

ADAMS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Minutes of Regular Meeting

December 7, 2022

Attendance:

Members -Attending In-person:

Craig Yingling, George Taughinbaugh, Chad Collie, Doyle Waybright, Sidney Kuhn, and Dave Wenk

Members -Attending by phone:

Ben Mearns and George Weikert

Absent:

Dave Boyer

Staff-Attending in-person:

Kelly Koch and LeighAnn Abraham

Staff-Attending by phone:

Mark Clowney and Ellen Dayhoff (attended late)

Staff - Absent:

None

Guests:

None

The December 7, 2022 meeting of the Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Board commenced at 7:32 pm in the Planning Office Conference Room at the Adams County Agricultural & Natural Resources Center.

I. Board Business

A. Approval of November 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Taughinbaugh made a motion to approve the September 7, 2022 ACALPB minutes as written. Mr. Wenk seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

B. Public Comments

None

C. New Business

Mark shared information about the Adams County Broadband Connectivity Initiative (a joint project with Franklin County). Adams County wants to bring affordable, high-speed, high-performance internet services to all residents and businesses. A survey is

currently being conducted and participation is encouraged. The survey is available on the Adams County website and hard copies are available in township offices.

D. Budget 2023

Donation Update: Donor is unknown.

Budget should be adopted within the next two weeks.

E. Legislative Updates

1. PA Farm Bureau Updates:

- a. 2023 Farm Bill. Also, a group will be organized at State level to review issues.
- b. Russell Redding, Secretary for Agriculture for the Commonwealth, is planning on retiring after his term is up. He contacted Ellen and asked for recommendations for his replacement. If the board has any thoughts, please see Ellen Dayhoff.
- c. Dave Wenk mentioned increase in staff turnover at PA Farm Bureau due to retirement, etc. They recently voted in a new president, Chris Hoffman from Juniata County.

II. Updates

A. Township Updates

1. Mt. Joy Township – Ellen met with Christine Demas at Mt. Joy Township. Preservation program was reviewed, and our hope for township involvement was expressed. Positive meeting.
2. A letter to all the townships who have applications in the top 50% will be sent out by the end of the year. It will include Round 15 applications in their municipality that qualify for the Township Participation Program and they can participate along with past examples from various municipality participation with the county. – Craig reviewed and signed the letter which will include maps showing Round 15 applications (highlighting those in the top 50%) and protected lands.

B. LCAC Updates

No updates.

C. Parks Recreation and Green Space Grant Program Update

1. Conewago – two projects done.
2. Hamiltonban - received their check to begin parking lot.

D. Eisenhower Drive Extension Project - No decisions until Fall 2022.

Executive Session Opened.

III. Round 14 Financial Report and Status Report

A. Township Involvement Updates

1. Conewago and Union - Two surveys received, and both are at the attorney's office getting a legal description. We are waiting on three Union Township surveys.
2. Cumberland - Appraisal has been ordered for XIV-25, which is a joint easement with Cumberland Township.

B. Federal Applications

Three Federal applications XIV27, XIV28 and XIV31 will be presented at the December 15, 2022 State Board meeting.

IV. Round 15 - Please refer to Round 15 Ranking Report

A. Final Ranking – update and Action

Protected Lands Map shared with BOD, which included Round 15 applications and highlighted the top 20 farms (phase 1).

Stewardship: There was a lengthy discussion regarding farm XV-33 and the lack of conservation practices though the farm ranked 8th in Round 15. It is questionable whether there will be follow through on any of the conservation concerns. Mark reviewed scoring of the farm. Kelly and Ellen shared their concerns with the BOD. Discussion regarding options.

Ellen will be contacting other counties to see if they have dealt with an issue like this as well as speaking with the State Board and our solicitor, Molly Mudd.

B. Final Raking Letter

Letters (reviewed by Craig Yingling) will be sent to Top 20 Farms as well as the remaining applicants with their final LESA Results worksheet.

Executive Session Closed and Call for Action as Needed

V. Executive Session Action Items

Round 15- Action to approve final ranking

Mr. Wenk made a motion to accept Round 15 rankings as presented; Ms. Kuhn seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Wenk made a motion for staff to move forward on the top 4 ranking applications in First Quarter 2023; Mr. Collie seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Wenk made a motion to adjourn the December 7, 2022 ACALPB meeting at 8:50 pm. Mr. Collie seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



LeighAnn Abraham, Secretary