CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Marilyn Pedretti, Vice Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM November 13, 2012.
Motion by Weibel/Hansen to approve minutes from November 13, 2012 Meeting. 6 Aye, 0 no, 3 Excused (Wehrs, Murphy, Doyle) – Motion Carried.

PRESENTATION BY FARM BUREAU ON CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT STANDARDS FOR EXPANDING LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS
Handy talked about his conversation with the Farm Bureau Members that had given a presentation at the Planning, Resources & Development (PR&D) Committee Meeting in early February. Staff and PR&D Committee Members also met with Farm Bureau Members at their annual meeting in West Salem to talk specifically about conservation issues, Farmland Preservation and their (Farm Bureau) real focus is 200 animal units vs. 500 animal units and a Conditional Use Permit for County Zoning. There was also a lot of conversation on ways to improve our (County) relationship with the local farming community. Handy received an email from Paul Wehrs, Farm Bureau Member, indicating that they would not be able to attend and make the presentation planned for today’s meeting.

Discussion ensued by committee with questions that were answered by staff.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS FOR 2013-2014
Handy explained the handout for the Goals and Action Items for 2013-2014.

Discussion and debate ensued by committee for direction to staff and ways to accomplish the goals. Some ideas for goals were:
- More Agriculture Easement Areas (AEAs) – There is currently one in the county – future AEAs would have to be much larger than the current one;
- Education of farmers on all the services available to them (Land Conservation, Zoning, Planning, etc);
- Increase participants in farmland preservation programs;
- 200 vs. 500 animal units;
- Promotion of Farm to School Programs, local Farmers Markets and CSAs;
- Promotion of young farmers using alternative farming techniques on “old” farms;
- Promotion of Urban Farming Programs; and
- Creating a silviculture cooperative

Discussion by committee about the ability of staff to accomplish the goals and that it would be necessary to prioritize the goals so staff is not spread too thin. Committee and staff also discussed the possibility of getting students from the local colleges in the Ag Programs to do some of the research for us.

Next meeting date was tentatively set for May 16, 2013 at 3:30 P.M.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DATES
- Goals and Action Items – what the committee is going to focus on
- Conservation Compliance Discussion and Recommendations to take to the PR&D Committee
Discussion on committee members with expiring terms, the Town of Burns possibly opting out of County Zoning and requesting a member from Burns.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hansen/Weibel to adjourn at 4:45 P.M.
6 Aye, 0 No, 3 Excused (Wehrs, Murphy, Doyle) – Motion Carried.

The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting. Annette Kirchhoff, Recorder