

MCHENRY COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2007

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chairman Bauman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Ron Bauman, Jeremy Shaw, Frank Harrison. Members absent: Charlie Eldredge. Staff present: SuzAnne Ehardt, Maryanne Wanaski, Marc McLaughlin

MINUTES: Minutes from 1-24-2007 approved by consensus

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Chairman Bauman handed out the goals and objectives for discussion. The majority of the meeting was devoted to the editing of the five objectives and the writing of a sixth objective. (See attached.) The subcommittee also talked about the definition of agriculture and how Subcommittee members should start to define and categorize it. It was decided that will be part of a focus for the Subcommittee's next meeting.

Consensus to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Approved 3-28-2007

Scope:

To identify the most productive agricultural land areas and adopt goals and objectives that will encourage their continuation as a viable economic resource.

Goal:

To preserve the most productive farmland, as a source for viable agricultural activities that enhance the county's economy and provide rural character.

Objectives:

1. Use LESA (productivity portion) to determine most productive land.
2. Maintain and protect the most productive agricultural lands where appropriate, by discouraging non-agricultural growth in these areas.
3. Encourage best management practices to reduce potential negative impacts to natural resources.
4. Support enactment of state and county programs that provide incentives and support land owners who choose farming as a way of life.
5. Recognize the cultural, social, recreational, conservation, economic, environmental and aesthetic benefits provided by agricultural land use.
6. Where and when appropriate, encourage development practices, such as conservation design, cluster development, etc. that promote agricultural preservation.