

Approved Minutes
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
January 9, 2013
Location: Kent / MSU Extension

Members Present: Tom Antor, Carl Blough, Gabe Hudson, Dennis Heffron, Suzie Reinbold

Members Absent: Bryan Harrison

Guest: Paula Blough,

Staff Present: Stacy Byers and Jennifer DeHaan

Meeting called to order at 11:35 AM by Hudson.

I. Welcome and Call to Order: Gabe Hudson, Chair

II. Public Comment: None.

III. Review Agenda and Declaration of Any Possible Conflict of Interest

- a. None declared. Paula Blough joined the group. Paula is a student at Kansas State University majoring in Agriculture Communications and had developed the Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board's Facebook page. Since Paula was present at the meeting, the Board moved to amend the agenda to include an item to discuss the Facebook page and photo contest. **Motion made by Heffron, second by Blough to include item V.a. Facebook page and photo contest. Motion passed unanimously.**

IV. Review and Adoption of December 12, 2012 Minutes

- a. December 12, 2012 meeting minutes were discussed. **Motion by D. Heffron, second by C. Blough to approve the December 12, 2012 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.**

V. Old Business

- a. **Facebook page and photo contest** – P. Blough informed the group of the recent activity regarding the Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board's Facebook page. She mentioned she would like to see more "likes" of the page and encouraged Board members to forward it on to their networks and encourage others to "like" the page as well. One of the first tasks performed by P. Blough was to administer a photo contest. There were four categories for the contest; Farming, Preserved Farms, Wildlife and Farm animals. P. Blough presented all the photos submitted and the Ag Board reviewed and ranked them. In addition, P. Blough added that it was difficult to choose a winner for each category as they were all very good and suggested giving prizes to all five people that submitted photos. The Board agreed and thanked P. Blough for her work.

- b. **2013 Kent County PDR Application Cycle update** – S. Byers gave a report on the status of the 2013 County application cycle. She is working on the postcard announcements and is hoping to have them out by the end of the month. However, DeHaan added that the BOC does not formally approve the application the cycle until February 5, 2013. The Legislative

Committee will be reviewing the scoring criteria and approve the cycle at its January 22, 2013 meeting. Therefore, the application cycle will likely not be announced until the end of February. In the past application cycles have been from March 1 to April 30, 2013. D. Heffron discussed having workshops to educate landowners about the application process and PDR in general. The Board was in favor of the idea and discussion continued. D. Heffron suggested hosting the workshops in two locations throughout the county in order to receive maximum exposure, one in the Northern portion of the County and one in the Southern portion of the County. The date of the workshops was also discussed. With an application deadline of April 30th, it was felt that an early to mid-April date would be best. G. Hudson had concerns about hosting a workshop too close to planting season. The Board agreed. S. Byers would put it on the agenda for the February agenda to finalize a date.

c. **2012 Application Cycle update** – S. Byers updated the board on the progress of meeting with landowners regarding the appraisals that were ordered late 2012. S. Byers presented a spreadsheet of the appraisals and gave a brief update of the budget based on the forecasts presented by Ms. Wills at the December meeting. S. Byers and D. Heffron met with the Wege Foundation to confirm their donation for 2013. The Wege Foundation is committed to \$140,000.00 for 2013 for the Frost Family Trust Farm. **Motion made by D. Heffron second by T. Antor to recommend to the Kent County Board of Commissioners that option agreements be issued on the Frost, VanOeffelen and Youngquist properties for 2013, and to proceed with Option Agreements for each. Motion passed unanimously.** S. Byers will work with DeHaan to bring the 2013 Option Agreements to the BOC for approval at the February meeting.

d. **Updates of (Pending) closings** – S. Byers reported that Ms. Wills closed the Bradford Farm in December 2012. The Patterson farm was delayed due to a pre-existing oil and gas lease signed less than five years ago. Wills is working with the oil and gas company out of Mt. Pleasant to terminate the lease. FRPP policy states that oil and gas leases *must* be subordinated, and preferably terminated, prior to closing to ensure the chain of title reflects the Conservation Easement Deed as preceding any encumbrances. Wills is hopeful it will close in the next month.

VI. New Business

- a. **2013 FRPP Announcement** – S. Byers reported that the 2013 FRPP Cycle was announced in December 2012. The deadline for applications is March 8, 2013. The Board agreed to move forward with making application to the FRPP program with the Youngquist, Frost and VanOeffelen properties.
- b. **2013 Meeting Schedule** – Meeting dates for the 2013 year were discussed. **Motion made by S. Reinbold, second by D. Heffron to keep to the same schedule of the first Wednesday of the month at 11:30 am at the Kent County MSU Extension office. Motion passed unanimously.**

c. Election of Officers –

- i. For the position of Chairperson; Motion made by T. Antor, second by S. Reinbold to nominate G. Hudson as the 2013 Chairperson and also moved to close nominations. Motion passed unanimously.**
- ii. For the position of Vice Chairperson; Motion made by T. Antor, second by S. Reinbold to nominate D. Heffron as the 2013 Vice Chairperson and also moved to close nominations. Motion passed unanimously.**
- iii. For the position of Secretary; Motion made by T. Antor, second by D. Heffron to nominate S. Reinbold as the 2013 Secretary and also moved to close nominations. Motion passed unanimously.**

VII. Other – There was no other discussion.

VIII. Public Comment - None.

IX. Adjournment – Motion made by T. Antor, second by D. Heffron to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Next meeting date is February 6, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. at the Kent County MSU Extension Office.