



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, August 2, 2023 from 11:04 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.
775 Ball Ave Michigan State University Extension – Room B
Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.gov

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary Russell Slater (Agricultural Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Lisa S. Oliver-King (County Commissioner)

Absent: Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest)

Staff: Mark Rambo, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:04 a.m.
- II. **Public Comment** – None.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to approve the August 2, 2023 Agenda. Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold supported.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

The motion passed.

- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion as made by Edward Robinette to approve the June 7, 2023 Minutes. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Abstain – 0

The motion passed.

- V. **Kruithoff Appraisal Cost** – A motion as made by Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold to recommend a motion by the Agricultural Preservation Board to not seek reimbursement for the cost of the appraisal. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The motion passed.

- VI. **Kruithoff Option Agreement** – A motion as made by Edward Robinette to recommend a motion by the Agricultural Preservation Board to not seek reimbursement for the cost of the appraisal. Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold supported.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The motion passed.

- VII. **PDR 2023** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that there are outstanding issues with the McCauley application. It was denied funding based on the Phase I Environmental review conducted by NRCS. Chair Denny Heffron offered that if the split of land incorporated the dairy buildings into the homestead then the easement could be free of issues. Staff will work with USDA to determine if an expanded split could be a solution.

- VIII. **Meeting Locations** – Chair Denny Heffron requested a review of the meeting locations and times for the rest of the year. Vice-Chair Suzie Reinbold moved to hold meetings at MSUE for the rest of the year. Jessica Marks supported.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0
Abstain - 0

The motion passed.

- IX. **Staff Update** – Staff reported that the Michigan State University Extension District 7 Director concluded its search and an offer was extended.

- X. **General Public Comment** – None.

- XI. **Board Member Updates** – Vice-Chair Heffron reported out about his meeting with County Administrator Al Vanderberg. The meeting was about the feasibility of using income received from marijuana taxation to fund agricultural preservation. Al related he was unsure if the public funds could be used for a private pursuit.

Secretary Russ Slater wanted County employees to understand their responsibility for clean, air, and water, and access for jobs.

XII. Adjournment – A motion as made by [Title] Name to approve adjourn the meeting. [Title] Name supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Abstain - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 06, 2023

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Michigan State University Extension