

Approved Minutes
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
Wednesday, August 1, 2012
Location: Kent / MSU Extension

Members Present: Tom Antor, Carl Blough, Gabe Hudson, Dennis Heffron, Sr. Lucille Janowiak,

Members Absent: Bryan Harrison, Suzie Reinbold

Staff Present: Kendra Wills, Jennifer DeHaan, Virginia Vander Veen, Kent/MSU Extension Summer Intern

Meeting called to order at 11:37 AM by Hudson.

Public Comment

DeHaan announced that interviews for the Ag Board position will be conducted Monday, August 6, 2012, at 9 AM in the second floor training room of the County Building. Heffron, Reinbold, and Hudson will be attending the interviews. Once a consensus has been reached as to which candidate will be the new hiree, DeHaan will send out an update to the Board. There will be 10 interview questions and the process will last about an hour and a half. Hudson expressed concern about the level of commitment from the candidates due to their heavy involvement in other preservation programs. Hudson also wanted to compliment Wills, Hirsch, and Heffron on their presentations on the bus tour.

Review of Agenda for Possible Conflict of Interest

None declared.

Adoption of July 11, 2012 Minutes

Motion by Janowiak with support from Antor to approve the minutes. Unanimous.

Review of 2012 PDR Scoring Results and Appraisal Selection

The Board began a discussion about the 2012 PDR applicants, to determine which farms should be appraised for possible preservation. Wills stated that two components were important when determining which farms should be appraised; the first is subregion rank, and the second is how much funding is available. Wills went on to discuss the difficulty of knowing how much can be spent on preservation and suggested appraising what the Board thinks they can preserve based on an estimated \$100,000 appropriation from Kent County. It was noted that a \$0.00 appropriation would likely result in only one possible farm to be submitted to the USDA for matching funds in 2013, which would be the farm with Wege Foundation support.

Although there was some discussion about appraising properties based on the \$150,000 granted last year, the Board decided to base their appraisal selections based on an estimated \$100,000 appropriation from Kent County for PDR in 2013. The following is a list of grant funds that would be available based on \$100,000 from Kent County:

Frey	\$22,880	
GRFC	\$28,600 (if a grant extension request were submitted and approved)	
Wege	\$140,000 (for a specific farm)	
USDA	<u>\$200,000</u>	(approximate grant proposal amount)
Total	\$500,000	 2.5 preserved farms (estimated)

Based on these figures, the Ag Board agreed to appraise five or six farms.

Wills noted that there are three farms would need appraisal updates if they were to remain eligible for preservation in 2013. Those farms include, VanOeffelen, Youngquist, and Poulias. Wills inquired about the possibility of using the Youngquist farm for biosolid application. Heffron suggested contacting the City of Wyoming to see if they would be interested in the farm before contacting the property owners. Wills also brought up the possibility of using the VanOeffelen farm for next year's fundraiser provided this year's fundraiser for the Goodfellow farm is successful.

Motion by Heffron to update VanOeffelen (38 acres), Youngquist, and Poulias, using the original appraiser if possible, supported by Blough. Unanimous.

DenBraber Farm, Gaines Township

Wills informed the Board that she received a response from Gaines Township regarding the Board's request for documentation showing that the Township has this property planned for sewer and water service. The Township confirmed that its Board approved DenBraber farm for preservation. The Township sent Wills a water service agreement between the City of Wyoming and Gaines Township as its only form of documentation. The Board determined that a service agreement is not proof of future plans for public water or sewer infrastructure to service this particular property, and decided to go ahead with the appraisal.

Motion by Heffron to accept DenBraber farm for appraisal due to the fact that the water service area is different from the property being planned for water and sewer infrastructure, supported by Antor. Unanimous.

Final Motion for Farms to Be Appraised

After review of the 2012 PDR scoring results, the Board decided to appraise one farm from the North Sub-Region, one from the South Sub-Region, two from the Parnell Sub-Region, and two from the Fruit Ridge Sub-Region.

Motion by Janowiak to appraise Branford, VanOeffelen (48 acres), Hefferan, Frost, Bean, and DenBraber, supported by Heffron. Unanimous

Other

Wills brought up the topic of the Goodfellow Fundraiser to discuss the details, and after some deliberation the following was determined:

Date: Goodfellow fundraiser will be held Thursday, September 27, 2012.

Possible Locations: Adrienne's on West River Drive, The Radisson on Ann Street.

Budget: \$6,000-\$8,000 from Agricultural Preservation Boards of Michigan

First mailing: Delivered Sept. 4th or 5th

Second mailing: Delivered Sept. 19th or 20th

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 1:00 PM.

Written by Virginia Vander Veen