



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, January 4, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
300 Monroe Ave NW - Kent County Administration Building
Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Russell Slater (Agricultural Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Lisa Oliver-King (County Commissioner)

Absent: None.

Staff: Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:31 am.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the January 4, 2023 Agenda. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Russell Slater to approve the December 7, 2022 minutes. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None
- V. **Office Elections** – Staff opened the floor for nominations for Agricultural Preservation Board Chair. Suzie Reinbold nominated Denny Heffron. Russell Slater supported. Denny Heffron accepted. There were no additional nominations.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain – 1

Motion passed.

Chair Heffron nominated Suzie Reinbold for the position of Agricultural Preservation Board Vice Chair. Ed Robinette supported. Suzie Reinbold accepted. There were no additional nominations.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain – 1

Motion passed.

Ed Robinette nominated Russell Slater for the position of Agricultural Preservation Board Secretary. Suzie Reinbold supported. Russell Slater accepted. There were no additional nominations.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain – 1

Motion passed.

- VI. Agricultural Preservation Board 2022 Calendar** – Staff presented an updated chart of activities for the Agricultural Preservation Board based on the new dates for the federal grants.

Secretary Slater made a motion to meet the first Wednesday over every month, excepting the month of July, at the downtown County Administration Building, unless an alternate location is selected at a previous meeting, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Ed Robinette supported.

Ayes – 7
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

Motion passed.

- VII. Onboarding Folder** – Staff mentioned that there is a new onboarding system for Agricultural Preservation Board members with a binder containing program information, ordinance history, and County information. As supplies become available, these will be presented to each Board Member.

- VIII. Activity Category** – Staff produced a list of activity categories the Board can use to guide its action for the year. Board members appreciated having a list to pick from and to expand upon. Secretary Slater questioned if there is an overarching strategic plan that should guide the activities the Board pursues for the year.

- IX. PDR 2023** – Staff informed the Board that the Scores and Ranks for the 2023 PDR cycle would be presented at the March meeting.

- X. Staff Update** – Staff updated the Board on the need to have a reauthorized regional plan to qualify for points with the MDARD MAPF grant for PDR. Secretary Slater suggested it would help the Board's preservation efforts if it knew what the goals were for the various townships and that MSUE and LGROW could assist with this. He also suggested that this would be a good topic to bring to the Township Supervisor's meeting.

There is an opportunity to highlight the work of the Agricultural Preservation Board and PDR through a West Michigan Works! Specialty crop video. Chair Heffron volunteered to help identify which farmers would be good candidates.

XI. General Public Comment – None.

XII. Board Updates – Jessica Marks heard feedback that the November Townhall for PDR was still too close to harvest time for some interested farmers to participate. She also suggested continuing to hold them throughout the year even if the application window isn't open, particularly in January and February. Chair Heffron mentioned that Grattan Township is reviewing another TDR application of about 65 acres.

XIII. Adjournment – A motion as made by Vice Chair Reinbold to adjourn until next meeting. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503