

**Agricultural Conservation Easement  
And Farmland Protection Commission (ACE)**

**Minutes for March 18, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Barbara Wheeler, McHenry County Board  
Virginia Peschke, McHenry County Board  
Brian Jenkner  
Ken Bauman  
Harry Alten, Jr.  
Lenore Beyer-Clow

**Members Absent**

Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman  
Rob LaPorta  
Dan Ziller

**Others Present**

Dave Brandt, USDA-NRCS  
Dennis Sandquist, P&D  
Darrell Moore, P&D  
Kate Halma, McHenry County Community Foundation  
Gene Culp, public

**Others Absent**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alten at 7:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Peschke and seconded by Beyer-Clow to approve the minutes of January 21, 2009. All members present voted aye.

**Public Participation**

There was none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- The revised logo was reviewed with favorable comments from members present. No official action was taken.
- Beyer-Clow reported that progress continues to be made on the SB 286, which would create a funding mechanism for county farmland protection programs. She said discussions with state representatives were going well.
- The commission discussed the proposed memorandum of understanding with the McHenry County Land Conservancy. Kate Halma noted some “red flags” in the structure based on recent changes in the law. She volunteered to review and help “strengthen” the memo. Sandquist said the revised memo would be reviewed by the SAO before coming back to the commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Kate Halma spoke on her experiences with getting a referendum passed. She offered some general recommendations to the commission on how to proceed if the farm bill passes. She emphasized community engagement is the most important component of a successful referendum.

- Brandt posed the question of when the commission should begin giving presentations to interested groups. It was decided that presentations could begin soon with the thought that they could be used to gather preliminary feedback to guide adjustments as needed.
- Bauman asked if the commission would like to put out a questionnaire to Farm Bureau members. The commission expressed interest in doing this.
- Wheeler recommended gathering e-mail addresses for all interested individuals so they may be notified of upcoming commission activities and presentations. This may necessitate setting up a new county e-mail account name.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 15 at 7 p.m. At 8:35 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made and passed unanimously.