



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board

Wednesday, June 6, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Kent County Administration Building – Room 311/Zoom

Minutes prepared by

Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org

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), Gretchen Mousel (Conservation Interest Representative), Dan Oesch (Ag Interest)

Absent: Matt Kallman (County Commissioner)

Staff: Jenny James, Paul Petr, Matt Channing

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:37 a.m.
- II. Approval of the Agenda – A motion as made by Ed Robinette to approve the May 3, 2020 Agenda. Commissioner Kallman supported. UNANIMOUS
- III. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the April 2020 minutes. Gretchen Mousel supported. Motion carried:
Yeas: Heffron, Reinbold, Slater, Robinette, Mousel, Oesch, Kallman
Nays: 0
- IV. Land Trust – Becky Huttenga, Economic Development Coordinator from Ottawa County, presented on her early research of forming a land trust in west Michigan dedicated to agriculture preservation. The early concept is for the land trust to receive cash donations and assemble a financial package to purchase development rights for conservation easements. After planned meetings with other land trusts, Becky advised that she would make the Agricultural Preservation Board aware of any updates to the effort.
- V. Board Goals – Staff updated the Board on progress for two goals, 1 and 2. For goal 1, Matt Channing shared information about funding history from various donors to the Board as well as the general purpose for the money received. Regarding goal 2, Matt shared a list of landowners with easements derived from Kent County's and the State of Michigan's Purchase of Development Rights programs, Kent County's and the State of Michigan's Donation of Development Rights programs, as well as a portion of Grattan Township's Transfer of

Development Rights program. Staff circulated this list in advance of the meeting to determine which Board members might be able to contact the landowners to learn more about their thoughts of the program. Only Chair Heffron was found to have a relationship with landowners on the list.

- VI.** PDR Application Cycle – Staff updated the Board on the latest program parts for the PDR 2021 cycle. The mailer went out with information for two townhall events.

- VII.** Staff Update – Staff reported to the Board that the Finance and Physical Resources Committee approved the resolution to accept and appropriate the funds from the State of Michigan for the purchase of the development rights from the six Kruthoff properties on file. Matt also briefed the Board on his as well as the other attendees’ perspective of the Kent County Farmland Preservation Tour that Chair Heffron hosted. There 5 attendees total, three Kent County staff, the Director of the Kent Conservation District, and a reporter from the Grand Rapids Business Journal and all found it to be an eye-opening experience.

- VIII.** There was no public comment.

- IX.** Board Member Updates – None.

- X.** Adjournment – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kallman supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

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

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311 and Zoom