



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, August 3, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Kent County Administration Building – Room 311
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), Secretary Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Monica Sparks (County Commissioner)

Absent: Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Staff: Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:00 am.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to approve the August 3, 2022 Agenda. Secretary Slater supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Jessica Marks to approve the June 1, 2022 minutes. Secretary Slater supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – There was no public comment.
- V. **Ottawa Regional Conservation Partnership Program Agreement** – Staff reported the Agricultural Preservation Board that the Board of Commissioners approved the program agreement that allows Kent County to enter into the Ottawa County RCPP grant agreement. Additionally, staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that Kent County received the full funding request of \$220,000 for the Momber application from the State of Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund.

Jessica Marks moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept and appropriate the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund grant of \$220,000 for the Momber application, parcel numbers 410520400015 and 410521100020; and authorize the Board

Chair or designee to execute the grant agreement, approve extensions, amendments and increases to the grant appropriation not to exceed fifteen percent of the original award.

Supported by Carolyn Johnson.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

- VI. Staff Update** – Staff gave several updates to the Agricultural Preservation Board including attending meetings with West Michigan Works for a Kent County Agricultural Preservation spotlight, and Farm Bureau for a Farm Bill 2023 listening session. The County scheduled a second round of quadrant meetings in September.
- VII. General Public Comment** – None.
- VIII. Board Member Updates** – Chair Heffron mentioned there might be an Agricultural Preservation trip out east this fall, dependent on funding. Secretary Slater stated that trips help us better tell our story and that we can accept opposition to Agricultural Preservation if the opposition has at least been educated. Commissioner Sparks requested staff assistance in being a champion for Agricultural Preservation when items come before the Board of Commissioners. It was suggested that staff drafts a letter to the Board of Commissioners about Agricultural Preservation.
- IX. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Vice Chair Reinbold to adjourn until next meeting. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 13:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

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

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311