

**Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board Meeting**  
**September 6, 2017 Meeting**  
**Kent/MSU Extension**  
**11:30 AM**

**Members Present: Denny Heffron, Suzie Reinbold, Robert Womack, Ed Robinette and Steven Versluis (newly appointed Ag Interest).**

**Members Absent: Michele VanHouten, Russ Slater**

**Staff Present: Stacy Byers (Board Coordinator), Elliott Nelson (Administrator's Office)**

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 11:38 am. Chair Heffron welcomed Mr. Versluis to the Ag Board and asked him to tell the Committee about himself. Following Mr. Versluis, Chair Heffron had all present committee members introduce themselves and identify what "interest" they were serving.
- II. Public Comment** - None
- III. Review Agenda and Declaration of Any Possible Conflict of Interest** – Chair Heffron declared a possible conflict of interest as it related to the scoring and ranking of the 2017 application cycle. He stated that one of the top ranked applications was one of the farms he rents, and would excuse himself from voting. Discussion ensued regarding what constituted a "conflict of interest". Chair Heffron clarified that any monetary interest or business relationship would qualify as a conflict and must be declared.
- IV. Review and Adoption of June 7, 2017 Minutes** - *E. Robinette moved and S. Reinbold seconded to accept the June 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.*
- V. New Business**
  - a. 2017 Application Cycle update**
    - i. Review ranking list, make decision on property to move forward**

Byers presented the Board with a copy of the completed ranking for the 2017 application cycle. Twenty-seven applications, both new and old were scored and ranked against the approved 2017 Selection Criteria. The KCAPB received three new applications for 2017. Each application is divided into four categories based on their location, Fruit Ridge; Parnell Corridor; North; and South. In compliance with the Ordinance, application selection must be based on the ranking, via the approved selection criteria, and proceed in ascending order from highest to lowest, based on availability of funds. To that end, applications in the Parnell Corridor historically are selected as the Wege Foundation will only fund projects that directly impact that corridor. *E. Robinette moved, and S. Reinbold seconded to approve the 2017 Application Cycle Ranking. Motion carried.*

*S. Reinbold moved, and R. Womak seconded to approve selecting the Sieracki application from Gratten Township and the Hefferan application from Ada Township, and proceed with due diligence to close both. Chair Heffron, recused himself from the vote. Motion Carried.*

- b. September 14, Presentation to House Ag Committee** – Representative Alberts office needs to reschedule the Presentation to the House Ag Committee. They will be contacting Byers when there is a free slot on an upcoming agenda.
- c. Roth easement/ACEP update** – Roth closing is moving along. Byers anticipates a closing in November 2017. The appraisal is being updated and a new survey was ordered for the new parcel ID.

**VI. Old Business**

- a. Review of Meeting Schedule** – Chair Heffron spoke about a workshop that will be held in October 4 at the Blanford Nature Center from 2-5:00 p.m. The agenda will include several speakers about the importance of farmland preservation including a special guest from Lancaster County PA. They will have a short discussion on the status of the County program, and how to move forward with a long-term funding source. All are encouraged to attend.

**VII. Public Comment - None**

**VIII. Adjournment:** Next meeting date is October 4, 2017 at 10:00 AM at Kent/MSU Extension. Please note time change.