

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board  
Wednesday, October 13, 2010  
Location: Kent/MSU Extension

Meeting called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Gabe Hudson  
Members Present: Tom Antor, Jerry Davis, Gabe Hudson, Sr. Lucille Janowiak, Suzie Reinbold  
Members Absent: Carl Blough, Dennis Heffron  
Staff Present: Kendra Wills and Jennifer DeHaan

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2010 MINUTES**

Reinbold moved and Janowiak seconded the minutes be adopted. Unanimous.

**2011 SCORING CRITERIA**

The Board spent approximately one hour reviewing the 2010 Kent County PDR scoring criteria and the USDA FRPP scoring criteria for comparison. Clarification language was added to the introduction and USDA criteria. Language will be added to explain the new sub-region scoring versus county-wide scoring. Points for participation in the PA 116 program were removed from the county scoring system but are still present in the federal scoring system. Points for being close to a livestock operation were also removed as there is no way to check the accuracy of a landowner's answer to this question and may be giving points unfairly to some. The group isn't sure they like the points as written measuring development pressure and wants to revisit them in November.

After some discussion on the idea of moving from 140 points to 100 points, it was decided that the points would be examined at the November meeting.

**KENT COUNT AG PRESERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND**

Wills presented the Board with the quarterly earnings report from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, which manages the Kent County Agriculture Preservation Endowment Fund. Earnings were down from last year due to the fact that the funds are still sitting in a money market account and were not reinvested in the market after the crash of 2008 and early 2009.

After some discussion, the Board asked Wills to bring up the idea of moving the funds to the market in January or February 2011 when the market has gone down a bit.

**REQUESTS FROM PRESERVED FARMS**

Wills reported that two requests were made from preserved farms. First, the Koning farm which was preserved in June 2010, has requested to build an indoor horse riding facility on the reserved building site known as the farmstead complex. This will be located to the west of the existing home along 4 Mile Road. Wills has notified the USDA of this request and the Konings will be required to prove through written documentation that the facility will not be a commercial use (more than 50% of use from paying customers rather than personal or non-paying use).

The second request was a timber sale on the woodlot of the Howard farm preserved in 2005. This is an allowed use as long as it is being done in accordance with an approved forest management plan.

## **JULY 2010 USDA GRANT PROPOSAL**

The USDA was interested in awarding a grant for at least three of the five farms in the July 1 grant proposal; however, the County could not sign the grant agreement as 2011 funds have not yet been approved by the Board of Commissioners. Therefore, the USDA has put the grant proposal on hold for the next cycle and we are not sure when this will be.

### **MEIJER FOUNDATION MEETING**

Hudson, Parrish, Heffron, Blough and Wills attended the meeting with Mr. VerHeulen of the Meijer Foundation. A proposal for \$300,000 over three years was made (starting in January 2011). Mr. VerHeulen noted that the foundation isn't interested in getting in the middle of controversy and doesn't want to be giving the impression that they are telling the Board of Commissioners what to do (like was reported of the Frey Foundation in the GR Press). Mr. VerHeulen seemed excited about the program and interested in further marketing all the Kent County produce/crops that are sold in Meijer. Wills reported that she will be contacting the foundation about the status of the grant proposal after the 2011 county budget is adopted.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

The Board discussed their plans for staffing a complimentary booth at the November 18-20 Wine and Food Festival at DeVos Place. The Board also discussed plan for making a brief presentation on PDR at township board meetings starting in December through March.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Davis said he reviewed the draft PDR Easement language for the Cole farm and suggested that language be added to make it clear that land application of biosolids and tiling are both permitted uses. Wills agreed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 11:30 AM to be held at Kent/MSU Extension.

Written by: Kendra Wills.