

**Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board Meeting Agenda**  
**March 1, 2017**  
**Kent/MSU Extension**  
**11:30 AM**

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

**Members Absent:** Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest) and Robert Womack (County Commissioner)

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

Before the meeting started, Mary Swanson introduced Elliott Nelson who is a new Management Analyst in the Administrator's Office. He is taking the position that Nathan Kark held previously.

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m. by Vice-Chairman, Michele Van Houten because of the absence of Chairman, Dennis Heffron.
- II. Public Comment** - None
- III. Review Agenda and Declaration of Any Possible Conflict of Interest** - None
- IV. Review and Adoption of February 1, 2017 Minutes** – There was a correction requested by Carl Blough. His new title with the Corn Growers Association is District Director and not President. With this change noted, Carl made a motion to accept the February 1, 2017 meeting minutes. Suzie seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- V. New Business**
  - a. Selection Criteria review and approval** – Suzie made a motion to accept the Selection Criteria as written. Ed seconded the motion and the motion passed. Mary mentioned to the board members that the Selection Criteria really needs to go before the Board of Commissioners for approval at one of their monthly meetings. Also, the approval is needed from the Board of Commissioners to open the 2017 Application Cycle. These two items should be brought before the board at either the April 11 or April 27 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Stacy mentioned that when sending out the 2017 application information packets for possible farmland preservation, the “Application and Appraisal Process and Policies” information will now be included.

At the June 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting, the members are planning on approving the Appraisal Process. Please look this document over and send any suggested changes to Stacy before the next meeting. Also, as a reminder, this meeting will be Carl Blough’s last meeting before he resigns from his position on the board.

Discussion followed regarding the process that needs to be followed to fill Carl’s position. Mary said that if anyone knows of people interested in filling this vacancy, please direct them to the Kent County website and once there they can fill out an application. Stacy brought up a suggested member to fill Carl’s position: Denny & Dawn Hall since they are former farmland preservation recipients and know the process.

#### **VI. Old Business**

Review of Meeting Schedule – there will be no meeting for the months of April and May. A couple of changes were brought up regarding the 2017 Calendar that was sent out to the board members. First of all, the column on the right hand side does not match the dates for meetings. There will be meetings held in June and December. Also, the dates for the Landowner Awareness Meetings will be held in June sometime instead of April as listed.

Just for information, Stacy and Denny will be hosting a Preservation of Development Rights Tour out east to Lancaster County – Pennsylvania, Carol County – Maryland and Burlington County – New Jersey on April 21-23, 2017. There will be space for 15-20 people at a cost of \$800-\$1,000 per person. They are hoping to get some scholarship funds from the Frey and Wege Foundations to offset the costs. Possible attendees include: Commissioner Diane Jones, Commissioner Robert Womack, Township Supervisors and/or Ingham and Ottawa County Commissioners.

#### **VII. Public Comment - None**

#### **VIII. Adjournment** – Suzie made a motion to close the meeting. Russ seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm

No Meeting Scheduled for April or May.

Next meeting date is June 7, 2017 at 11:30 AM at Kent/MSU Extension.