

MAAO AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT

November 4th & 5th, 2010

Best Western / Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

Agricultural Committee

*Jeanne Henderson, Sherburne County, Chair

Mark Pettman, Rice County (I)

Sue Schulz, McLeod County (II)

Gail Zimmerman, Morrison County (III)

Mike Dangers, Aitkin County (IV)

Joyce Schmidt, Pipestone County (V)

Bob Anderson, Meeker County (VI)

Chuck Pelzer, Todd County (VII)

Steve Carlson, Polk County (VIII)

Keith Kern, Carver County (IX)

Grain Elevator Committee

(Subcommittee of the Ag Committee)

Bob Anderson, Meeker County

Deb Volkert, DOR

New members to be determined

The Agricultural Committee, with the help of MAAO's information Systems Committee began using the new Committee Management collaboration site on the MAAO website. We have utilized the site on several occasions and feel this will continue to be an efficient way for our committee to share information.

At their December 2010 meeting Region I will be electing a new Ag Committee representative to replace Mark Pettman.

One of the seminars presented at this years fall conference was **Valuing the Rural Special Purpose Property**. The seminar discussed the valuation of rural special purpose properties such as Ethanol Plants, Sugar Beet Plants and other large industrial type plants. A request has been made to set-up a subcommittee to create a working manual for valuation consistency in counties with these types of properties.

With the enactment of the Rural Preserve Property Tax Program legislation a committee was formed in August of 2009, headed by MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, to discuss the components and implement of the program. Beginning in August of 2009 I was asked to serve on this committee along with several other assessors, members of BWSR, Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation District and the Department of Revenue. In October of 2009 the RPPTP guidelines, as set out by our committee, were presented at BWSR Academy, a conference attended by members of BWSR, DNR and SWCD. Although the committee had just a short time frame to put together a working format for the RPPTP the seminar was informative and educational.

BWSR Academy was held this year at Breezy Point Resort and Convention Center on October 27, 2010 and I was again invited to attend. During this seminar attendees asked many questions regarding the different steps in the implementation of the RPPTP. I feel that this is a program that we as the Ag Committee may need to look at with the possibility of setting up a sub-committee to assist counties, both assessor's and local SWCD offices, who may need guidance in the workings of this program.

Lastly, we would like to look at the Ag Committee providing help to counties transitioning from use of Crop Equivalent Ratings (CER) to the use of Crop Productivity Index (CPI) the new ranking for soil types. There are also counties that did not use CER, but would like help implementing CPI.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Henderson
Agricultural Committee, Chair