



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.  
Location – Kent County Administration Room 311  
Minutes prepared by  
Matthew Channing, [matthew.channing@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:matthew.channing@kentcountymi.gov)

### Approved Minutes

**Members Present:** Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Lisa Oliver-King (County Commissioner)

**Absent:** Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative)

**Staff:** Mark Rambo, Matt Channing

I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion was made by Jessica Marks to approve the March 1, 2023 Agenda. Secretary Russ Slater supported.

Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0  
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion as made by Secretary Russ Slater to approve the February 1, 2023 Agenda. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0  
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None.

**V. PDR 2023 Score and Rank** – Staff presented the scores of the 2023 applications for the Purchase of Development Rights program. There was a discussion around the merits of pursuing smaller properties since they would be easier to fund. A point was made that they would not score as well on the Federal and State level applications. A motion was made by Ed Robinette to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve the Purchase of Development Rights Score and Rank 2023. Carolyn Johnson supported.

Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0  
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

**VI. Option Agreements** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that all appraised applications have tentatively accepted the terms of the Option Agreement. County Counsel is reviewing the language of the agreement as to form. Pending any changes from the Counsel’s review, staff may need to review the Option Agreements with the applicants prior to signing.

**VII. Staff Update** – Staff updated the Agricultural Preservation Board on recent activities including review of SB-11. Beginning Farmer’s Tax Credit, \$850 million in funding available through the Federal conservation programs: EQIP, RCPP, and ACEP in 2023. It’s unknown if the ACEP will be for both ALE and Wetlands. Staff also shared a call by a soil conservation for Farm Bill 2023 support.

**VIII. General Public Comment** – None.

**IX. Board Member Updates** – Commissioner Oliver-King met with the West Michigan Commercial Alliance of Realtors. They were open to talking about environment and climate change and said they'd like to come to a meeting. Secretary Russ Slater said they were good listeners. They recognized that this is a good step in building a positive relationship and invited them to a future meeting where we might ask how we might help the WMCAR group reach their development goals.

Carolyn Johnson informed the Board that the Kent Conservation District Annual Dinner is on March 16<sup>th</sup> and everyone is welcome to attend.

**X. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Secretary Russ Slater to approve adjourn the meeting. Ed Robinette supported.

Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0  
Abstain – 0

Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Kent County Administration Room 311