

**Jefferson County
Farmland Protection Board
Minutes
April 15, 2002**

Present: Joe Osterman, Roger Dailey, Janet Stine, Jane Peters ,and Jane Tabb.

Not Present: Shannon Donley and Jack Quinn.

Others: Craig Yohn.

The minutes were approved with a motion by Roger Dailey, seconded by Janet Stine.

Treasurers Report: The report was given. A request was made for \$2500 in the County Commission Budget. This request was approved. This will be used for operating expenses and the development of promotional materials. There was also discussion about the attributes of joining the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. A motion was made by Joe Osterman, seconded by Janet Stine to join the Chamber of Commerce. Motion passed. Roger Dailey also stated that the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board has its own Post Office Box in Charles Town - Box 731. Roger Dailey and Jane Peters will have keys.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Farmland Protection Plan - The Farmland Protection Plan was reviewed. A motion was made by Joe Osterman, seconded by Janet Stine to accept the Farmland Protection Plan and forwarded it to the Jefferson County Commission for their approval. Motion passed. Jane Tabb will check on the need to have a public hearing.

Fund Raising - Janet Stine said she would be meeting with Commissioner of Agriculture, Gus Douglas and she asked if the Farm Protection Board had any specific questions for him?

1. What are the specific uses of the \$60,000 needed to create a State Farmland Protection Authority?
2. Will you impede the flow of dollars to the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board if the State Authority is not in place?

No further action was recommended at this time on the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan.

Two tours were discussed, as there is the opportunity to promote the work of the Board. A farm tour has been organized by Jane Tabb to visit five farms (Funkhouser, Houghs, YorkHill, Burns & Tabbs) on Saturday, June 22nd. A second tour of barns is being organized by Bill Theriault in October.

There was some discussion about the need to develop agreements with agencies to provide expertise for the criteria used in the Farmland Protection Plan. Craig will be doing further correspondence with the Forest Service.

New Business

Lavonne Paden will be asked to meet with us and address the tax advantages of participating in a Farmland Protection Program.

Craig Yohn will contact Joyce E. McConnell, a professor of law and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at West Virginia University College of Law. She teaches property and land use conservation specifically conservation easements. Ms. McConnell works with local government, community organizations, landowners and developers on conservation issues.

Next Meeting - May 20th

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.