

Wayne County Ag Success Team Minutes

April 20, 2011

In attendance: Ann Obrecht, Duane Wood, Brian Gwin, Katie Myers-Griffith, Ron Becker, Tom Stocksdale, Maryanna Biggio, Deana Hudgins, Karl Kanehl, Betsy Sparr, Jessica Eikleberry

Media: Bobby Warren (The Daily Record)

Treasurer's Report (Chris Finney-not in attendance) same balance as March, total \$4063.40

WEDC Report (Brian Gwin) – see Agriculture Update Winter '11 handout

BioHio Park Advisory Committee has formed a relationship with NorTech to create a Commercialization and Entrepreneur Support operational model.

ATECH has been working with the university to complete the Pounden Hall renovations. Brian suggested a future Ag Success Team meeting be held at Pounden Hall.

Brian has been working with Robert Recker, Cedar Valley Innovation, from Iowa to accomplish the Stinner Summit Project. Robert has been working on population guidance technology.

Steve Bosserman has been working on adding a Google platform to the LSF website.

Round Table

Betsy S. & Maryanna – ODA has decided to decentralize the AEPP program. This would mean that counties would be responsible for the selection and scoring of applicants. This would create issues at the local issue such as the loss of anonymity in relation to the applicants. The Wayne County Commissioners are not interested in taking on the ranking of applicants. This new process benefits large land conservancies.

Tom S. made a motion that the Ag Success Team send a letter to various entities including ODA, the Governor, etc. stating that local governments will not be interested in administering the AEPP program under these new guidelines. Dwayne W. seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Team.

Ann O. – The Association of Mohican Basin Landowners is a non-profit organization that was formed in February to educate landowners in regards to oil & gas lease agreements. They will be having a landowner meeting May 4, 2011 at 6:30 pm at Ripley Church of Christ in Big Prairie.

Jessica Eikleberry – March sales have doubled since March 2010. They need more off season production. Hosted three cheese making classes and they all sold out.

Ron B. – There will be a soils workshop the last week in June focusing on soil health and cover crops. They have hosted three gas and oil lease meetings so far and all have been well attended. Handouts from the meetings can be found on the website. Meeting with Tri-County on May 5 to discuss Farm to School program for Norwayne, Northwestern and Dalton.

Dwayne W. – SWCD tree and fish sales are completed for 2011.

Karl K. – There is an oil and gas lease meeting at Northwestern High School on April 20. West Salem is planning an industrial zone for the last vacant parcel of land in the village. They are hoping to attract ag related businesses to the area.

Katie – Ag atlases are completed and can be purchased for \$10/copy. Proceeds benefit the Countryside Conservancy. An old grocery store in the Highland Square area of Akron will be the site of a weekday farmers market. They have also submitted a request to Mustard Seed Market for a weekday farmers market in their parking lot.

Tom S. – Planning on having the annual Farm Tour mid to late May. There was an article in the Daily Record about Friends of 4-H.

Meeting Adjourned. Will send out next meeting request.