

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board  
Wednesday, December 8, 2010  
Location: Kent/MSU Extension

Meeting called to order at 11:45 a.m. by Gabe Hudson

Members Present: Tom Antor, Carl Blough, Jerry Davis, Gabe Hudson, Sr. Lucille Janowiak, Suzie Reinbold

Members Absent: Dennis Heffron

Staff Present: Kendra Wills and Jennifer DeHaan

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADOPTION OF NOVEMBER 10, 2010 MINUTES**

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

**2011 USDA FRPP GRANT APPLICATION**

Wills reported that the USDA just announced that 2011 Farm and Ranchland Protection Program grant proposals will be due on February 16, 2011. The Preservation Board reviewed the 2010 scoring results as well as the farms that were included in the July 1, 2010 USDA FRPP grant application, which was not awarded. After some discussion, Reinbold moved that the five farms included in the July 1, 2010 FRPP application (Bradford Trust, Bradford LLC, Heffron Family Protection Trust and Wollander) be re-submitted for the Feb 2011 grant application. Blough supported. Unanimous.

**APPRAISALS FOR 2011**

Reinbold made a motion that appraisal updates or new appraisals be ordered on the five farms listed above for the February 2011 FRPP grant application. Support from Antor. Unanimous. It was noted that if a new local appraiser should be used one of the Bradford farms and the Wollander farm should be given to the new firm. It was also noted that the USDA may accept supplemental appraisal updates, which cost less than a new appraisal. Wills will ask USDA what type of appraisal will be required.

**2011 MEETING SCHEDULE**

After some discussion it was determined that the Ag Preservation Board will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Kent/MSU Extension.

**OTTAWA COUNTY PDR**

Wills attended an Ottawa County Ag Preservation Board meeting at the request of an MSUE colleague. A member of the Ottawa Ag Board was interested in attending a Kent County Ag Board meeting and explore the possibility of partnering to raise private funds for farmland preservation. After some discussion, the Preservation Board agreed to add this item to a future meeting agenda if/when the Ottawa County Ag Board member attends.

**MONITORING REPORTS**

Wills requested assistance from Preservation Board members in completing the 2010 monitoring reports on preserved farms. Reinbold, Blough and Hudson volunteered to help.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Antor suggested that a presentation on farmland preservation be made to Kent County Farm Bureau in 2011. It was noted that Bryan Heffron, Denny's son, is now Board President of Kent County Farm Bureau.

Antor also suggested that a meeting with Gerber and/or the Fremont Area Foundation be scheduled to discuss support for the Kent County PDR Program as many Kent County fruit and vegetables go to Gerber for processing. Perhaps Tony Blattner a local grower can help secure a meeting.

Wills agreed to follow up with the Meijer Foundation now that the Kent County budget has been adopted and \$275,000 of county funds have been allocated for farmland preservation.

## **2011 SCORING CRITERIA**

The Preservation Board continued to work on the 2011 scoring criteria. After much discussion, Reinbold moved that the total number of possible points be reduced to 100. Support from Davis. Unanimous. Each category was reviewed again and points were adjusted. After several drafts, Reinbold moved that the newly drafted PDR Scoring Criteria be recommended to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Support from Janowiak. Unanimous.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

Wills reported that Bonnie Robinson was featured in the Grand Rapids Community Foundation's annual report for preserving her farm through the Kent County PDR Program.

Hudson and Reinbold reported that the booth at the Wine and Food Festival was well received and it was worth the effort to staff it as a public education activity rather than a fundraising activity for the endowment fund.

Wills reminded Preservation Board members that each was assigned to visit township board meetings in 2011 to give a brief report on PDR. Talking points were reviewed and will continue to be finalized in early 2011. Wills also reported that some newsletter articles on farmland preservation were published in winter township newsletters; however, for others it was too late and we will have to wait until spring.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Antor distributed a newspaper article by Rick Haglund that features urban farming in Flint and Detroit and the importance of a healthy food supply to support our workforce as well as children.

Wills reminded the group that EPIC-MRA will be presenting the results of the phone poll survey on farmland preservation at the Dec 9, 2010 8:30 AM Board of Commissioners meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 11:30 AM to be held at Kent/MSU Extension.

Written by: Kendra Wills.