



**Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board**  
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Room 311 – 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids MI

**DRAFT Minutes**

**Members Present:** Dennis Heffron (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), Dan Oesch (Ag Interest)

**Staff:** Matt Channing, MaryBeth VanTill, Jenn Headrick

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:31 a.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Russ Slater to approve the August 2020 minutes. Chair Heffron supported. UNANIMOUS
- III. There was no public comment.
- IV. PDR 2020 Selection Cycle – Matt Channing reported that after extending the deadline for application renewals, the total number of renewals was seven. There were additional calls from people who had no current applications on file. Regarding the two new applications, Matt explained scores were not yet ready as one application still needed to be approved by the Township and the other needed additional GIS work from staff.
- V. ACEP 2020 – Matt Channing informed the board that USDA was not going to be able to fund the Kruithoff property this year. With the Program Agreement valid and on file, there is no additional work for it to receive funding when it becomes available.
- VI. Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund – Matt related that he received advanced notice from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development that the 2021 grant cycle might be opening in November with a tentative deadline for late December. Matt suggested that he apply the score criteria from 2020 to the Kruithoff property to determine how good of a fit it would be for the state grant. He estimated it would have a high chance of receiving a grant award based on its funding streams and improvements to the landowner's profile.

- VII.** Staff Report – Matt confirmed that Chair Bolter signed the Subordination Agreement between the County and the mortgage company for the Sieracki Farm and he is working with Brian from USDA on a draft deed with the minimum deed terms appended to it.
- VIII.** Board Member Updates – The Board discussed how to publicize their work more including meeting with Township supervisors and brining stories to the media. MB will put Matt in touch with the County’s media contact and Matt will work more closely with the Kent County public information staff on pushing out relevant content. Chair Heffron noted that signs on properties that received USDA NRCS easements have been vandalized, stolen, and the ones that remain need work because they aren’t easy to read when passing by. Matt mentioned that Brian at USDA NRCS might be open to having a more custom design for Kent County.
- IX.** Adjournment – A motion was made by Gretchen Mousel to adjourn the meeting. Commisioner Kallman supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, November 4, 2020  
11:30 a.m.to 1:00 p.m.  
Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311