



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, February 1, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
300 Monroe Ave NW - Kent County Administration Building
Minutes prepared by
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Draft Minutes

Members Present: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary Russell Slater (Agricultural Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Commissioner Lisa Oliver-King (County Commissioner)

Absent: Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Staff: Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:06 am. Commissioner Lisa Oliver-King informed the other Agricultural Preservation Board members about her connections with urban agriculture and aspirations to get more involved in agriculture policy at higher levels of government.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion was made by Secretary Russell Slater to approve the February 1, 2023 Agenda. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Jessica Marks to approve the December 7, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Lisa Oliver-King supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None
- V. **Option Agreements for PDR Properties** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that three landowners reviewed their appraisals and Option Agreements: Kruithoff, Bettes Kingsbury, and Bradford Anderson. While the Kruithoffs and Bettes Kingsbury families approved the Option Agreement, Bradford Anderson requested additional time for review. Pending approval of the Bradford Anderson Option Agreement from their families, the following motion.
- VI. **Agricultural Preservation Board 2022 Calendar** – Staff presented an updated chart of activities for the Agricultural Preservation Board based on the new dates for the federal grants.

Secretary Russell Slater made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to enter into an Option agreement with the Kruithoff families, Bettes Kingsbury Real Estate LLC, and the Bradford Anderson Family using Kent County's "Kent County Permanent Agricultural Conservation Agreement Option Agreement" and values in the appraisal documents for the price of the development rights. Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold supported.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

Motion passed.

- VII. Appraisal Review** – Staff reviewed the findings of the Appraisal Reports to the Agricultural Preservation Board. The layout for the appraisals comes from the requirements for funding from USDA. Of the four appraisals, Kruithoff, Momber, and Bradford Anderson were less than the estimation made by staff and Bettes Kingsbury was over. All applicants accepted the finding of the Appraisal Report. There was consensus among the Agricultural Preservation Board to make the summative table easier to read by numbering the lines and highlighting the important numbers.
- VIII. PDR 2023** – Staff informed the Board that the Scores and Ranks for the 2023 PDR cycle would be presented at the March meeting.
- IX. Staff Update** – Staff updated the Board on several updates including a trip to Lansing with the AgBioResearch Council and MSUE, submittal of a nomination to the West Michigan Works! Specialty Crop project with Goodfellow and Kingsbury, the Michigan Distilling Grain Summit will be March 1 at New Holland Brewery and Distillery, roping Denny and Ed into the Broadband needs of rural and agricultural residents and business, and a concerted focusing for MDARD on sustainable agriculture will be a major focus for 2023.
- X. General Public Comment** – None.
- XI. Board Updates** – Secretary Russell Slater requested staff to look into booking the March 1 meeting at New Holland Brewery and Distillery to take advantage of the event happening. Jessica Marks requested a digital version of the Onboarding Packet and to add the meeting calendar to it. Secretary Russell Slater would like to make greater inroads with Bowne Township to increase the preservation footprint there and suggested staff holds another Townhall there.
- XII. Adjournment** – Jessica Marks made a motion to adjourn until next meeting. Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location TBD