

APPROVED MINUTES
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
Wednesday, January 12, 2011
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 Jay Hoekstra

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wills thanked Reinbold, Hudson and Blough for their help in conducting the PDR monitoring appointments.

ADOPTION OF DECEMBER 8, 2010 MINUTES

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Janowiak nominated Hudson to continue as chairperson for 2011. Support from Davis. Mr. Hudson said he would welcome the opportunity to serve again. Davis moved nominations be closed. Support from Reinbold. Unanimous vote in favor of Hudson as chairperson.

Davis nominated Heffron to continue as vice chairperson. Support from Antor. Hudson said he believed Heffron is willing to continue. Janowiak moved nominations be closed. Support from Blough. Unanimous vote in favor of Heffron as vice chairperson.

Janowiak nominated Davis to continue to serve as secretary. Supported by Blough. Reinbold moved nominations be closed with support from Antor. Unanimous vote in favor of Davis as secretary.

WILCOX PDR CLOSING

Wills reported that four farms were closed on December 28, 2010 (Nauta, Cole, Rittersdorf and Bettes/Kingsbury). The closing for the 59 acre Wilcox farm had to be delayed due to the lack of appropriated funds. The contributions from the landowners for their PDR closings were never officially appropriated by the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Wilcox was very understanding of this situation as she was a former county commissioner. Pending Board approval of the landowner contributions on January 27, 2011, the Wilcox closing will take place on January 31, 2011.

USDA FRPP PROPOSAL DUE FEB 16, 2011

Wills reported that Yankee Appraisal was contracted to update all five appraisals from July as the USDA agreed that supplemental appraisal reports are acceptable. Supplemental reports cost less and don't take as long as complete reports. Wills agreed to work toward having a Kent County firm conduct a complete appraisal for the next round. USDA did hold a training on how to properly conduct an FRPP appraisal and we are hopeful a local firm attended this training in Ohio.

Appraisal results were presented to Ag Board members as a written handout. Wills agreed to meet with all four property owners to review their new appraisal results. The Kruitohff farm stayed the same in value and the Bradford LLC farm went up \$100 per acres and the Wollander farm went up \$200 per acre. No new sales were used as comparables.

Wills reported that the Bradford Trust farm had to be removed from the list of farms in the grant proposal application as it was discovered that the farm is owned by two different Bradford Family Trusts. USDA will not accept two owners for one application nor will they approve an appraisal for a farm with two owners. Ms. Bradford has been consulted about this. Wills concluded that title work will need to be done before appraisals are ordered to avoid this situation in the future.

2011 PUBLIC EDUCATION WORK PLAN

After the results of the EPIC MRA poll were presented, it was clear that public education is needed to inform the public about the PDR program and how it works. The Ag Board participated in a brainstorming session to list possible public education activities they could do in 2011. They then dot voted on the ideas to narrow down some priorities. Some members agreed to start on these activities and give a report at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Talen will present at next month's meeting on the PDR Sustainability Subcommittee Report.

2011 SCORING CRITERIA

The 2011 scoring criteria for the proposed March 1 – April 30, 2011 application cycle will be considered by the LHR committee and BOC in February. Wills will mail out post cards to the PDR mailing list to notify everyone of the application cycle in late February.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

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.

Antor requested that a list of Frequently Asked Questions about PDR be added to the web site. Wills agreed to work on this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wills noted that many county employees worked very hard to make the four December 28, 2011 PDR closings happen. Commissioners Hirsch and Antor requested a list of these employees so they could publicly thank them at a meeting.

Antor asked if the Natural Resources Trust Fund could be used as a funding source for PDR. Wills agreed to research this.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 11:30 AM to be held at Kent/MSU Extension.

Approved by: Jerry Davis

Written by: Kendra Wills.