



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, November 2, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Kent County Administration Building – Room 311
Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Russell Slater (Agricultural Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Monica Sparks (County Commissioner)

Absent: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Staff: Mark Rambo, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:34 am.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to approve the November 2, 2022 Agenda. Carolyn Johnson supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Jessica Marks to approve the October 5, 2022 minutes. Carolyn Johnson supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None
- V. **NRCS ACEP-ALE Application** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that the NRCS ACEP-ALE application was opening and closing four months sooner than expected. Based off of the score and rank from the 2021 PDR cycle, staff recommended applying with the Linda Bradford Anderson application.

Russell Slater motioned to recommend staff to apply to the NRCS ACEP-ALE with the Linda Bradford Anderson application. Jessica Marks supported the motion.

Ayes: 5; Nays: 0

The motion passed.

- VI. MDARD Grant Application** – Staff reported to the Agricultural Preservation Board on the status of the 2023 MDARD Agricultural Preservation Fund grant. The application will be due on December 26. As the Bettes Kingsbury application is the only active application without funding through this grant, staff recommended applying with the Bettes Kingsbury application.

Commissioner Sparks motioned to recommend staff to apply to the Michigan Preservation Fund Grant with the Bettes Kingsbury application. Jessica Marks supported the motion.

Ayes: 5; Nays: 0

The motion passed.

- VII. PDR 2023** – Staff updated on the status of several items related to the PDR 2023 cycle. The notification mailer went out to 1220 addresses and application packets were mailed to 18 townships. Jessica Marks wanted to know about the criteria for properties receiving the postcard. Staff was informed by the Bureau of Equalization that it is all parcels zoned agricultural use by their immediate zoning authority. Commissioner Sparks recommended the County posts the notification postcard on social media. Russell Slater offered that in the next cycle, the Agricultural Preservation Board might want to consider offering bonus points to applications from Townships that host PDR-related events.
- VIII. Staff Update** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board on activities related to their preservation efforts. Staff attended two webinars: Developing a Charitable Giving Program through GRCF and Land Preservation in Washtenaw County. Bruce Klamer, of Byron Center and president at V & W farms, is reappointed to the Onion Commission to represent growers-at-large for a term commencing October 18, 2022, and expiring August 16, 2023. Staff also mentioned that he would check with MSUE about hosing the December meeting at the Extension Office.
- IX. General Public Comment** – None.
- X. Board Updates** – Vice Chair Reinbold would like to see some work with supporting food banks. Commissioner Sparks recommended working with The Green Apple Pantry. Russell Slater had a meeting with former Agricultural Preservation Board Member Carl Blough and would be interested in talking to hi about donation of development rights. Commissioner Sparks mentioned that the Youth Fair had a strong ARPA proposal. Staff requested that the Commissioner keep the Agricultural Preservation Board in mind when working with the Youth Fair as they are important to agricultural preservation in Kent County.
- XI. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to adjourn until next meeting. Commissioner Sparks supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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

MSUE: 775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503