

SUMMARY

PDR Oversight Committee

September 19, 2008, 8 AM

Agricultural Service Center

6975 Hannegan Road

Members present: Rod Erickson, Veronica Wisniewski, John Gilles, Allison Aurand, Barbara Dykes (phone-in); Staff: Samya Lutz & Dean Martin, PDS; Henry Bierlink, Farm Friends

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

2. Review of minutes

The August 22, 2008 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

3. Discussion of current PDR transactions

The USDA contract funding 50% of PDR transactions is being extended for a few months in order to accommodate their change in reviewer that is delaying the 3 transaction closings. All three (Tjoelker, Bouchard and Bauthues) are due to be closed now in mid-October.

4. Discussion of other PDR activities

There was some discussion about possible applicants coming in for the next PDR round. Henry announced that significant tax benefits are available now for easement donations. There will be a meeting on the specifics of these benefits sometime in mid November. Henry will try to find out what the deadline is for folks to make decisions that would effect their 2008 taxes. The group was unsure whether this would effect the PDR applicant schedule, in terms of needing more time if applicants were interested in a bargain sale option. Veronica moved to open the round to new applications through the end of the year. John seconded. Motion carried.

5. Fall retreat

The Joint Ag Committees Retreat will be held at the old Johnson's Restaurant in Ferndale on Nov 1, from 9-1. Group discussed their interests in getting to talk about specific examples and strategies. John will ask around about facilitators (Craig MacConnell?).

6. Committee vacancies

Paul Schissler has officially applied for membership. The group emphatically accepted his membership.

7. Next committee meeting

No date was set for the next meeting. The group would like to discuss committee make-up of both the AAC & PDR OC, as well as ranking for the next PDR round (possible point threshold cut-off).

Signed,

Rod Erickson, Chair PDR Oversight Committee