

## ***Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes***

The Sixty-third Annual Meeting of the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at the American Legion in Vandalia.

Chairman Dale Jahraus asked that everyone read the 2007 annual meeting minutes and study the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Annual Report.

Following the invocation by John Gehrke, Farm Loan Specialist, Farm Service Agency, approximately 80 people enjoyed a buffet dinner catered by Miller Market of Ramsey. During the meal the poster contest winners assisted the SWCD directors in handing out door prizes.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown during the meal highlighting the projects that have been done the past year in Fayette County.

Poster contest winners Patrick Hannagan, Spencer Hulsey, and Robbi Edwards, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Ray Meseke introduced directors, staff and various guests. Jim Hardimon made motion to approve the minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting as printed in the Annual Report. Seconded by Floyd Meseke. Motion carried.

Motion made by Paul Sarver to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Annual Report. Seconded by Leonard Rubin . Motion carried.

Ray Meseke, of the Nominating Committee, presented the names of Jake Hortenstine, Susan Holdeman and Matt Runge, to serve a two-year term as directors of the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. The nominating committee consisted of Gale Meseke, Ray Meseke and Robert Harpster. Nominations were asked from the floor three times. There were no additional nominations. Motion made by Jim Hardimon to close nominations and proceed with the election, seconded by Paul Sarver. Motion carried. Jake Hortenstine, Susan Holdeman and

Matt Runge were elected directors of the Fayette County Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Mary Ann Hoeffliger, DC, gave a brief talk about the conservation accomplishments for Fayette County in 2007. Both NRCS and the district have cost share dollars that will assist producers with almost any project that they have to construct. We not only have CRP, CPP, but also EQIP that will assist with confined livestock operations. This is becoming very popular. Not only do we assist with cost share but we can also just give answers to questions that come up on a day to day basis for the producers.

Steve Henna, representing First National Bank of Vandalia (award sponsor), announced the Lee Stokes Family as Fayette County's Conservation Farm Family, and presented them with a plaque and sign.

Lee, son of Howard and Mary Stokes, was raised on the family farm near Ramsey, graduating from high school in 1964. After serving three years in the military, Lee attended the University of Illinois, graduating in 1972 with a degree in accounting. He later got his law degree and now has his own law firm in Bozeman, Montana. Lee is married and he and his wife, Judy, have two grown children, Rebecca and Ethan.

Lee's mom is a retired school teacher, having taught at 31 years in the Ramsey school system. She was also very active in the community. She served on the Ramsey Village Board and the Fayette County and Pana Hospital Boards. She also founded the Ramsey Public Library.

The present day Stokes farm has been in the family for over 150 years. Lee carries on the tradition of good stewardship on that land. In the past five years he has: installed three acres of grass waterways, a block chute, and repaired over 8100 feet of some of the first tile outlet terraces in the county. On part of his farm, he is going to a Management Intensive Grazing System, putting in a water well, 3780 feet of pipeline with six hydrants, a stream crossing, and 7243 feet of fence, with additional cross-fencing. Lee's operators are Dave Marley and Brad Lay.

Tony Pals, RC of the Fayette County SWCD presented awards to the Poster Contest Winners in place of Jerry Reed, President of the First National Bank of Brownstown,. The theme this year was "Water is Life". The first place winner of a trophy and \$100 Savings Bond was Patrick Hannagan of St. Elmo. He attends the St. Elmo Elementary School. Second place winner of a trophy and \$75 Savings Bond was Spenser Hulseley, from the South Central Elementary School, and the third place winner of a trophy and \$50 Savings Bond was Robbi Edwards from St. Elmo Elementary School.

Tony Pals then awarded the St. Elmo High School a plaque for winning the soil-judging contest for Fayette County. Members of the team included: Colton Booher, Blake Wright, Fletcher Morison, Chelsey Durbin, Lucas Mitchell. The advisor was Bill Waggoner.

Tony informed everyone that Vandalia High School received first place at the Envirothon this year. The Vandalia High School team consisted of: Scott Boas, Austin Wollerman, Taylor Wollerman, Drew Bell, Sara Schwarm, and Zach Roper. The sponsoring teacher was Barbie Elliott. The team was presented with a traveling trophy.

Tony Pals then presented a \$100 Savings Bond to Megan Schultz from Vandalia for the winning Envirothon T-shirt logo.

Tony Pals presented Barbie Elliott and John Blythe with a clock for their continued help with the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District's education programs.

Kelly Tarter and Dale Jahraus were presented with a clock for their time served on the board.

Dale Jahraus introduced Tony Pals, RC as the main speaker. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on Global Warming

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Hardimon and seconded by Ray Meseke. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Remaining door prizes were given out by poster contest winners.

---

Gale Meseke, Secretary