

Minutes for January 8, 2015 Farm Advisory Board Meeting 9:30-11:30 AM at Scott County Highway Facility

The January FAB meeting was called to order by Dave Minar.
The meeting was begun with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees:

Farmers: Dave Minar, Florence Minar, Jim Prokes, Victoria Ranua, Gerald Williams, Rob Casey, Lance Schmitt, Jennifer Jensen

Commissioners: Joe Wagner, Tom Wolf

I. Any additions to the agenda? - none.

II. Welcome to new member – Lance Schmitt

We welcomed Lance Schmitt to the FAB. Lance and his family live in Sand Creek Twp. They raise meat goats, laying hens and meat rabbits. Their children are involved in 4H and Lance also serves on the County Fair Board.

Victoria Ranua is planning to join the FAB. Her paperwork is “in-process” and we look forward to her officially joining during the March 2015 meeting. She is a Bee Keeper from Shakopee. She also raises fruit trees and chickens and teaches a Guided Bee Keeping class, during which she coaches others who are interested in the art of beekeeping.

II. Reports

1. Commissioner’s report:

- *Com. Wagner reported that the Board was settling into working with newly elected official, Commissioner Mike Beard. (replaced Dave Menden)*
- *New activity with Jordan Aggregates regarding the Hentges Pit.*
- *Further discussions ensue about fixing Cty Rd 60 in Blakeley.*
- *Discussions about the land east of Elko and the proposed entertainment center. One question that still floats about is regarding who pays for infrastructure development and improvements.*
- *There has been no movement regarding a new potential County gas tax.*
- *Discussions and concerns about the intersection of Cty 2 and Cty 15. This is a dangerous intersection. Com. Wagner stated that it is slated for a Roundabout in 2019.*

2. Report from Brad Davis

- *Planning Department report – Brad Davis was not present.*

3. Report on SHIP - Lori Pint was not present.

4. Subcommittee assignments and reports.

- **Outreach/Education** (Dave & Florence) – *It was decided to have some sort of representation at the 2015 Scott County Fair. Either in the form of a booth or large poster explaining who the FAB is and what we do and represent. This*

Minutes for January 8, 2015 Farm Advisory Board Meeting 9:30-11:30 AM at Scott County Highway Facility

would be in the bldg. where the County presents all its services and other County affiliated groups.

- **Zoning ordinance**/liaison to planning and zoning dept (William & Gerald) – *Gerald stated that there are 3-4 40 acre lots available for sale in Cedar Lake Twp. The request by a private party to start a winery and wedding barn is on hold. Concerns by residents about too much local traffic on their road. Dust issues. The recommendation would be to blacktop the road going to the winery, but this would be very costly to the winery.*
- *Gerald indicated that the County is pushing for more development.*
- *There was also discussion about the county having too many gravel roads.*
- **Membership**
 - *We welcomed new member Lance Schmitt*
 - *We will plan promotion of the FAB at the County Fair, in anticipation of recruiting new members.*
- **Legislative** –*no report.*
- **Communications**

*FarmSCENE – Discussion took place on what the intent of what the FarmSCENE **page** should include, verses what content should be included in the **FAB column**.*

Recommendations #1 -The FAB column should be void of self-promoting business and should be reserved for issues related to all farming. Including issues related to roads, trees, farm tax issues and land matters. For example, county ditches: the cleaning of, improving of and appropriate times to mow. Is the mowing for noxious weeds? Cutting for baling into livestock feed and cutting after the clovers flower to keep more food sources for the honeybees. Other farming related issues would include: drain tiling and effective use of filter strips.

Recommendation #2- The FarmSCENE page should include existing promotion given to 4H, the County Fair, AutumnFare, gardening, but also provide a link to a webpage that provides information on buying local food. There has been an uptick in the demand for local foods. The SHIP initiative is example of that demand. The upcoming SCENE should put out a “Call to all Farmers” interested in selling to the public the food produced on their farm/acreage. Not everyone that sells locally is listed in the MN Grown Directory. This resource would be specific to the Scott County residents. This link to a Local Foods resource is appropriate as being promoted by the County and included in the Spring issue of the SCENE.

III. Goals for the FAB in 2015

1. **To improve outreach and education by displaying a poster and/or having a booth at the 2015 Scott County fair**
2. **Invite Mike Beard to an upcoming FAB meeting**
3. **Invite Ron Hocevar to an upcoming FAB meeting**
4. **FAB continues to support the idea and concepts of the AutumnFare**

**Minutes for January 8, 2015 Farm Advisory Board Meeting
9:30-11:30 AM at Scott County Highway Facility**

- 5. FAB will present farming related recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners at least one time per year and on an as-needed basis.**
- 6. To more formally decide a definition of what the FAB is, so this can be included in communication pieces like the SCENE and in the display at the County Fair.**

IV. New Items:

V. Action Items

- Submit info for next SCENE issue
- Coordinate sub-committee to work on County Fair booth/poster
- Write short bio/description of the FAB and approve by FAB members

VI. Future agenda items-open discussion

VII. Next meeting dates

- March 5 – Metro Council update, Sheriff, DNR on rules regarding ATV farm use; Jason Swenson - Natural Resources department to discuss possible ordinance amendments to grading and erosion control that will be of interest to farming community.
- July 9 – Mark Themig, Patty Freeman – Scott County Parks update
- November 5 – Metro Council update