



**ACME TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, March 06, 2006, 4:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to Order at 4:07 p.m.

Members present: B. Carstens, W. Kladder, R. Sayler, N. Veliquette
Members excused: B. Garvey (Chair), K. Engle,
Staff present: N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary
Also present: B. Bourdages, Farmland Preservation

1. Review of County Scoring Criteria – Resolution of Support to GT County Board?

Bourdages handed out the GT County Farmland Preservation Scoring System that recently was used. The objective of this rating system is to help prioritize farmland parcels which should be preserved for agricultural uses. After all parcels have been scored, the Grand Traverse County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program will then review and evaluate the highest scoring parcels and recommend to the County Board of Commissioners parcels for their approval to proceed with the purchase of agriculture conservation easements. Six farms were selected. Two from the Peninsula, two from Acme Township and two from Antrim County. There are several components that are evaluated; agricultural characteristics, size of parcel, agricultural productivity, development pressure, proximity to protected farmland and open space and natural resources/tourism values.

Bourdages said it was a very fruitful review. As this was a draft; corrections could be made in the process. Sayler also took part in the review.

MOTION BY VELIQUETTE. SECONDED BY KLADDER TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO GT COUNTY BOARD SCORING CRITERIA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Identification of Township Specific Needs for Application Round – Next Steps for the Committee, staff and timeline.

Bourdages wants to ensure the establishment of funds available for PDR by the Township Board. He will be sitting down with Corpe in the next few weeks to begin this process.

Bourdages wants to develop outreach strategy for township landowners. Kladder commented that larger landowners go first but would like to encourage the smaller farms to participate; “All things being equal”.

Veliquette commented that we meet monthly until this application process is completed. He suggested that we meet after the County Board meeting which is the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting has tentatively set for Wednesday March 22, at 4:00 p.m.

MOTION BY SAYLER. SECONDED BY CARSTENS TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 17, 2006, MEETINGS MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:35 p.m.