

**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board**  
**November 7, 2013**  
**Location: MSU Extension Office**

**Members Present:** Gabe Hudson (Ag Interest), Michele VanHouten (Conservation Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest) Denny Heffron (Ag Interest), and Carl Blough (Ag Interest)

**Members Absent:** Suzie Reinhold (Real Estate Interest) and Tom Antor (Board of Commission Interest)

**Staff Present:** Stacy Byers, Board Coordinator

**Meeting began at 11:38am.**

**I. Welcome: Gabe Hudson, Chair.**

**II. Public Comment: None.**

**III. Review Agenda and Declaration of Any Possible Conflict of Interest.** None was declared.

**IV. Review and Adoption of October 2, 2013 Minutes.** –**Motion by Heffron seconded by Robinette to adopt the October 2, 2013 minutes as corrected. Motion passed.**

**V. Old Business**

- a. *Wege Grant* - Byers was pleased to announce that the Wege Foundation has awarded the Kent County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board approximately \$220,000.00 for the purchase of the two additional properties in Grattan Township for the 2014 cycle. The Weeks and Hefferan properties were submitted for consideration and both will be receiving matching funds from the Wege Foundation.
- b. *LCV education campaign update* – The Wege Foundation also announced that they will be funding a portion of the LCV proposed educational campaign for 2014 and 2015. The purpose of the campaign is to create a clearinghouse of public opinion data and public awareness materials – including website material, brochures, profiles, and photo essays. The intent is to also engage the public via bus tours, public forums, a speaker series, earned media, grassroots and grasstops activities to increase the level of awareness about farmland and open space preservation in Kent County.

**VI. New Business**

- a. *Appraisals for 2014* – Byers reported that upon the award of the Wege Grant proposal, the Board needs to move forward with appraisals on the two properties in order to meet the 2014 Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program deadline (which has not yet been announced but is typically the later part of February or the beginning of March. Byers mentioned that there was enough

funds in the budget for two appraisals. **Motion by Heffron seconded by VanHouten to order appraisals on the Weeks and Hefferan Properties in order to meet the FRPP deadline. Motion passed.**

**VII.** Other

- a.** Chair Hudson announced he will not be renewing his position on the Agriculture Preservation Board when his term expires at the end of December 2013. All board members voiced their disappointment to see Colonial Hudson go, but wished him the best in his future endeavors.

**VIII.** Public Comment – None was heard

**IX.** Adjournment – **Motion by Heffron, seconded by Blough to adjourn. Motion passed.**

Next Meeting: *December 4, 2013 at 11:30 at Kent/MSU Extension*