

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board  
Wednesday, April 14, 2010  
Location: Kent/MSU Extension

Meeting called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Gabe Hudson  
Members Present: Jerry Davis, Gabe Hudson, Dennis Heffron, Sr. Lucille Janowiak, Suzie Reinbold,  
Commissioner Tom Antor, Carlton Blough  
Members Absent: none  
Staff Present: Jen DeHaan, Kendra Wills

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADOPTION OF February 10, 2010 MINUTES**

Suzie Reinbold moved and Sr. Lucille Janowiak seconded the adoption of the minutes of February 10 as presented.  
Unanimous.

**UPDATE ON 2010 USDA FARM AND RANCH LAND PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT PROPOSAL**

Wills reported that Brian Thomas from USDA NRCS in Lansing came to Kent County last week to conduct site inspections on the Kingsbury/Bettes and Wilcox farms. These will likely be funded in 2010. In addition, Thomas said additional money could be coming and more farms could be funded; however, nothing has been finalized. Stay tuned. Thomas also conducted a final site inspection of the Koning farm which will close in May 2010.

**2010 CLOSING CEREMONY**

Wills reported that the Wege Foundation has offered to host a closing ceremony for 2010 Parnell Corridor area farms at his farmhouse on McPherson. The group agreed that it would make the most sense to have one closing ceremony for all farms in the Parnell Corridor preserved in 2010 or early 2011. The group was reluctant to commit to the Wege farmhouse location and preferred the ceremony to take place on one of the preserved farms with all families present and given signs. More detailed will be determined once we know the farms and closing dates.

**2010 PUBLIC EDUCATION PLAN**

The Board reviewed the draft 2010 public education plan. Volunteers are still needed to staff the booth at the Zoo and Public Museum.

The draft presentation to show at the booth was reviewed by the group. This took several minutes. Several edits and additions to improve the presentation were suggested.

**REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Tom Antor reported that the PDR Funding Sustainability Subcommittee is working on funding scenarios to estimate the annual cost of the Kent County PDR Program is the goal of 25,000 acres will be accomplished in 15 or 25 years. The estimated cost being used for one acre of development right is \$2,500.

## **BIOSOLID / PDR PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Denny Heffron and Bill Hirsch have agreed to visit with potential Biosolid/PDR Pilot Program applicants in southern Kent County. To date, no applications have been received.

### **LOCAL FOOD MEETINGS**

Wills reported that Bert Bleke's local food coalition will be holding a work session from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23 at Calvin College. Dinner is being provided by the Wege Foundation. From 7-9 pm the premiere of a local food film titled "Eating in Place" will take place at Calvin's Prince Conference Center. If interested in attending, let Kendra know so she can RSVP for you.

Janowiak reported that she attended in the Michigan Good Food Summit in East Lansing and would forward information about the initiative to the Board. Local food is an issue with lots of momentum, particularly as a result of the new urban market in downtown Grand Rapids.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Approved by Davis and written by Wills.