



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Room 311 – 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids MI

DRAFT Minutes

Members Present: Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Dan Oesch (Ag Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Gretchen Mousel (Conservation Interest Representative), Russ Slater (Ag Interest)

Absent: Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest), Matt Kallman (County Commissioner)

Staff: Matthew VanZetten, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Suzie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.
- II. **Review of Agenda** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the March 2020 agenda. Gretchen Mousel supported. The agenda was approved by consensus.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the February 2020 minutes. supported. UNANIMOUS
- IV. **2020 Selection Cycle – Next Steps** – Matt Channing talked about what would happen next for Kent County’s annual Purchase of Development Rights 2020 applications. He said that he would develop content for the website and develop outreach material for prospective applicants. The ninety-day application window is tentatively scheduled to open May 1st and last through July 30th.
- V. **Staff Report** –
 - a. **State Grant** - Matt Channing shared with the Board the results of the state’s grant scores. He informed the Board that neither of Kent County’s applications were selected but he discussed with the Board opportunities for developing the County’s program and adapting the selection criteria to earn more points in future cycles.
 - b. **Federal ACEP** – Matt Channing informed the Board that the Federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program was accepting applications. This is a program the

County applies to every year and he said he would submit the Kruihoff property to the program. The application window is set to close March 31st.

- c. Administrative Transition** – Matt Channing updated the Board on where staff was with transitioning from the MSU Extension building. Facilities staff transferred all documents over to the Administration Building and Matt was sorting material for filing.
- d. Violation** – Matt Channing told the Board that through the County’s recent communication with the state USDA representative, the County learned that the Rittersdorf property’s split does constitute a violation. The state representative expressed appreciation that the County was reaching out to him proactively and will work with the County on deriving a solution.

A motion was made by Russ Slater to adjourn. Gretchen Mousel supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
11:30 a.m.to 1:00 p.m.
Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311