

**Agricultural Conservation Easement
and
Farmland Protection Commission (ACE)
January 21, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman
Virginia Peschke, McHenry County Board
Brian Jenkner
Ken Bauman
Harry Alten, Jr.
Rob LaPorta

Members Absent

Barbara Wheeler, McHenry County Board
Lenore Beyer-Clow
Dan Ziller

Others Present

Dave Brandt, USDA-NRCS
Dave LaGue, MCCD
Maryanne Wanaski, P&D

Others Absent

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alten at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Peschke, seconded by Jenkner to approve the minutes of December 17, 2008.
All members present voted aye.

Public Participation

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

- The selection matrix was discussed and minor changes were made. A motion was made by Jenkner, seconded by Peschke to approve the presented selection matrix. All members present voted aye. Staff will email each member the approved matrix.
- Commission members also discussed the new Farm and Ranchland Protection Program's Final Rule emailed to all by Brandt. Members decided to have Brandt coordinate Bob McLeese's attendance at the Commission's March meeting [March 18th] for an in-depth review and discussion.
- Staff was directed to request Kate Halma join the Commission on February 18th.
- The "Revised Logo/Letterhead" agenda item was tabled until February.

NEW BUSINESS

- The SAO's memo was discussed and expanded to include a general discussion regarding tax write-offs for donators, non-profit status for the Commission, possible partnering with other non-profits and auditing requirements. This issue will be revisited at the Commission's next meeting as "Funding Partnerships".

- Staff brought to the Commission's attention several procedural matters.
 1. The ordinance establishing the Commission and subsequent amending ordinances needed to, once again, be amended to reflect the change to the County Board's Standing Committees. Where previously, the Agricultural Conservation and Farmland Protection Commission reported to the Planning & Development Committee of the County Board, under the new committee structure this Commission will now report to the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee.
 2. Per current ordinance language, terms of membership expired 1 April 2008. The Commission decided to suggest language to allow for staggered three (3) year terms starting 1 January 2009.
 3. New language was also suggested regarding election of officers.

Staff was asked to make the agreed upon changes, to email the revised ordinance to the membership and to forward to the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee for approval.

4. Lastly, the Commission's 7:30 p.m. meeting time was discussed. Commission members agreed to go back to the 7:00 p.m. time for subsequent meetings.

Staff will resend the schedule of meeting dates/times for 2009.

At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Jenkner, seconded by Peschke to adjourn. All present voted aye.