



## Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Zoom

Minutes prepared by

Matthew Channing, [matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org](mailto:matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org)

### Approved Minutes

**Members Present:** Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest), Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Russ Slater (Ag Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Gretchen Mousel (Conservation Interest Representative), Dan Oesch (Ag Interest), Matt Kallman (County Commissioner)

**Absent:** None.

**Staff:** Jenny James, Pal Petr, Matt Channing

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:31 a.m. Paul Petr, Kent County’s new Assistant to the Administrator introduced himself. Mr. Petr will supervise Matthew Channing as well as support the Agricultural Preservation Board and the Transfer of Development Rights project.
- II. Approval of the Agenda – A motion as made by Ed Robinette to approve the March 3, 2020 Agenda. Vice Chair Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS
- III. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Vice Chair Reinbold to approve the February 2020 minutes. Commissioner Kallman supported. Motion carried:  
Yeas: Heffron, Reinbold, Slater, Robinette, Mousel, Oesch, Kallman  
Nays: 0
- IV. There was no public comment.
- V. ACEP Grant Application – Matt Channing reported that he attended an information webinar on the ACEP Grant application and received further clarification from USDA staff about application questions and recommended applying to the grant with the Momber application. Staff calculated the Momber application to score 228 points while the Kingsbury application scored 212. A motion was made by Vice Chair Reinbold to approve the February 2020 minutes. Russ Slater supported. Motion carried:  
Yeas: Heffron, Reinbold, Slater, Robinette, Mousel, Oesch, Kallman  
Nays: 0

- VI.** PDR 2021 Selection Cycle – Matt presented updated selection criteria that more accurately reflects the information required from the two main sources of revenue for funding conservation easements and combined them with the point weighting that the Agricultural Preservation Board previously established. Matt recommended the Agricultural Preservation Board adopt the Selection Criteria. The Agricultural Preservation Board advised staff to retain questions about future splits and block applications for tracking purposes. A motion was made by Vice Chair Reinbold to approve the February 2020 minutes. Ed Robinette supported. Motion carried:  
Yeas: Heffron, Reinbold, Slater, Robinette, Mousel, Oesch, Kallman  
Nays: 0
- VII.** Board Member Goals - Chair Heffron lead the Agricultural Preservation Board in sharing ideas for goals to accomplish this year and how to strengthen the program’s capacity for service delivery. Board members shared ideas around: strengthening partnerships, operating strategically, and increased education/awareness campaigns.
- VIII.** Staff Report – Matt Channing informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that he spoke with Mary Judnich, a representative from Senator Stabenow’s office regarding agricultural issues at the federal level. The Senator is committed to mitigating the harms of a changing climate to the agricultural industry. Matt also spoke with a representative from USDA Rural Development about funding opportunities for efforts in the rural parts of Kent County.
- IX.** Board Member Updates – Chair Heffron offered to the group that next meeting’s agenda allow for Board members to set goals and suggested that each Board member create a plan. Chair Heffron also reported out to the group on the success of Grattan Township’s farmland protection efforts through the Township’s PUD ordinance. The ordinance allows for developers to build at higher density by purchasing the development rights from a farm in the Township.
- X.** Adjournment – A motion was made by Vice Chair Reinbold to adjourn the meeting Dan Oesch supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

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

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311