



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
775 Ball Ave Michigan State University Extension – Room B
Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.gov

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Lisa S. Oliver-King (County Commissioner)

Absent: Secretary Russell Slater (Agricultural Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Staff: Mark Rambo, Matt Channing

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Approval of the Agenda – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to approve the September 6, 2023 Agenda. Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold supported.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

The motion passed.

IV. Approval of Minutes – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to approve the August 2, 2023 Minutes. Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

The motion passed.

V. **Kids' Food Basket Presentation** – Austin Roelofs VP of Programming for Kids' Food Basket (KFB) presented on the history and operations of KFB. KFB moves ten thousand meals a day through three counties and is 90% charity funded. Denny wanted to know if they had labor capacity to pick and move crops that farms didn't have the capacity to harvest. Austin noted that if given two-weeks' notice then they might be able to assist in harvests.

VI. **ACEP Grant Norman** – A motion as made by Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold to recommend a motion by the Agricultural Preservation Board to not seek reimbursement for the cost of the appraisal. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The motion passed.

VII. **MDARD Grant Bradford** – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to recommend a motion by the Agricultural Preservation Board to not seek reimbursement for the cost of the appraisal. Commissioner Oliver-King supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The motion passed.

VIII. **MDARD Grant Kingsbury** – A motion as made by Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold to recommend a motion by the Agricultural Preservation Board to not seek reimbursement for the cost of the appraisal. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The motion passed.

IX. **Preserved Farmland Event** – Commissioner Heffron would like to host a Preserved Farmland Event this year wherein the Agricultural Preservation Board invites media and officials to learn more about the work the Agricultural Preservation Board does and the value it brings to Kent County. Staff suggested capitalizing on October 12 which is National Farmer Day. This can coincide with a sign dedication for the Sieracki property preserved last October. Carolyn Johnson volunteered to help plan.

X. **Meeting Locations** – Chair Denny Heffron requested a review of the meeting locations and times for the rest of the year. Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold moved to hold meetings at MSUE for the rest of the year. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The motion passed.

XI. General Public Comment – None.

XII. Board Member Updates – Vice-Chair Heffron reported out about his meeting with County Administrator Al Vanderberg. The meeting was about the feasibility of using income received from marijuana taxation to fund agricultural preservation. Al related he was unsure if the public funds could be used for a private pursuit.

Secretary Russ Slater wanted County employees to understand their responsibility for clean, air, and water, and access for jobs.

XIII. Adjournment – A motion as made by Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold Name to approve adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Johnson supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, October 04, 2023
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Kids' Food Basket