



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board

Wednesday, April 7, 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), Matt Kallman (County Commissioner)

Absent: None.

Staff: Jenny James, Paul Petr, Matt Channing

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:34 a.m.
- II. Approval of the Agenda – A motion as made by Russ Slater to approve the March 3, 2020 Agenda. Ed Robinette supported. UNANIMOUS
- III. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the February 2020 minutes. Gretchen Mousel supported. Motion carried:
Yeas: Heffron, Reinbold, Slater, Robinette, Mousel, Oesch, Kallman
Nays: 0
- IV. There was no public comment.
- V. ACEP Grant Application – Matt Channing informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that he applied to the Federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program grant with the Momber property. The Kruihoff application, submitted in 2020 remains open as well, for USDA's consideration.
- VI. PDR 2021 Selection Cycle – Matt Channing reported that the PDR 2021 Selection Criteria were submitted to the Agenda Preparation Committee for review before the Legislative and Human Relations (LHR) Committee considers them. Because of the timing of the meeting, staff was uncertain if the PDR 2021 Selection Criteria could be approved by the Board of Commissioners before May 1. A motion was made by Russ Slater to advise staff to accept applications for the PDR 2021 enrollment program from either May 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021 or June 1, 2021 to

August 31, 2021, depending on the Board of Commissioners approves the PDR 2021 Selection Criteria. Ed Robinette supported. Motion carried:

Yeas: Heffron, Reinbold, Slater, Robinette, Mousel, Oesch, Kallman

Nays: 0

- VII.** State Grant – Matt Channing updated the Agricultural Preservation Board on the recent Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund grant award. The Finance and Physical Resources Committee will need to review the grant before it goes to the Board of Commissioners. A motion as made by Ed Robinette to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept the grant. Russ Slater supported. Motion carried:
Yeas: Heffron, Reinbold, Slater, Robinette, Mousel, Oesch, Kallman
Nays: 0
- VIII.** Board Member Goals – Paul Peter and Matt Channing presented on the Agricultural Preservation Board goals set forth at the March meeting. Staff laid out a tentative strategy of addressing education-related goals first as a foundation for future external engagement. Agricultural Preservation Board members expressed a desire to see an updated website; and to have an inventory of prior financial donors, landowner enrollees, and farmer groups and businesses in the region who could support the efforts of the Agricultural Preservation Board. The Agricultural Preservation Board also recommended hosting two live townhalls in the Fruit Ridge region of Kent County as well as the east/south-east area.
- IX.** Staff Report – Matt Channing relayed from USDA that review of the Sieracki easement deed is roughly halfway through its review cycle and additional documentation as well as a site visit will be required once the deed terms are approved. Matt also informed the Agricultural Preservation Board of the possibility of a land trust forming in West Michigan to facilitate farmland acquisition for permanent preservation. Staff will bring the lead manager of that effort to the next meeting for discussion. Matt also informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that Suzanne Schulz will further present on Transfer of Development Rights and related topics at the Executive Committee work session on April 22, 2021.
- X.** Board Member Updates – None.
- XI.** Adjournment – A motion was made by Russ Slater to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

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

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311 and Zoom