

**Jefferson County
Farmland Protection Board
Minutes
February 19, 2001**

Present: Jack Quinn, Joe Osterman, Roger Dailey, Janet Stine, Jane Tabb, Jane Peters and Shannon Donley.

Others: Effie Kallas, Jim Keel, Ward Zigler and Craig Yohn.

Old Business

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Janet Stine reported on appearance before the County Commission requesting funding:

1. \$10,000 was approved by the County Commission contingent upon receipt of a \$20,000 grant from a proposal that will be put forth by Senator John Unger in the legislative digest.
2. Administrative funding: \$2500.00 was also approved by the County Commission.

There was discussion on whether to use the county purchase order system or the setting up of a separate account.

Roger Dailey discussed bonding and liability for the treasurer with Smith/Nadenboush. The Farmland Protection Board is covered by the County's bonding and liability insurance through the West Virginia Board of Risk Management.

Actual Funds in the treasury: \$0.00

Roger Dailey and Effie Kallas met with David Layva and he will do pro bono work on the Protection Board's 501(c) 3 incorporation.

Farmland Assessment status for Jefferson County land is still in progress with Shepherd College student. This should be completed by March 1st.

The farmland preservation plan has had additional work done by Janet Stine on Chapter 3. It was suggested by Joe Osterman that Janet Stines revision of Chapter 3 and Craig Yohn's edits should be completed and sent out prior to the next meeting. The board will evaluate how much information should be included in this document. The next step would be to develop criteria for land protection.

The bylaws are currently under review by the prosecuting attorney. Roger Dailey will check on the progress of his review.

New Business

President Shannon Donley appointed a committee responsible for fundraising. Janet Stine was appointed as chair. Other appointments were Joe Osterman, Roger Dailey, Effie Kallas and Jane Peters. President Donley also appointed a committee to begin the process of developing the criteria for land evaluation for protection. Appointed to that committee were Jack Quinn (chair), Ward Zigler, Dr. Keith Berkeley, Jane Tabb, Mike Magaha and Bob Henshaw.

Roger Dailey explained an email address through a site called bigfoot which will distribute incoming messages to 5 individual mailboxes. A motion was made by Roger Dailey, seconded Joe Osterman to sign up for this free email and distribute messages to the officers. The vote was unanimous.

Janet Stine reported that the Secretary of Agriculture, Gus Douglass, has submitted a budget for \$3.5 million dollars for agriculture business development. Part of this is earmarked for farmland protection. He has also requested funding for a person to be assigned to the state farmland protection authority.

Jim Keel, President of the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle discussed how it preserves land and open space through the use of conservation easements. They at present have had three donations and have another seventeen in waiting. Mr. Keel discussed what criterion is used to evaluate land. He also discussed how the trust must over see the land and make sure it is managed as the landowners had intended. There may also be several opportunities for collaboration including the co holding of conservation easements. Mr. Keel presented a check for \$1000.00 to the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 13th - Meeting with the Eastern Panhandle Soil Conservation District and the three Farmland Protection Boards in Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan Counties.

March 31st - NCTC, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Steve Small on Easements and tax laws.

April 7th - The Woods 2:00 - 4:00, sponsored by the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle to discuss how they may help the Tri-County Protection Boards.

A Proposed budget will be discussed at the next meeting March 5th, 7:00 pm.

Jack Quinn moved and Janet Stine seconded that the meeting be adjourned.