

Approved Minutes
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
April 3, 2013
Location: Kent/MSU Extension

Members Present: Tom Antor (County Commissioner), Carl Blough (Ag Interest) Gabe Hudson (Ag Interest), Michele VanHouten (Conservation Interest), Denny Heffron (Ag Interest)

Members Absent: Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest)

Guest: Barry Lonik, Treemore Ecology Center, Ann Arbor Michigan, Jack Schmitt, League of Conservation Voters

Staff Present: Stacy Byers, Board Coordinator and Jennifer DeHaan, County Administrators Office

Meeting called to order at 11:34am 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. None was heard.**
- IV. Review and Adoption of March 6, 2013 Minutes.**
 - a. *The March 6, 2013 meeting minutes were discussed. Motion by Antor, second by VanHouten to approve the March 6, 2013 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.***
- V. Old Business**
 - a. *2013 Kent County Application cycle* – Byers gave an update of the 2013 application cycle progress. Postcards were sent to the Kent County list provided by the Equalization Department of all landowners of over 20 acres in size. Approximately 1200 cards were sent. The deadline for applications to the program is April 30, 2013. Byers discussed the Landowner Workshop to be tentatively held April 25, 2013. Blough suggested the Lowell Township Hall and will get back with Byers to confirm.
 - b. *FRPP Grant Application due March 8, 2013* – The Federal Application for matching dollars for the Frost and VanOeffelen Properties was submitted on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 to the USDA NRCS Office. Byers anticipates hearing from the FRPP by the middle of May 2013.
 - i. *Wege Foundation – potential applicants* – Heffron and Byers met with the Wege Foundation on March 20, 2013 to discuss allocating a portion of the “unused funds” for other properties on list. The Foundation representative agreed as long as the properties were located in the desired geographic

areas. Heffron and Byers also discussed the possibility of applying for more grant dollars in 2013 to match other properties on the list. The Wege Foundation encouraged the Farmland Preservation Board to submit another grant application for additional funds. Heffron suggested going through the current list of applicants to determine which ones fit the criteria for the Wege Foundation. If more FRPP dollars become available in 2013, having a couple farms prepared and in “hopper” would be important. **Motion made by Heffron, seconded by BLough to submit a grant proposal to the Wege Foundation for \$100,000 to match FRPP dollars, in the event funds become available.**

VI. New Business

- a. United Growth Presentation - Byers was invited to give a presentation on March 22, 2013 to the United Growth Project. Heffron, Hudson, VanHouten and Reinbold attended the meeting. VanHouten commented it was nice to have clear action steps developed as a result of the break-out groups intended to educate the public on the environmental, economic and social elements of the program. VanHouten was encouraged by the “reinvigoration” of the issues and the good cross-section of people willing to dedicate time and resources to furthering awareness of PDR. Heffron commented that it was refreshing to see United Growth reengage in the issue. Heffron also encouraged board members to distribute the endorsement forms (Byers brought copies to meeting) to agencies and/or organizations and individuals to sign and return to Byers. Developing a list of farmland preservation supporters is critical for education and awareness purposes.
 - b. Case Study of the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program – Byers introduced Barry Lonik of Treemore Ecology, Inc. to the group. Lonik administers three of the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Township Programs in Washtenaw County. Lonik shared a power point presentation with the Board on how The Greenbelt Program is funded, administered and structured. Discussion followed.
- VII. Other.** DeHaan updated the group on the status of the new member. Interviews were held and the new member should be appointed at the April Board meeting.
- VIII. Public Comment.** No Public comment.
- IX. Adjournment.** Motion by Antor, seconded by Heffron to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2013 at 11:30 am at Kent/MSU Extension.