



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board  
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Kent County Administration Building – Room 311

Minutes prepared by  
Matthew Channing, [matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org](mailto:matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org)

### Approved Minutes

**Members Present:** Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest)

**Absent:** Secretary Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest), Monica Sparks (County Commissioner)

**Vacant:** Conservation Interest

**Staff:** Jenny James, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:32 am. Carolyn Johnson from the Kent Conservation District attended. The Agricultural Preservation Board (Board) members introduced themselves to Administrator Al Vanderberg.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Ed Robinette to approve the January 12, 2022 Agenda. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Jessica Marks to approve the December 1, 2021 minutes. Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – There was no public comment.
- V. **KCFPC Presentation** – Janelle Vandergrift, Kent County Food Policy Coordinator for the Essential Needs Taskforce’s Food Policy Council, provided an overview of the Council, how it fits in with the Essential Needs Taskforce, and how it intersects with Kent County agriculture. Chair Dennis Heffron reiterated the importance of healthy and local food systems for children particularly in schools.
- VI. **MDARD Preservation Grant** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development awarded Kent County \$220,000 for

the Momber application. This is the full request staff made and is fifty percent of the total for the development rights.

- VII. Ottawa Regional Conservation Partnership Program Presentation** – Becky Huttenga from Ottawa County presented on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant she received and how it could benefit Kent County agricultural preservation. The Momber application falls within the service area of the grant and she will work with her Board to review Kent County’s ability to join in on the agreement.
  
- VIII. Staff Update** – Staff gave several updates to the Agricultural Preservation Board including attending a meeting with the Frey Foundation, Michigan LEO Agriculture Employment Liaison, and The Right Place along with various Municipal Leaders for the Grow by Choice initiative.
  
- IX. General Public Comment** – None.
  
- X. Board Member Updates** – None.
  
- XI. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to adjourn until next meeting. Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

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

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311