



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board  
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Location – Kent County Administration Room 311

Minutes prepared by  
Matthew Channing, [matthew.channing@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:matthew.channing@kentcountymi.gov)

### Approved Minutes

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

**Absent:** Secretary Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest)

**Staff:** Mark Rambo, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Denny Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Members of the Commercial Alliance of Realtors of West Michigan introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the May 3, 2023 Agenda. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 5  
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 – 5  
Nays – 0  
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

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

- V. **Conversation with CARWM** – Shari and Bryan from the Commercial Alliance of Realtors of West Michigan attended the meeting to share with and hear from the Agricultural Preservation Board regarding Kent County’s agricultural preservation efforts. Prior to the meeting, staff met with the two to give a technical overview of the Purchase of Development Rights program. They appreciated the thoughtful approach of preserving farmland away from areas of density and the creation of large blocks rather than small pockets of preservation. The concept of Transfer of Development Rights appealed to Bryan who is himself a commercial real estate broker and he expressed interest in participating in future conversations.
  
- VI. **PDR Cycle 2023** – Staff reported that the Legislative and Human Resources Committee approved the PDR 2023 Score and Rank. The motion was moved by Commissioner LaGrand and supported by Pachla. It passed while there with two no votes, from Commissioners Kallman and Burill. The Board of Commissioners will review the resolution on May 11. Regarding applications for funding, staff reiterated that there was another ACEP application and that three applications from 2023 would be used.
  
- VII. **TDR Update** – Staff updated the Board on the most recent developments with TDR. Josh Spencer wanted to move forward with an RFP for a feasibility study for how TDR can work and what the options might be.
  
- VIII. **Staff Update** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board on other work items including appointment to the Grand Rapids Urban Agriculture Committee.
  
- IX. **General Public Comment** – None.
  
- X. **Board Member Updates** – Chair Denny Heffron spoke about the Kent County Agriculture Tour happening on May 4<sup>th</sup> and invited Bryan Cody to attend.
  
- XI. **Adjournment** – A motion as made by Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold to approve adjourn the meeting. Ed Robinette supported.

Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0  
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 7, 2023; 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Robinette’s 3142 4 Mile Rd NE, Grand Rapids Charter Township, MI 49525