



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, April 5, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
Location – Kent County Administration Room 311
Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.gov

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Chair Denny Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest)

Absent: Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Lisa Oliver-King (County Commissioner)

Staff: Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:03 a.m.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the April 5, 2023 Agenda. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion as made by Ed Robinette to approve the March 1, 2023 Agenda. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None.

- V. Board of Commissioners Presentation** – Staff reviewed the presentation with the Agricultural Preservation Board. Secretary Russ Slater suggested adding current population data to the presentation when explaining why the County decided to enact the PDR ordinance. Ed Robinette wanted staff to note the drop off in funding on the graph depicting acres preserved over time.
- VI. Agricultural Preservation Board Goals** – Staff invited Board members to share their goals for the near and long term for the Agricultural Preservation Board. Staff shared Carolyn’s goals since she was absent for the meeting. Ed Robinette would like to know what land is selling for and offered to have his son who is part of the Michigan Farm Bureau to present on the topic. Secretary Russ Slater would like a greater coordination with other pressing land uses such as commercial and industrial and to build relationships with other vested groups. Specifically, he would like other groups to state what their land preservation strategy is, if they have one at all. Chair Denny Heffron would like to create an Agricultural Preservation plan that the current Board of Commissioners Chair could make his own.
- VII. Staff Update** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that there was a second ACEP 2023 funding opportunity coming with an unknown timeframe. He has been working with Harold Metternick who has a wetlands issue. Chair Denny Heffron volunteered to work with Mr. Metternick if Staff could provide contact information.
- VIII. General Public Comment** – None.
- IX. Board Member Updates** – Chair Denny Heffron spoke about a Kent County Agriculture Tour to happen in May.
- X. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold to approve adjourn the meeting. Ed Robinette supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.
Next Meeting:
Wednesday, May 3, 2023; 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Kent County Administration Room 311