

Unapproved Minutes
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
June 26, 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), Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), and.

Members Absent: Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Staff Present: Stacy Byers, Board Coordinator and Jennifer DeHaan, County Administrator's Office

Meeting called to order at 11:33am 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.** Chair Hudson noted the agenda should reflect "adoption of June 5, 2013" minutes not May 1, 2013.
- IV. Review and Adoption of June 5, 2013 Minutes.**
 - a. *The June 5, 2013 meeting minutes were discussed. Motion by Heffron, second by Reinbold to approve the June 5, 2013 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.***
- V. Old Business**
 - i. *Application Cycle – Review of updated spreadsheet.*** Byers passed out an updated version of the scoring criteria and ranking information. The spreadsheet contained all applicants, both new and old, and ranked them according to the criteria approved by the Ag Board and Board of Commissioners. Four new applications were received from the 2013 application cycle; Hubert farm in Sparta Township, Hall farm in Grattan township, Debski farm in Alpine Township and the VanHeest farm in Gaines Township. The farms were discussed. All other applications elected to remain active in the 2013 cycle. Byers was pleased with the new applications and felt the overall application cycle was a success.
 - 1. *Fundraising update – review information Kruitoff Farm.*** The Ag board discussed using the Kruitoff farm for the fundraising event. Byers was able to speak with the Kruitoff's who agreed to allow their property to be used as the showcase property for the

fundraising event and were excited at the opportunity to protect their farm. The Kruitoff farm is approximately 36 acres in Tyronne Township. Stan was unable to attend but conveyed that fundraising event activities were well underway.

- ii. *FRPP Program Update:* Byers gave a brief update of the FRPP grant status submitted in March. No Cooperative Agreements have been issued yet, however the Coordinator has given verbal confirmation that both farms should receive the requested amount. Byer will continue to keep the Board updated as she receives information.
- iii. *County structure for easement donation* – Dehaan presented the draft language to establish the process in which the County could receive easement donations. Two documents were presented; The Procedures and Standard – Donated Development Rights and the draft Conservation Easement Deed language. The Board discussed the documents.
- iv. *Promotional and outreach material* – VanHouten dicussed the need for further outreach to the general public in an effort to tell “*the stories*” of farmland preservation. She would like to draft several stories to be used in various media outlets. Heffron said what a great idea he thought that was and thanked VanHouten for taking the initiate to do this. VanHouten expects to have them ready to share at the next board meeting.

VI. New Business

- i. Heffron reported on the Tour out East. Dates are set for July 24-26, 2013 and the anticipated cost is \$1,800/person. Heffron encouraged board members to think of individuals that would benefit from the experience. There is room for about 12 participants. Heffron also talked about several signs that may have been stolen from preserved properties. He filed a report with the police department and is looking into this. Heffron suggested order two additional signs to replace the ones stolen.

VII. Public Comment. None present.

VIII. Adjournment. Motion by Reinbold, seconded by Heffron to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Next Meeting: *August 7, 2013 at 11:30 am at Kent/MSU Extension.*