



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board  
Wednesday, November 3, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Kent County Administration Building – Room 311  
Minutes prepared by  
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### Approved Minutes

**Members Present:** Chair Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary/Treasurer Russ Slater (Ag Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Matt Kallman (County Commissioner).

**Absent:** None.

**Vacant:** Conservation Interest.

**Staff:** Paul Petr, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:36 a.m. Kim Karn from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan introduced herself to the Board.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Ed Robinette to approve the November 3, 2021 Agenda. Commissioner Kallman supported. UNANIMOUS
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the September 1, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Kallman supported. UNANIMOUS
- IV. **State PDR Grant** – Staff report that the State of Michigan’s Farmland and Open Space Preservation Grant cycle is open until the end of December. After reviewing the scoring rubric, staff calculated that the Momber application would score 69% of points and the Kingsbury application would score 73%. Staff had already spoken with Mr. Momber about becoming MAEAP verified in order to secure more points on the application. Additionally, Mr. Kingsbury could enroll acres in to the NRCS CRP program to earn more points.

A motion as made by Ed Robinette to direct staff to apply with the Momber application unless Mr. Kingsbury enrolled acres into the CRP program and Mr. Momber did not receive any of the allotted MAEAP points. Russ Slater supported. Ayes – 5; Nays – 0; Abstain - 1

- V. **ACEP Results** – Staff revealed that the neither the Kingsbury nor the Momber applications received ACEP funding this year. The Kruithoff application was submitted in 2020 and asked for

50% of the funding, \$335,430; while the Momber application was submitted in 2021 and asked for 39%, \$220,000. Communications from USDA revealed that funding prioritized a large grant in Washtenaw County.

- VI. PDR Signs** – Chair Heffron presented the two iterations the Purchase of Development Rights program has used for the properties successfully preserved. The Chair Heffron described the readability of the signs and recommends the Agricultural Preservation Board return to the older version that carried less text on the sign. Staff informed the Board that the design could be made in house with the assistance of the Communications Specialist. The Chair also stated that he had found a manufacturer who could fabricate the signs for cheaper than either the Parks Department and Road Commission and that an anonymous donor would fund the work. The Board affirmed using Arrow Swift Printing out of Greenville.
- VII. Staff Update** – Staff gave several updates to the Agricultural Preservation Board including webinars attended, Board of Commissioners approval of PRD items, changes in land use around the Townships, and agricultural updates at the state level.
- VIII.** There was no public comment.
- IX.** Board Member Updates – Chair Heffron discussed the urgency of meeting with the various foundations in the area. Russ Slater mentioned a webinar covering the topic of environmental stewardship.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, December 1, 2021  
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311