

Approved Minutes
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
Wednesday, June 8, 2011
Location: Kent/MSU Extension

Members Present: Tom Antor, Carl Blough, Jerry Davis, Gabe Hudson, Sr. Lucille Janowiak
Members Absent: Suzie Reinbold, Dennis Heffron
Staff Present: Kendra Wills

Meeting called to order at 11:38 AM by Hudson.

Public Comment

Davis commented on the Grand Rapids Press Letter to the Editor regarding manure spreading on Mothers Day in Ottawa County. Sr. Lucille passed around a copy of the article by the Grand Rapids Press from May 16 that covered the May 7 PDR Celebration at the Wittenbach Center in Lowell.

Wills noted that Scott Everett was not able to make the meeting this month and we will hopefully reschedule our conversation with him about how the Preservation Board can work in support of state funding for PDR at a later date.

Adoption of May 11, 2011 Minutes

Motion by Davis with support from Janowiak to approve the May 11, 2011 minutes with one correction: note that Kate Dernoecoe spoke at the May 7 event. Unanimous.

2011 USDA FRPP Grant Agreement

Wills reported that the grant agreement to preserve the Wollander, Kruithoff and Brafdord LLC farms was signed by Kent County last week. The Bradford Trust property will be in front of the Board of Commissioners tomorrow for approval to submit to USDA for preservation in 2011 using left over grant funds that other counties did not use.

2011 PDR Scoring Update

Wills distributed one copy of the current PDR scores. Lots more staff work needs to be done to finish calculating the scores. 32 applications were submitted. Cannon, Cascade and Grattan Townships all contributed at least \$2,000 toward PDR applications from their townships. Property owners will be mailed a letter with their scores in July. The Preservation Board will be presented final scoring results in August and will be asked to make decisions on which farms to be appraised at the August meeting.

June 24 PDR Celebration Event Planning

The Preservation Board brainstormed a list of people to be sure to mail invitations to for the June 24 PDR Celebration at the Bettes and Kingsbury farm in Sparta Township. Hudson will bring the grills, tables, will pay for the cost of the port-a-potty and will provide hog dog and hamburger buns. Heffron will donate hot dogs and hamburgers. The program will note that crops from Kent County preserved farms were used to feed the beef cattle that made the hot dogs and hamburgers. Reinbold will bring the onions. Antor will bring the condiments and balloons. Kent/MSU Extension will provide chips, cider, punch, plates, cups, napkins, signs and the printed program. Commissioner Frost Parrish will speak and present a tribute to the families. Senator Meekhoff and a staff member of Congressman Huizenga will also speak.

Other

The July 2011 meeting was cancelled to allow for staff time to send out PDR scoring results to applicants. Blough was reminded to complete the conflict of interest form and Heffron will be contacted again.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 12:55 PM.
Next Meeting is Aug 10, 2011 at 11:30 at Kent/MSUE
Written by Kendra Wills