

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board  
Wednesday, August 11, 2010  
Location: Kent County Youth Fair in Lowell, MI

Meeting called to order at 12:35 a.m. by Gabe Hudson

Members Present: Carlton Blough, Dennis Heffron, Gabe Hudson, Sr. Lucille Janowiak, Suzie Reinbold

Members Absent: Tom Antor, Jerry Davis

Guests: Commissioner Bill Hirsch

Staff Present: Kendra Wills and Evan Gross, Student Intern

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADOPTION OF June 9, 2010 MINUTES**

Reinbold moved and Janowiak seconded the adoption of the minutes as presented. Unanimous.

**USDA GRANT FUNDING**

Wills reported that all five farms in the February 2010 USDA grant application have received matching funding from the USDA. Kent County has signed the cooperative agreement and the Nauta, Wilcox, Rittersdorf, Kingsbury/Bettes and Cole properties will be preserved in December 2010 or early 2011.

Another USDA grant proposal was submitted on July 1, 2010 using 2011 Kent County funding as well as 2011 Frey Foundation and Grand Rapids Community Foundation funding. We expected to hard back from the USDA in September on the status of this proposal.

Wills noted the Board of Commissioners (BOC) will take up the acceptance of the Frey Foundation grant agreement during the budgeting process. A vote on the final budget for the PDR Program will likely take place in mid November. The \$50,000 grant agreement (no matching requirements) from the Lowell Area Community Fund will be taken up by the BOC in early September.

**SELECTION OF DEC 2010 APPRAISALS**

After reviewing the financial report of actual and expected income and expenses to the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Fund held and managed by Kent County and Kent/MSUE as well as the scoring breakdown for 2010 Kent County PDR Program applicants, the Preservation Board selected the following farms for appraisal (in order of priority according to the scoring criteria):

**FRUIT RIDGE**

- Bradford 74 acres
- Tim Kruithoff 36.5 acres
- Van Oefflen 48 acres
- Goodfellow 33 acres

**SOUTH**

- Cox 38 acres (Use \$1,500 from Cascade Township to help cover appraisal cost.)

**NORTH**

- Noreen 67.5 acres
- Patterson 75 acres

PARNELL

- Hall 109.9 acres (need to find out if will meet USDA income limits)
- Lovins 75 acres (possible Biosolids partnership)
- Poulis 120 acres
- Lock 56.4 acres

The actual number of appraisals will be determined by the amount of available funds after the county budget is approved in November 2011. Appraisals should be ordered by the first week in December so the potential federal grant deadline of mid February can be met.

It was noted that some farms were passed over because the Preservation Board felt only one farm per applicant should be appraised for the 2011 federal grant cycle.

The Board requested that Wills contact Mr. Yankee to make sure he would be able to handle all these appraisals as they are unhappy with how late his work in 2009 and 2010 has been.

The Board requested a letter be sent to all these property owners to inform them that an appraisal may be ordered on their property this December pending budget approval and if they are no longer interested please let Ms. Wills know ASAP.

**MEETING WITH MEIJER FOUNDATION**

Blough, Hudson, Heffron and Wills will meet with Meijer Foundation representatives about their interest in accepting a grant proposal to support PDR. Commissioner Parrish will be asked to join the meeting as well. We are working to schedule a meeting in mid September.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8 at 11:30 AM to be held at Kent/MSU Extension.

Written by Kendra Wills.