



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
300 Monroe Ave NW - Kent County Administration Building
Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org

Approved Minutes

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

Absent: Russell Slater (Agricultural Interest)

Staff: Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:11 am.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – Jessica Marks made a motion to approve the January 1, 2024 Agenda. Carolyn Johnson supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Jessica Marks made a motion to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes. Carolyn Johnson supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None
- V. **Office Elections** – Staff opened the floor for nominations for Agricultural Preservation Board Chair. Jessica Marks nominated Denny Heffron. Carolyn Johnson supported. Denny Heffron accepted. There were no additional nominations.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Abstain – 1 (Denny Heffron)

Motion passed.

Jessica Marks nominated Suzie Reinbold for the position of Agricultural Preservation Board Vice Chair. Carolyn Johnson supported. Suzie Reinbold accepted. There were no additional nominations.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Abstain – 1 (Suzie Reinbold)

Motion passed.

Carolyn Johnson nominated Jessica Marks for the position of Agricultural Preservation Board Secretary. Chair Denny Heffron supported. Jessica Marks accepted. There were no additional nominations.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Abstain – 1 (Jessica Marks)

Motion passed.

- VI. Agricultural Preservation Board 2024 Calendar** – Staff presented an updated chart of activities for the Agricultural Preservation Board based on the new dates for the federal grants.

Chair Dennis Heffron motioned to meet the first Wednesday over every month, excepting the month of July, at Michigan State University Extension, unless an alternate location is selected at a previous meeting or there is a scheduling conflict, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Secretary Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

Motion passed.

- VII. Onboarding Folder** – Staff passed around the updated folders and will add in the updated calendar and membership roster.
- VIII. Food System Focus Group** – Two members of WMCAT, Ken Miguel-Cipriano and Colin McGrew, were invited to the meeting to run a focus group on behalf of the Kent County Food Policy Council. They asked the Agricultural Preservation Board several questions regarding how the work of the Board impacts the regional food system.
- IX. PDR 2024** – Staff informed the Board that the Scores and Ranks for the 2024 PDR cycle would be presented at the March meeting.
- X. Staff Update** – Staff updated the Board that Rob Steffens, the Township Representative would be confirmed at the next Board of Commissioners meeting, held tomorrow. At that meeting, the Board of Commissioners would also approve the Land Navigator grant contract.
- XI. General Public Comment** – None.
- XII. Board Updates** – None.

XIII. Adjournment – A motion as made by Vice Chair Reinbold to adjourn until next meeting.
Secretary Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 13:06 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503