

Marion County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors Meeting – April 16, 2014
MINUTES

President John Zielinski called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was present:

Board Members Present

John Zielinski, President
Jeff Butsch
Roger DeJager
Bob Dettwyler
Brenda Frketich
Troy Hadley
Scott Miller
Joe Sherman
Connie Young

Guests:

Lon Young
Paul Kirsch, St. Paul
Doug Kramer, St. Paul
Monte Graham (formerly with NRCS)
Patti Milne, Marion County Commissioner

OFB Staff:

N/A

Staff:

Laureal Williams
Genoa Ingram

Not Present:

Greg Bennett
Kathleen Carl
Bruce Chapin
Dan Goffin

Consent Agenda

Minutes: Board members reviewed the minutes of the March 19, 2014, meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Brenda Frketich and seconded by Troy Hadley to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2014 as amended. **Motion passed.**

Financials: Staff reviewed the financial report, reporting little change from the March report. Although the final bill for the bus transportation has not arrived, it appears that the farm tour was a “break even” event.

MOTION: Moved by Troy Hadley and seconded by Brenda Frketich to approve the financial reports dated April 10, 2014, meeting as presented. **Motion passed.**

Guest Speaker

Marion County Commissioner Patti Milne discussed her resignation from the Commission, her upcoming legislative race for the Oregon State Senate District 11, and the appointment of her replacement as Marion County Commissioner. She also discussed her previous service in the legislature.

Guest Speaker

Monte Graham discussed problems with the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act (SB 1010 from the 1993 legislative session), including efforts to clean up streams and ponds. He suggested that Marion County Farm Bureau take the lead in changing how agencies administer the Act.

Membership Approvals:

Henry Lewis

The Board asked staff to contact the agent in an effort to determine Mr. Lewis’s level of farming.

Old Business:

25 Fields Letter: Staff reported that the letter expressing opposition to 25 Fields being located on 195 acres of land north of Chemawa Road, had been drafted and distributed and several responses had been received.

Farm Tour Recap: Board members who attended praised the effort for its informative nature and organization. Ideas were discussed for a tour in 2015.

Marion County Fire District 1:

Staff provided an update on Marion County Fire District 1, noting that the Codes Committee had met on March 25 and a work group would be formed to discuss restrictions relating to fall festival activities on farms. Staff will monitor activities closed to make certain MCFB has representation on the work group.

New Business:

Water for Agriculture: John distributed a flyer announcing a “Water for Agriculture in the Willamette Valley” workshop scheduled for April 29 which will focus on water issues facing the agricultural community including water supply, water quality, and endangered species concerns.

Coffee House Meetings: John reported on his plans to implement a series of meetings with MCFB members throughout Marion County to discuss issues, hear any concerns, and generally be more responsive to members.

Candidate Endorsement Schedule: The Board discussed various candidate races and what the process should be with regard to candidate interviews and endorsements. **By consensus**, the Board decided not to participate in the Primary, with one possible exception for Rep. Vic Gilliam, and as a general rule, when candidates are invited to appear before the Board, both sides will be included.

MOTION: Moved by Troy Hadley and seconded by Scott Miller to endorse Rep. Vic Gilliam for House District 18. **Motion Passed.**

Membership Drive

Bob Dettwyler distributed a list of membership talking points he had compiled and encouraged Board members to speak with farmers in their area and encourage them to join MCFB. Scott Miller discussed a letter he had sent to former members and offered to make the letter available to the Board.

OFB Advisory Committees:

Troy Hadley met with the Commodities and distributed the 2015 proposed legislative concepts from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Troy reviewed the concepts with the Board. Brenda Frketich added a brief update on the possibility of the inclusion of straw in the Food Safety Modernization Act, as well as grass seed screening. She also provided an update on the Jackson County GMO campaign.

YFR – Brenda Frketich

Brenda reported that at the County level, a dinner has been arranged with Rep. Vic Gilliam in Silverton. At the state level, a dinner was held with House Republican Leader Mike McLane and representatives of YFR attended the FFA Convention; YFR is coordinating with FFA on recruitment. Brenda discussed the use of social media to promote MCFB and the possibility of subscribing to an email list that can be sorted by zip code, voters, voters by party, etc. Brenda was given the go-ahead to create a Facebook page template.

Women’s Advisory Council – Connie Young

Connie reminded Board members about Ag Fest and reported on her trip to Tualatin to Hagar’s Foods where the group shopped for food needed at Ronald McDonald House. The Advisory Council is a major source of food and supplies.

May Agenda Items

Finalization of candidate questionnaire

Adjourn

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned 8:23 p.m.