



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board  
Wednesday, May 4, 2022 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 (Agricultural Representative), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Monica Sparks (County Commissioner).

**Absent:** None.

**Staff:** Paul Petr, Jenn Headrick, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:33 am. Becky Huttenga from Ottawa County’s Agricultural Preservation Board attended. Jenn Headrick, Management Analyst from Kent County attended.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Ed Robinette to approve the May 4, 2022 Agenda. Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the April 6, 2022 minutes. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – There was no public comment.
- V. **Conservation Interest Position** – The Agricultural Preservation Board welcomed its newest member, Carolyn Johnson, to the Conservation Interest position. The position expires December 31, 2024.
- VI. **Ottawa Regional Conservation Partnership Program** – Becky Huttenga from Ottawa County reported back from her Agricultural Preservation Board (Board) that it voted to postpone a vote on permitting Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) funding for the Momber application. The Board will seek more input from Ottawa County’s Corporate Counsel regarding what would agreement would be needed to ensure the RCP funding still can fund properties in Ottawa County.

Becky informed the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board that she would work with the Ottawa County Corporate Counsel to produce language that will allow for the Member application to participate in the Ottawa RCPP funding.

- VII. American Rescue Plan Act for Agriculture** – Jenn Headrick lead a discussion on the American Rescue Plan’s (ARPA) local funding program: State and Local Fiscal Recover Fund (SLFRF) and how it can impact agricultural preservation. Kent County (County) has a SLFRF allocation of \$127 million. To expend these funds, the County plans to hold public input meetings as well launch an online portal for submittal. Ideas should be transformative in nature, increase access to systems for people that have been historically underserved, and be creative in addressing failures exacerbated by the pandemic.

Jenn advised the Agricultural Preservation Board to compile a list of things that the COVID pandemic made worse for agriculture and to submit proposals for funding based on solutions to those problems. She will share with Matt a template for project proposals to help fill out their details.

- VIII. Staff Update** – Staff gave several updates to the Agricultural Preservation Board including attending a webinar on zoning and planning tools for agricultural preservation, productive farm meetings, and trauma among farmers.
- IX. General Public Comment** – None.
- X. Board Member Updates** – None.
- XI. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold to adjourn until next meeting. Ed Robinette supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

11:30 a.m.to 1:00 p.m.

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311