **Approval of the January 18, 2006 minutes.** Upon a motion by Hasner, seconded by Marshall, a motion carried to approve the January 18, 2007 minutes.
4. **Financial report.** Loos reviewed the financial report. There is \$25,425,704.17 left in the trust fund. Loos explained that he is still attempting to track down a proper accounting of all grant funds received to date. Upon a motion by Hasner, seconded by Marshall, the committee approved a motion to approve the financial report.
5. **Meeting opened to the public for comment.** Upon a motion by Hasner, seconded by Marshall, the committee approved a motion to open the meeting to the public. No members of the public spoke. Upon a motion by Hasner, seconded by Manioudakis, the committee approved a motion to close the meeting to the public.
6. **Presentation by the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC).** TAC Chairman reviewed a draft plan for pathways and trails that the TAC has prepared. Members of the AAC raised 20 issues that they asked the TAC to review and take into consideration. Clyde indicated that he would take these back to the TAC, have them reviewed and, upon the request of Puskas, Clyde indicated that he would come back to the AAC's April meeting to discuss further.
7. **Old Business**
 - a. **PIG report.** The committee reviewed a list of pending farmland preservation acquisitions.
 - b. **Agricultural Ombudsman.** Puskas asked about the status of the township appointing an agricultural ombudsman who would be the person on township staff who might assist farmers negotiating their way through the township bureaucracy on matters such as obtaining sign permits and constructing agricultural buildings. Loos said that he had discussed this concept with Township Manager Ken Daly and Mr. Daly was supportive. The AAC suggested that Vince Dominich be the ombudsman. Loos will talk to Mr. Daly at a meeting on March 19 to see whom the Township has so designated.
8. **New Business.**

SADC's proposed new rules for Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) grants. The committee began a discussion of creating new PIG project areas for the purpose of applying for a new SADC-funded PIG grant program. The committee discussed expanding the current PIG Area-1 a bit north in order to include several farms along Elizabeth and Cedar Grove Lane in the

project area. Hasner suggested that the AAC review a list of all Q-farms the AAC's next meeting in order to properly designate the appropriate project areas. Loos will bring maps that will show all Q-farms in the township to the next meeting. He will also get and bring to the next meeting a printout of all Q-farms that will show owners, block and lot and acres on the farm.

9. Executive Session. Upon a motion by Hasner, seconded by Marshall, the committee passed a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the status of pending farm preservation negotiations. The committee came out of Executive Session at 10:10 PM.

10. Adjournment. Upon a motion by Hasner, seconded by Ricketts, a motion carried to adjourn at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant