

ADAMS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD
Minutes of Virtual Meeting (due to COVID-19 restrictions)
March 3, 2021

Attendance:

Members – Attending in-person:

Chair Craig Yingling

Members – Attending by phone or computer:

Vice-Chair Dave Wenk, Chad Collie, Dave Boyer, Deb Kammerer, Sidney Kuhn, George Taughinbaugh, Doyle Waybright

Absent:

Wayne Smith

Staff – Attending in-person:

Mark Clowney, Ellen Dayhoff, Cindy Sanderson

Staff – Attending by phone or computer:

Kelly Koch

Absent: None

Guests: None

The March 3, 2021 meeting of the Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Board commenced at 7:34 p.m. in the Planning Department Conference Room for in-person attendees and via WebEx for virtual/phone access.

I. Board Business

A. Approval of January Minutes

Mr. Wenk made a motion that the ACALPB approve the January 6, 2021 minutes. Mr. Waybright seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

B. Public Comments – none present

C. Board Member Replacements

- * Two positions are being vacated (Ms. Kammerer and Mr. Smith – both are Citizen Members.)
- * Nine applications were received.
- * Several thoughts were expressed on how to choose among the candidates; another woman would be good, what area of the County the candidate is from to try and cover the entire County
- * Possibly have each ACALB member submit their Top 3 choices and then two, with majority ‘votes’ would move forward.
- * Ellen suggested a Sub-Committee to choose several out of the nine to present to the ACALPB for their approval, and then the approvals could be taken to the Commissioners for their decision/approval.
- * Molly noted the current Board members could provide brief guidelines to use in the evaluations, as well as several recommendations. She also noted when the candidates that are not chosen are notified, they should be encouraged to apply again, should an opening be available in the future.

Much Discussion.

- * A Sub-Committee was established to review all the applications and input received from current ACALPB members. (Mr. Yingling, Mr. Waybright, Mr. Wenk, and Ellen will serve on this Sub-Committee.)
- * Board members will be asked, via email, to provide their Top 3-4 choices to Cindy, along with their thoughts on criteria to consider. A deadline for these responses will be set that will allow the Sub-Committee time to review everyone’s input and discuss/determine the Top 3 for ACALPB approval at the April 7th ACALPB meeting. Then the Top 3 will be presented to the Commissioners for their final decision/approval of the two successful candidates who will assume the positions being vacated.

D. 2021 County Budget Update

1. Stewardship Issues/ C&G Funding

- * This discussion was tabled to allow time for other Agenda Items and discussions needed.

2. State Annual Financial Report

- * Ellen reviewed the revised State Allocation handout.
- * Board members asked why the numbers are lower this year. Ellen replied there are several reasons but mostly due to interest rates being lower; however, Adams County did better this year than expected.
- * Mark noted the 'Redistributed' column. Ellen explained – these are funds that were allocated to Counties the previous year but did not get spent. The unused funds are distributed to all of the Counties that did spend their allocation. She noted that Adams has never “lost” any of our state funds.

E. Legislative Updates

1. Farm Bureau Policy Committee

- * Mark reviewed highlights of State-funded projects.
- * Mr. Wenk noted the updates are available – Mark will send the information via email.

2. SB 64

- * The first part of this Bill would provide State-allocated farmland preservation funding (\$2.5M) to be set aside for use by land trusts.
- * The idea is to leverage local private monies to support farmland preservation by land trusts; the land trust would apply for reimbursement after the project is completed.
- * Staff is concerned that the larger land trusts in the State may capitalize these funds and smaller land trusts would not gain from this Bill.
- * It does not guarantee that a land trust will get the reimbursement; thus, the land trust would end up paying for the entire project, without reimbursement.
- * PFPA does not support this Bill.
- * The second part of SB 64 would increase the land trust reimbursement for expenses incurred. Currently Land Trusts can receive up to \$5,000/farm and it would increase that to \$10,000/farm. It would raise the overall amount available in the fund from \$200,000 to \$500,000.
- * Staff supports this part of the Bill, noting expenses for preserving farms have risen sharply since this reimbursement was established.

Mr. Waybright made a motion that the ACALPB not support SB 64 in its current format. Mr. Wenk seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

II. Updates

A. Township Updates

1. Solar

- * Many farm owners are still being approached by solar companies, and not just in this area.
- * Ellen noted, along the Baltimore Pike corridor is currently a 'conditional use' area that solar companies are trying to get approval to use. Those hearings are ongoing.
- * Ellen and others participated in a Penn State webinar on Solar. Several attendees felt the presentation was 'more on the positive side' about solar and its effects.

2. Roadways

- * Mark mentioned, in some areas of Adams County, residents are concerned about the Amish traveling on roadways and locals are not used to watching out for them.
- * Possibly signage would help educate, both the locals and the Amish, on being more alert.
- * Sherri noted, in some counties, safety classes are held for the Amish to attend.

3. Cumberland Twp

- * Mark noted, Tom Clowney still updates him on Cumberland Twp issues/information.
- * Zoning issues are still ongoing; Sherri noted, COVID held up proceedings in several municipalities.

B. LCAC Updates

1. Annual Dinner

- * The 2021 Annual Dinner/Meeting will be a virtual Meeting (via 'Zoom'); consisting of several presentations, and Mark will lead a 'LCAC Trivia Game' throughout the Meeting (with prizes of gift certificates to local restaurants and establishments.)
- * Ellen's 'County Update' will be shown as a slideshow, beginning at 6:45 and running until the start of the Meeting at 7:00 pm. (The Meeting is expected to last approximately one hour.)
- * Anyone interested in joining in should register through this link: <https://www.preserveadams.org/annual-meeting>; or by calling 717-334-2828.

Executive Session opened, 8:16 pm

III. Round 13

A. Refer to the Round 13 Status/Financial Reports.

IV. Round 14

A. Refer to the Round 14 Financial Report.

1. Hanover Shoe Farms Applications

- * Possible Federal funding

2. Union & Conewago Townships Discussions

- * Possible partnering

B. Round 14 / Round 15

1. Applications XIV-68 and XIV-33

2. XIV-77 / Reading Township

Executive Session closed, 8:50 pm

V. Motions on Discussions during Executive Session

Section IV, B, 1

Mr. Waybright made a motion that the ACALPB authorize Ellen to move forward with applications XIV-68 (regular funding) and XIV-33 (Federal funding). Mr. Boyer seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Section IV, B, 2

Mr. Collie made a motion that the ACALPB authorize Ellen to contact Reading Township regarding a possible partnership with this Program to preserve XIV-77 along with XIV-68. Mr. Waybright seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Inspections, Transfers, Subdivision, Rural Enterprise Applications, Other Issues

A. LCAC Trail Project

- * Knouse Fruitlands requested a change in the location/direction of the Trail on the 'Thirsty Farmer' parcel.
- * This change will not take land out of production; a map was provided showing the original requested path and this revised path.

Mr. Wenk made a motion that the ACALPB grant approval of this revision to the location of the Trail. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

- * Board members asked where things stand with this project. There is no timeframe for its completion, and it is unclear if all landowners have signed their portions of the lease yet.

VII. Staff Updates & Comments – Nothing new at this time.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Wenk made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. Mr. Waybright seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sanderson, Secretary