



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, May 1, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
300 Monroe Ave NW – Room 311

Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Rob Steffens (Township Representative)

Absent: Lisa Oliver-King (County Commissioner)

Staff: Mark Rambo, Matt Channing

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:13 am. District 7 Director Scott Korpak attended with refreshments. Elizabeth Brost attended. Samantha Griffin and Elizabeth Brost attended.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda** – Secretary Jessica Marks made a motion to approve the May 1, 2024 Agenda. Rob Steffens supported the motion. UNANIMOUS.
- 3. Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None
- 4. Approval of Minutes** – Secretary Jessica Marks made a motion to approve the April 3, 2024 minutes with amendments to mark her as absent and fix a spelling mistake. Carolyn Johnson supported the motion. UNANIMOUS.
- 5. Agricultural Preservation Board Staffing** – Mark informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that Kent County staff will manage the Purchase of Development Rights program and support for the Agricultural Preservation Board through the summer.
- 6. Fundraiser Update** – Denny informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that 10% of the sales made at the Culver's locations will go to farmland preservation. There are 8 participating locations and each will need at least 3 volunteers. Staff passed a sign-up sheet.
- 7. Staff Update** – Staff raised the developing issue of bird flu in Michigan. Chair Denny Heffron expanded upon the narrative and provided additional insight into how it is impacting businesses. Mark is pulling together data on deer populations for the management plan to generate a list of

options that are consistent with township and County operations. Regarding updates to the Farmland Protection Ordinance, Mark informed the Board that there will be a committee of the Administrator, Chair Stek, Commissioner Oliver-King, and Mark. Mark would like the Agricultural Preservation Board to get soundbites together of why the Ordinance should be changed.

- 8. General Public Comment** – Samantha Griffin from MSUE brought up her work with the Soybean Council at LMCU.
- 9. Board Updates** – Chair Denny Heffron brought some apple cider from Bell Harvest and is working on bringing the local beverage in to area chain stores. Culver’s is looking into sourcing items more locally and it can be a business boom to West Michigan. The direct benefit to the program could result in reoccurring donations to the PDR program.
- 10. Adjournment** – Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold made a motion to adjourn until next meeting. Secretary Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

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

775 Ball Ave Ne, Grand Rapids, MI 49503