

**Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board**  
**November 5, 2014**  
**Location: Kent/MSU Extension**

**Members Present:** Carl Blough (Ag Interest), Candace Chivis (County Commissioner), Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest), Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Russ Slater (Ag Interest) and Michele Van Houten (Conservation Interest)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Stacy Byers (Board Coordinator), Debbie Green (Kent/MSU Extension) and Mary Swanson (Administrator's Office)

**Public Present:** None

Meeting began at 11:30 a.m.

- I. **Welcome and Call to Order** – Chair, Dennis Heffron
- II. **Public Comment** – None
- III. **Review Agenda and Declaration of Any Possible Conflict of Interest** – None
- IV. **Review and Adoption of September 2, 2014 Minutes** – Meeting minutes were reviewed by members present. One correction was that Candace Chivis was not present at the September 3, 2014 meeting. **Motion by Robinette to accept with change, seconded by Van Houten. Motion passed.**
- V. **Old Business**
  - a. 2014 FRPP applications – update  
The Poulias property will not close until after January 1, 2015. There is a back log because of wording issue changes from the new Farm Bill. The Hall property will not be funded
  - b. 2013 FRPP Status – Frost and Vanoeffelen  
The Frost property has closed, but the Vanoeffelen property is still dealing with logistics.
  - c. 2014 Wege Grant Application  
The grant application was submitted, but since Peter Wege's passing away the board members have changed. Currently the board includes 6 of Wege's children and 13 Wege grandchildren. The grant included 100% funding for the Hall property (for easement costs), 2015 Wittenbach property FRPP funds (appraisal to

be completed over the winter months) and \$12,000 short fall funding for administration of the Farmland Preservation program. A decision on the grant will not be received until late November 2014.

Stacy offered to make a presentation to the Wege children and grandchildren to let them know about the activities of the Farmland Preservation Board.

Mary Swanson presented the Kent County Board of Commissioners stance on the County's \$25,000 commitment to Farmland Preservation. There are also matching funds which include the Freye Foundation, the Wege Foundation and the Grand Rapids Foundation.

Discussion followed regarding funding sources which includes: individuals, townships, counties, state and federal.

d. LCVEF Update

The last Farmland Preservation tour will be next Friday, November 14 and everyone is invited to attend. Currently they have 45 registrants and there is room for 55.

The December 11-12, 2014 conference has been moved to next year, January 2015. The \$40,000 grant from the Wege Foundation was earmarked for 3 tours, the conferences and for administrative costs. The approximate cost per tour is \$5,000 and there was no cost to the registrants attending the tours.

**VI. New Business**

Slater asked about any information Byers might have on the Ottawa Farmland Initiative. Byers informed the board that she is helping the board to get up and running. The county has already selected a farm property and they are currently looking for funding partners.

**VII. Other – None**

**VIII. Public Comment – None**

**IX. Adjournment – Motion by Robinette and seconded by Chivis to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.**

Next Meeting December 4, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. at the Kent/MSU Extension Office