

Michigan Agri-Women

Annual Meeting

March 27, 2010

SWMI Research and Extension Center

Members present: Linda Higbee, Sharon Schmuhl, Kim Schmuhl, Susan Ginter, Abbey Dorr, Millie Schultz, Bonnie Schultz, Anna Leitz, Barb Radewald, Virginia Radewald, Barb Miller, Connee Cansfield, Delores Totzke, and Seasila Seabury.

Non-members present included Christina Gelder and Linda Sierwicky.

Barb Radwald welcomed members at 10:05 am and introduced **Margaret Kohring, the Conservation Fund's Midwest Regional Director**. Margaret gave a presentation on Farmland Preservation. Margaret explained the reasons why we protect our farm land such as to increase economic viability, working capital for operation, estate planning and could possibly reduce property taxes. It takes 5 yrs to go through the program and for every 100 farmers that apply only about 5 get funded. It was a great discussion and many questions were asked.

Jennifer Taylor, Director Farm Service Agency (FSA), Berrien County. Jennifer gave an overview of what FSA does and on its programs. FSA offers a wide variety of programs for producers. The programs include but are not limited to; Farm Loans, Facility Loans, Price Support Programs, DCP/Acre Program, Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), Ag Mediation, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, and youth loans.

State Representative Sharon Tylor – Reported on “Meat Out Day” (March 20, 2010) Proclamation made by Governor. Governor came back and declared it Michigan Agriculture day. In the Economic Development Committee, the governor awarded 13 companies incentives of 9.1 million dollars. One happened to be a Con artist. Sharon introduced a bill for Feral Swine. Farmers can shoot the feral swine at anytime if it is on their land without a permit, but everyone else has to have a hunting license and a gun permit. She is worried about the budget cuts, what is going to happen with MAEAP program and the Right to Farm program.

Broke for Lunch at noon, it was catered by County Kitchen.

The Business meeting was called to order by Kim Schmuhl at 12:30p.m.

2009 Annual Meeting Minutes were read by Secretary Connee Canfield. Bard Radewald was removed from the paragraph about who attended farm women symposium. Motion was made by Bonnie Schultz to accept the corrected minutes and seconded by Barb Miller. Motion Carried

Treasure Report-

Old Business

Glad Peach Festival- Millie Schultz reported that we needed more volunteers especially at night but otherwise everything went well. Attendance was good. One question that is always asked is where larger quantity of peaches can be purchased. It was suggested that we make handouts of farms. Discussion Followed. There will be more peaches to sell on hand.

Sunrise Complex – Connee Canfield reported that they have 24 yrs of service with 20 units. Due to the number of units they have they need one handicap unit. In 2009 they applied for grant money for rehab unit and they were awarded the funds. Two seasonal units and a small office will be built with the funds.

Additional Members- Membership Applications are due June 1, 2010. Members can be a member of only Michigan Agri-Women for \$20 instead of both Michigan and the American.

Sharon Schmuhl was presented with an award of appreciation for her hard work and dedication to Michigan Agri-Women and her continued Enthusiasm to Agriculture. She also received a lifetime membership to American Agri-women.

Nominations Committee – Barb Radewald reported that the following would run for the board

President- Kim Schmul

Vice President- Connee Canfield

Treasurer – Sharon Schmuhl

Secretary- Abbey Dorr

Directors- Millie Schultz

Barb Miller

Susan Ginter

Motion was made by Bonnie Schultz to close nominations. 2nd by Linda Higbee. Unanimous vote by Linda Higbee. Everyone will hold a two year term except the Treasure will be a three year term.

American Agri-Women Report- Linda Sierwicky from American Agri-women reported that Chris Wilson the President of American Agri-women was doing a great job and was getting groups assigned to different tasks. The Mid Year Convention will be held in Denver April 8-11th. The focus of the meeting will be, How to tell your story.

She also gave an update on when Agri-Women would be on RFDTV. People have been interviewed and the price went up. So due to it taking so long it might air on In Country instead. Watch the Agri-Women's Newsletter for more details.

Sharon Schmuhl and Millie Schultz will be serving on the History Project committee for American Agri-Women and Kim Schmuhl will be serving on the Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Committee.

New Business

Supplies- Motion was made by Connee Canfield and seconded by Virginia Radewald to order more Envelops/Letter head. Motion Carried

Mid Year Conference- Kim Schmuhl will be attending the meeting in Denver on April 8-11.

Cash for Stamps/Paper/ Misc. - Motion was made my Linda Higbee to have \$200 of petty cash on hand for stamps etc. Seconded by Barb Radewald. Motion Carried.

Lawn Mower Race- Berrien County Farm Bureau Young Farmers is putting on a National Lawn Mower Race to raise funds for Ag in the Classroom Grants on May 15&16, 2010 at the Berrien County Fairgrounds. The Young Farmers are looking for sponsorship to help put on the event. For \$250 you get your name on a banner at the event, plus two free tickets. It is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Motion was made by Linda Higbee to support the lawn mower race with a \$250 donation and seconded by Connee Cansfield. Motion Carried.

Michigan Agri-Women Sponsorship to Meetings- In 2007, \$250 was given to 2 members to attend mid-year conference. Motion was made by Barb Radewald that anything involving state, Mid-year or National convention decision on sponsorship will be given to the Board of Directors and Officers on an individual basis. Seconded by Cecilia Seabury. Discussion Followed. Motion Carried.

State Representative John Proos- Reported that Agriculture will soon be # 1 industry in the state. He touched on the Cottage Kitchen Bill he is trying to introduce, that deals with selling pies at farmers markets etc and they were not baked in a certified licensed kitchen. He would like to pass the bill allowing a risk statement sticker to be placed on product. Another topic he touched on was the Block Permit for eliminating/dealing with the deer problem. It would increase the number of shooters from 3 to 15 in non- hunting season.

Other – T-shirts for sale at \$10 and also have Sweatshirts for sale for \$20

Motion to adjourn by Connee Cansfield and seconded by Millie Schultz. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Abbey Dorr

Secretary

