

Minutes for March 5, 2015 Farm Advisory Board Meeting
9:30-11:30 AM at Scott County Highway Facility

Present: Dave and Florence Minar, Jennifer Jensen, Ann Houghton, Lance Schmitt, Victoria Ranua, Jason Swenson, Tom Wolf, Gerald Williams, Joe Wagner, Wendy Wulff, Lynda Boudreau from Rep John Klines office, Abby Neu, William Busacker, Brad Davis, Deputy Todd Beck

I. Any additions to the agenda? Approve FAB Recommendation form, Ag Ext to speak, Deputy report on ATV farm use

II. Welcome to new member – Victoria Ranua

III. Acceptance of new members and election of new officers

New FAB Chair person- Ann Houghton

New FAB Vice Chair- Lance Schmitt

New FAB Sec-Victoria Ranua

III. Reports

1. Commissioner's report:

- There is still debate about the ½ cent gas tax for transportation projects
- Renaissance looking for new location
- Gravel pit issue-Planning dept denied their request.

2. Report from Brad Davis

- Planning Department report- reported a general downturn in housing and building development. Permit activity low
- Brad reviewed the Regional Wastewater System plan. Comments due 3/20/15.

3. Report on SHIP (Lori Pint is the FAB representative on SHIP Committee)

FFA is back in Jordan schools

Improving Jordan school gardens

There is a strong demand for a local foods directory.

4. Subcommittee assignments and reports.

- Outreach/Education (Dave & Florence) Changed to Victoria and Jennifer as Directory Sub-Committee
- Zoning ordinance/liaison to planning and zoning dept (William & Gerald)
Reported new development about the pipeline. A pumping station is scheduled for Helena /CedarLake twps
- Membership – any updates about recruitment, other issues? Any changes to by-laws needed regarding new members? Changes were discussed to loosen the membership requirements. All applicants will still go through a discussion process and vote by present FAB members.

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- Communications/FarmSCENE (Ann and Jennifer) (see bottom of this document for standard FarmSCENE items)
 - Report on conversation with Lisa Kohner regarding the FarmSCENE column?
- Legislative

III. Discussion with Wendy Wulff from the Metro Council

1. Status of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan-1)Sewer plans have been pushed out 10 years. 2) focus is on a) water for irrigation is important c) water reuse & sustainability of water supply
2. Grants for water reuse have not been decided on how to distribute.
3. You can view or download the plan here:
<http://www.metrocouncil.org/Planning/Projects/Thrive-2040.aspx>
4. Q & A
Thrive MSP 2040- the Housing Policy passed.
New council members: Deb Barber, Gail Dorfmann, Kara Latoffsee

IV. Discussion with Deputy Todd Beck – Scott County Sheriff's Office

- Update on ATV laws and exceptions for farm use

IV. New Items:

- Jason Swenson from the Natural Resources department will discuss possible ordinance amendments to grading and erosion control that will be of interest to farming community

Jason presented language, which FAB members decided to change. Jason will propose the FAB recommended language at the Monday Planning Commission Meeting. Proposed language: ~~Drain tiling, tilling, planting, or harvesting of agricultural, horticultural, or silvicultural (forestry) crops.~~ Agricultural activities, including tilling, plowing, discing, drain tiling and planting activities for agriculture, horticulture, or silverculture, including projects where up to five-hundred (500) cubic yards of material are imported or exported.

This would address the concern about not regulating internal soil movement and drain tiling.

V. Follow-up Items from Last FAB Meeting

1. How and who will get the space or banner up at the Fair to promote FAB?
2. Coordinate sub-committee to work on County Fair booth/poster
3. How do we pay, if at all...if this is something the county is encouraging (SHIP dollars used??) Or reference 2030 Comp plan goals of how the county stated that they would support this type of thing...
4. Ideas for the Recommendation from the FAB would stem from discussions/concerns at the FAB meetings
5. FAB Description:

From the Scott County web site:

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"Farm Advisory Board

In 2009, a Scott County Farm Advisory Task Force was established to help the County shape policy and form recommendations regarding the long-term future of farming. The overall purpose of the task force was to:

- Raise awareness and provide input into Scott County's long-range land use, transportation, utility, growth management and natural resource plans as they relate to farming.
- Advise County decision-makers on solutions, approaches, plans or studies dealing with the County's 2030 Vision and goal of determining the long-term future of farming.
- Provide a forum for farmers and others interested in enhancing and promoting the long-term viability of agriculture.

In 2011, the Task Force reorganized as the Farm Advisory Board. The group consists of farmers, local officials, and interested residents. The group meets quarterly to continue representing the agricultural community."

6. If we get a banner made, then we'll need a logo. Having a logo would make our group look more official and professional and real. How do we pay for it? How do other county groups that display and promote their cause or group pay for the space, literature, banners, posters, etc...?

VI. Future agenda items-open discussion

- FAB could invite the various Chambers of Commerce for more ag promotion on a private level. Angie Whitcomb at Shakopee.
- Agri tourism in Scott County. Let's find out the best group to work with, etc...(Chamber of Commerce, etc..)
- Other ideas?

VII. Next meeting dates

- July 9 – Mark Themig, Patty Freeman – Scott County Parks update
- November 5 – Metro Council update

Standard FarmSCENE ideas for inclusion:

- Communicate the FAB proceedings and activities and promote agriculture. We should report on proceedings of the meetings without giving opinions.
- State something like "here's what this group is about – preserving open land.
- Encourage more people to come to the meetings remind them that this is a forum where they can voice their concerns and questions.
- We need more members and are looking for new ideas.
- Upcoming FAB meeting dates and topics
- Link to the FAB web site with past meetings minutes