

DRAFT

**AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION WORK GROUP
MEETING MINUTES**

March 5, 2008

1. **Attendance:** Thomas Dernoga, Stephanie DeVille-Eugene, William Moore, Boyd Campbell, Daniel Filippelli, Debra Naylor, Torben Agesen, Richard Krueger

2. **Meeting Agenda:**

I. **Approval of Minutes (February 6th and February 20th)**

Minutes approved.

Update on State Legislation

Chair Dernoga informed the members that the State bills discussed at previous meetings (PG 322-08, PG 421-08, and PG/MC 116-08 (SB 95/HB 939) were moving forward and he was not aware of any issues or concerns which would result in delays.

II. **Discussion**

• **Appointments to County Agricultural Advisory Boards**

This discussion continued from the prior meeting during which Chair Dernoga commented on his conversation with the appointments secretary regarding the expired terms of members of certain agricultural advisory boards and commissions. As previously suggested, Stephanie DeVille-Eugene presented a list of names recommended by the Farm Bureau as appointees to the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee. Daniel Filippelli and Boyd Campbell suggested that a formal letter

with a list of names be sent to the County Executive for his consideration.

Debra Naylor commented that she is pleased to see this moving forward because there has been concern among Farm Bureau members about ongoing communication with County officials after the Work Group has completed its work and is no longer meeting.

- **TDRs**

Philip Gottwals with Agricultural and Community Development Services (ACDS) presented information concerning TDR programs in other jurisdictions based on his experience with ACDS as economists. Mr. Gottwals indicated that successful TDR programs were not voluntary and tend to work best in a toolbox of other preservation tools. TDRs cycle heavily with the real estate market, and counter cycle with PDRs and real estate. Over time, PDRs and TDRs will work to fill in for each other.

A useful tool in some programs has been fee-in-lieu of required TDR purchase in which the funds are targeted to specific locations depending on visibility of the property, soils, and overall concentration of agricultural land. Mr. Gottwals mentioned a program in Pennsylvania where quarterly TDR auctions are held. He noted the importance of a balance on some ratio the number of sending rights to receiving areas. In addition, active management and active fiscal policy is important to make sure necessary infrastructure is in place in the receiving areas. Equity (fairness in the system) is also important for a successful program.

Mr. Gottwals will continue his presentation and respond to questions at the next meeting.

4. Next Meeting: March 26, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

5. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.