

Unapproved Minutes
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
December 4, 2013
Location: MSU Extension Office

Members Present: Carl Blough (Ag Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Gabe Hudson (Ag Interest), Michele VanHouten (Conservation Interest), and Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Tom Antor (County Commissioner)

Members Absent: Denny Heffron (Ag Interest)

Staff Present: Stacy Byers, Board Coordinator

Public Present: Bill Hirsch

Meeting began at 11:40am.

I. Welcome: 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 November 7, 2013 Minutes.

a. Motion by Robinette seconded by Antor to adopt November 7, 2013 minutes. Motion passed.

V. Old Business

a. Appraisals on Weeks and Hefferan Farms - The Hefferan and Weeks properties were selected by the Wege Foundation for matching funds in 2014. Byers will be ordering appraisals and having the landowners hire surveyors on the properties to get them ready for the FRPP application.

VI. New Business

i. Scoring Criteria for 2014 – Byers met with Assistant County Administrator Mary Swanson to talk about the 2014 budget. Swanson suggested *not* hosting an application cycle in 2014. Byers suggested the Ag Board discuss it. Reinbold was not in favor of not hosting a cycle. The Application cycle sends a message that the board is still operating and landowners can still apply. VanHouten concurred. More discussion was heard. **Motion by Reinbold, seconded by VanHouten to host a 2014 application cycle. Motion passed.**

- ii. Byers passed out a calendar for 2014 meeting dates. Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month except for January, as that is a holiday.

VII. Other

- i. Thank you for years of service to Chair Hudson.
- ii. Thank you for years of service to Commissioner Representative Tom Antor

VIII. Public Comment – None was heard

IX. Adjournment – Motion by Reinbold, seconded by Antor to adjourn. Motion passed. Next meeting date is January 8, 2014 at the MSU Extension Offices.

Next Meeting: *January 8, 2014 at 11:30 am at Kent/MSU Extension.*