

PFFA Spring 2008 Workshop Survey and Future Workshop Questionnaire - RESULTS

21 responses were received

Each item was scored from 1 to 5 (with 5 being the highest score!)

Business Meeting

Overall: 7 5 12 4 2 3 ___ 2 ___ 1

Necessity: 12 5 9 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1

Comments:

- * More time needs to be allocated for topics that need association support & notes for resolutions & actions for legislative support – or opposition.
- * For a new member, please explain acronyms & new meetings/events; what is my role in this organization; what do we (my county board) get back?
- * Crisp, informative. Great remarks from Commissioner.
- * You need a Legislative Committee to look at policy opportunities & strategy.
- * Very important issues were discussed.
- * Form more committees for the big topics.
- * Kept on-time/on-agenda better than Fall meeting.
- * Good job!
- * The resolution passed was worthy.

Innovative Financing for Farmland Preservation – Pat O’Connell

Overall: 7 5 6 4 5 3 2 2 ___ 1

Necessity: 5 5 8 4 4 3 3 2 ___ 1

Comments:

- * Most of this info is beyond what our counties can do – we are already overloaded. Cash-flow/info – NJ Farm Bureau/Land Trust taking funds from State, but not preserving farms. This could happen in PA, if we are not diligent in monitoring how “open space” preservation funding is allocated.
- * I need something much more basic, I’m not sure what the options even are & what the parameters are. I am in probably the poorest county in the State, very rural – preservation is not top on the list of programs to fund.
- * Not sure why he is on each time.
- * Not of interest to me.
- * Nice change from his usual topics.
- * Very good idea/concept – would like to see activity in PA.
- * Have handouts please.
- * Helpful, as we have a township looking toward new funding strategies.

Legislative Reviews – Kerry Golden and Kristen Ebersole

Overall: 9 5 9 4 1 3 ___2 ___1

Necessity: 13 5 6 4 ___3 ___2 ___1

Comments:

- * Nice update in an understandable format.
- * Always helpful.
- * Always enlightening.
- * Always a plus & very informative.
- * Could there be more focused & strategic discussion. It's good to get an update, but more important to focus on advocacy action.
- * Always welcome – this is key to what PFPA does.
- * Written handouts were missed but Kerry's input is excellent, please keep this agenda item.
- * Handouts would be appreciated.
- * Extremely important to weigh in with the Leg. Budget & Finance Committee.

PDA Staff Updates

Overall: 15 5 6 4 ___3 ___2 ___1

Necessity: 18 5 2 4 ___3 ___2 ___1

Comments:

- * It may be helpful for future meetings to ask counties to submit questions to Doug prior to the meeting so that he could be prepared.
- * Useful info, thanks for the update.
- * Go Doug Go! We really needed this change, now maybe we will get more answers.
- * need more one-on-one time.
- * Need more time for State Bureau questions.
- * Not appropriate for PFPA. Regional trainings are a better idea.
- * Maybe a little too quick. Would love to have more questions brought up for discussion. Doug was willing to answer any & all, so it's our fault for not having a list of questions to fully utilize his time allocation.
- * Efficient.

State Program Assessment – Phil Durgin & Pat Berger

Overall: 6 5 10 4 4 3 ___2 1 1

Necessity: 9 5 11 4 ___3 ___2 1 1

Comments:

- * Please come to training sessions with PDA.
- * Ok.
- * Hopefully they will really listen to us.
- * Not much info.
- * Regional approach is probably a good idea when surveying the counties.

- * Hard to believe how lacidaisical their process is on such an important issue to this group.
- * It seems like this program assessment has been arbitrary. More should be done to get diverse view points from different parts of the state. County survey good idea.
- * Still concerned. Surprised of the time frame, concerned there is an apparent lack of communication to counties and that we had to ask to provide comments/survey. Glad PFPA membership asked many questions & expressed comments. Surprised of the lack of comprehensive review. Foreshadowing of predetermined results. Willingness to “hear” county input seemed obligatory, not genuine; but I’m glad Phil agreed to send survey, hear comments, perhaps attend 5/30 Regional Meeting, etc.
- * Handouts.
- * Very valuable.

NRCS Update – Martha Joseph

Overall: 6 5 10 4 4 3 1 2 1

Necessity: 5 5 11 4 3 3 1 2 1 1

Comments:

- * Good.
- * Nice precise presentation.
- * Short & sweet.
- * Well summarized.
- * Great.
- * Just not a lot of new news.

PFPA Roundtable Discussion

Overall: 6 5 5 4 1 3 2 1

Necessity: 8 5 3 4 1 3 2 1

Comments:

- * Have definite subjects – Ask PFPA members what they would like to discuss 3-4 weeks prior.
- * Interesting topics that deserve more time for discussion.
- * More time needed in these workshops/conferences to learn from each other.
- * Needs better organization to select subjects.
- * Some control – moderator.
- * Always helpful.

Accommodations at the Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse

Meeting Room: 9 5 10 4 2 3 2 1

Food and Breaks: 12 5 7 4 2 3 2 1

Hotel Accommodations: 2 5 5 4 2 3 2 1

Comments:

- * Good spot for everyone! Central to all.
- * Price – needs updating.
- * Lunch was good – although a little crazy at first; snack - great; breakfast – not so much.
- * Good choice!
- * Coffee ran out! Rooms were somewhat out-of-date, but fine for a tent-camper like me.
- * Good room acoustics, but poor visibility of movie screen.
- * In morning room was cold. Building materials like ladder, scissors, ribbons, boards, etc were haphazardly stored in meeting room – unprofessional to have these items in our meeting room. Food was good. A/V resources seemed appropriate. Room was adequately sized.
- * Great place!
- * Lighting for the slides was an issue – otherwise, Great!

Future Workshop Sites and Dates

Fall 2008: Union and Northumberland Counties will Joint-Host

Spring 2009: Any volunteers to host this meeting? _____

Your suggestions?

- * Erie County would be a good site.
- * Somewhere in the western half of the State.
- * Partner with PALTA.

Possible Topics for Future Workshops

Please number your top priorities 1 through 5, with 5 being the highest!

- 4 Notifications – PDA looking into the possibility of appeal
- 4 Funding for the long term monitoring of easements
- 5 Access, transportation and utility right-of-way easements
- 3 Conservation Easement Violations – what really is a violation? How to handle?
- 3 Local Agricultural Promotion – what is our role??
- 3 Second generation farm owners’ issues/stories/etc.
- 3 Tax Strategies and easements
- 3 Condemnation and eminent domain – When? Why?
- 2 Creating a solid baseline and inspection report
- 3 How to deal with property rights issues (general trespassing on farms; i.e., 4x4’s, snowmobiles, educating neighbors that you shouldn’t have a campfire beside a dry wheat field, etc.) What is our role?
- 3 IRS Ruling when doing Bargain Sales (working with Land Trusts, etc)
- 4 Farm Values – the future of easement prices
- 3 ASA’s when crossing county lines
- 4 Appraisals – when there is ag zoning. How is FMV really determined?
- 4 ASA’s the ongoing issue of correct recording, etc.

Other:

- * Tourism & Farm Preservation working together.
- * Public Relations – helping to create Ag awareness.
- * Oil & gas development, airshafts (longwall); bio-security; uncooperative municipalities/solicitors...
- * Deed issues – when property is transferred & new deed is incorrect.
- * Linking Ag Economic Development to preserved farms.
- * Affordability of preserved farm.
- * Under 3rd item on above list: Some are permitted by ACE, but what about other easements like trails, wells and others – will they affect ACE?
- * Property rights – what is not our role?
- * FMV determination – have requestor contact us in Lancaster.
- * 25-yr buy-out – I bring this up every PFFPA mtg – we need a committee to review & to become involved with any effort for inclusion into on-going legislation (as Kerry mentioned is the likely route.)
- * Follow-up of audit.
- * Partnering with land trusts to preserve open space.
- * Have a couple county reports at each meeting – progress, issues, etc.

General thoughts, comments, suggestions:

- * Re: notifications - In our research we were told by legal council that the Statute of Limitations has expired and it is too late for the state to appeal.
- * Again, I would like to see a meeting that is just county roundtable discussions.
- * Jim Baird – always interesting.
- * More time for roundtable.
- * I'm not an Administrator, but thoroughly enjoy coming – always learn a lot – enjoy networking – wish for more roundtable time.
- * Very good location for spring meeting.
- * Encourage improvement of website – important for inner-county communication, info.
- * Thank you for a great conference!
- * I would like to see more discussion time.
- * Look for ways to be more pro-active on legislation; Sub-committee? Maybe get more help from another organization, PALTA.
- * Excellent workshop! Thanks to the organizers.
- * Hold Spring Workshops in conjunction with PALTA.