Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes
September 21, 2011

Members present: Donald Nicholson, Tom Boerger, Worth Pickard, Wayne Yarborough, Wayne Watson, Ed Angel, Mollie Whitaker, AK Griffin, Jane Barringer

Absent: Tony Ragan, Jerry Lemmond, Bill Manard

County staff present: Tommy Brooks, Seth Holt, Brenda Larson and Ann Billings

Opening Remarks: Donald Nicholson, Chair, called the meeting to order. No public comments.

Business:

Approval of Minutes – A quorum was established. Thomas Boerger made a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Ed Angel seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion unanimously passed.

Review of Approval of Applications – One application was presented to the board for approval:

Mary Lou Jones – 113.98 acres – Pocket Township

A.K. Griffin made a motion to approve Mary Lou Jones’s application, Tom Boerger seconded the motion. All approved with show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Total to Date – 4,855.87 acres (29 landowners)

Pending Applications

William Dalrymple II – 118.82
Craig Buchanan – 19.55 acres
Clyde A. and Hetty Lee D. Nicholson – 237.56 acres
John Harrington Gross, William Glen Gross, Kathy McNeill,
Susan Thomas - 40.01 acres.
Kenneth and Sharon Patterson – 23.408 acres

Seth suggested waiting until the next meeting to make any decisions on the pending applications. Most of the applications need either a signatures or payment; most of the applicants are busy with crops and haven’t had time to complete final steps of the application process.
**Fund Balance** – The VAD balance as of September 21, 2011 is $1,138.49
- Receipts = $50.00
- Expenditures = $14.00

**Increase of Register of Deeds Filing Fees** – Beginning October 1, 2011 filing fees will go from $14 to $26. The Board was asked if they wanted to increase the application fee from $50 to $60 to offset the increase. Tommy said that he and Susan discussed keeping the fee at $50 until there is more participation in the VAD program. Don Nicholson suggested using the money in the fund balance to pay the increase for a set time before passing the increase on to the applicants. Ed Angel made a motion to keep the application fee at $50 for the next 6 months or the first 50 applicants which ever comes first, Wayne Yarborough seconded, all approved with a show of hands, motion carried. The board will revisit this in March or April.

**Township Sign Update** – Township signs were placed on two “Welcome to Lee County” signs, but DOT removed one stating that the VAD signs could not be put on DOT right of way. No one submitted permission forms for township signs.

**Announcements** – The Board asked Brenda Larson to encourage participation in the VAD program at the upcoming forestry meeting. Brenda was also asked to generate a list of forestry owners so the Board can personally contact them and encourage participation.

The Board also discussed being a part of the Farm-City Banquet. Seth suggested presenting VAD signs to participants at the banquet, and also will contact Lee County GIS for a map of Lee County that shows the land that is in the VAD program.

**Next Meeting Date** – Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm – Tom Boerger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Angel seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands.

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Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board

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Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board