

Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2019

Kent County MSU Extension Office

11:30 A.M.

Members Present: Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest), Commissioner Matt Kallman, Gretchen Mousel (Conservation Interest), Dan Oesch (Ag Interest), Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest) and Russ Slater (Ag Interest)

Members Absent: Matthew VanZetten (County Administrator's Office)

Staff Present: Stacy Byers (Board Coordinator) and Debbie Green (Kent County MSU Extension)

- 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** – Dennis Heffron reiterated his past declaration of possible conflict of interest regarding the Sieracki farm.
- IV. Review and Adoption of March 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to accept the March 6, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kallman seconded the motion and the motion passed
- V. New Business**
 - i. 2019 Application Cycle** – The Application Cycle is underway through Wednesday, July 31, 2019. Stacy has already received 2 applications for this cycle in January.
 - ii. Landowner Workshop** – The Landowner Workshop held at the Lowell Township Hall did not have any participants. A second Landowner Workshop will be held at 12:00 noon today after the board meeting.
 - iii. Fundraising Event** – Dennis Heffron reported on the Friends of Kent County Farmland Preservation fundraiser in April. The KCFP raised \$6,200 that night and this money will be presented to the Kent County Board of Commissioners in support of Farmland Preservation. Good Job!

It was suggested that another trip out east (Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey) to observe how the Farmland Preservation program is

operated in that part of the country. The only challenge is to find funding for the approximate \$20,000 needed to get a group of 12 people out east.

- iv. **Budget/State Application Update** – The county budget will be out in July. The board had asked for \$300,000.00 and were denied. However, they did approve \$20,000 - \$40,000 for the program.

The State Application Cycle will begin in October and they have set aside \$2 million dollars. In the August-September time frame, we will have the rankings for the 2020 round of applications.

VI. Old Business - Updates

- a. **Roth** – The Roth property preservation was finally closed, and the costs were a combination of Federal money and Wege Foundation money.
- b. **2019 ACEP – Sieracki** property will be included in the 2020 State Cycle. The landowner will need to supply 25% of the funding to apply. The state funding decisions focus on preservation programs while the ACEP funding focuses more on the soil and parcel size.
 - i. **Wege Grant** – For the Sieracki Farm property preservation, we will need \$86,000 from the Wege Foundation and \$50,000 from State funds to pay for the preservation.

VII. Public Comment - None

- VIII. Adjournment** – Suzie Reinbold made a motion to close the meeting at 11:55 a.m. Gretchen Mousel seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Next meeting date is Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.
at the Kent County MSU Extension Office.