

Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2019
MSU Extension Office
11:30 A.M.

Members Present: *Dennis Heffron (Ag. Interest), Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Russ Slater (Ag. Interest) and Matt Kallman (County Commissioner)*

Members Absent: Steve Versluis (Ag Interest)

Staff Present: Stacy Byers (Board Coordinator) and Matthew VanZetten (County Administrator's Office)

Public Present: Matt Woodford, Kent County Equalization

- I. **Welcome and Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 11:37 a.m. by Chairman, Dennis Heffron
- II. **Public Comment** – None
- III. **Review Agenda and Declaration of Any Possible Conflict of Interest** – None
- IV. **Review and Adoption of September 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes (there was no quorum at the November meeting therefore, the September 5 minutes were not approved, and no formal business took place)** Ed motioned and Suzie seconded to approve the minutes
- V. **New Business**
 - a. **2019 Budget Request** – You may recall, at the recommendation of Mary and the Chairman of the BOC, the Ag Board was to make a formal request for bridge funding for the program. The request was for \$350K, \$50K of which is for administration costs, \$37K for Stacy and \$13K for other overhead. The Board of Commissioners did not approve the Ag Board's Budget request of \$350,000. However, they are requesting a formal presentation to the County on the activities of the Ag Board and the new administrator and his staff seem interested in partnering with us to find a solution to the funding challenge.
 - b. **2019 Selection Criteria** – Stacy passed out the 2018 Selection Criteria and asked the board to review it and discuss any changes they would like to see. Denny, is there a map of township easements? And would it be possible to transfer those easements to the County, since the County has the infrastructure to monitor and administer the program?

VI. Old Business – Updates

- a. Bradford** – Stacy reported that the holidays slowed the closing down a bit, and shared that the funds from AFT got held up. The Bradford Farm should close next week.
- b. Roth** – Stacy reported that the Roth easement is nearly done. She is finalizing last minute forms and getting necessary signatures. The Federal Shutdown will likely have an effect on the closing timeline. She is hopeful it will close in the next couple weeks.
- c. ACEP** – There is no formal word on when the Federal Application Cycle deadline will be, but Stacy suggests we prepare for a late February deadline. Farms to move forward for ACEP consideration, Hefferan and Sieracki. **R. Slater moved and E. Robinette seconded to move forward with submitting the Hefferan Farm (Ada Township) and the Sieracki Farm to the 2019 ACEP Application Cycle. Motion carried.**

VII. Election of Officers – Russ moved, Suzie seconded, to continue the same slate of officers for 2019 as were seated for 2018: D. Heffron, Chair; S. Reinbold Vice-Chair; R. Slater Secretary. Motion passed.

VIII. Public Comment – None

IX. Adjournment: Suzie made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ed seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Next meeting date is February 6, 2019 at 11:30 AM at MSU Extension Office.