



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Meeting hosted via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest), Dan Oesch (Ag Interest), Gretchen Mousel (Conservation Interest Representative), Russ Slater (Ag Interest), Matt Kallman (County Commissioner)

Absent: Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Staff: Matt Channing, MB Vantill, Jenn Headrick, Pam Vankeuren

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:32 a.m.
- II. Review of Agenda - A motion was made by Russ Slater to approve the May 2020 agenda. Gretchen Mousel supported. The agenda was approved by consensus.
- III. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Russ Slater to approve the May 2020 agenda. Gretchen Mousel supported. UNANIMOUS
- IV. PDR 2020 Selection Cycle – Matt Channing updated the Agricultural Preservation Board about the current status of the PDR 2020 Selection Cycle. The application submittal window remains open and Matt is fielding calls for people interested in submitting a new application as well as for people interested in renewing their application currently on file.
- V. ACEP 2020 – Matt Channing informed the group that he spoke with Brian at USDA about awards and was informed that USDA staff is still scoring the applications. At this time, Kent County needs to enter into a Program Agreement with USDA so that when applicants are awarded, Kent County will be eligible to receive conservation easement contracts. A motion was made by Russ Slater to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to enter into a program agreement with USDA. Gretchen Mousel supported. UNANIMOUS
- VI. Staff Report – Matt Channing spoke about his efforts with the Sieracki Farm. He submitted a \$38,000 invoice to Grattan Township for the purchase of development rights for the Sieracki Farm application. Regarding the conservation easement violation on the Rittersdorf property, Matt explained that Brian at USDA was updated that County staff is working towards a solution. Board Chair Heffron explained to the Agricultural Preservation Board that he was the owner of the larger share of the split property. To further the County's efforts of agricultural preservation,

Matt also had a meeting with the Director for the West Michigan Growers Group to understand their mission and concerns as well as attempted to connect with Farm Bureau of Kent County.

VII. Board Member Updates – There were no updates.

VIII. Adjournment – A motion was made by Gretchen Mousel to adjourn the meeting. Russ Slater supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

11:30 a.m.to 1:00 p.m.

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311