

Agenda
Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board
West Olive Administration Building – Conference Room C
12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, MI 49460
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
8:00am – 9:30am



- I. Call to Order
- II. Establish Quorum
- III. Invocation
- IV. Approval of the Agenda for March 13, 2024
- V. Approval of the [Minutes](#) from February 7, 2024
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Discussion Items
 - A. [Financial Review](#)
 - B. [Farm Updates](#)
 - C. Scoring Criteria Work Session - Criterion 3 Development Pressure discussion
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Old Business
 - A. Update February 2024 Presentations
- X. Next Meeting Date: April 10, 2024
- XI. Adjournment

OTTAWA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

DATE: February 7, 2024

PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, Conference Room C

PRESENT: Chair Josh Hucul, Mike Bronkema, Allison Miedema, Paul Windemuller, Nate Pyle, Lukas Hill, Kelly Goward, Jasmine Kober (Ad Hoc Youth)

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Becky Huttenga, Julie Lamer

PUBLIC: Cliff Meeuwsen

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM / INVOCATION

The Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board met on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Chair Hucul called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. A quorum was present to do business. Miedema gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

APB 24-06	Motion: Approve the agenda for the, February 7, 2024 Moved by Pyle	UNANIMOUS
APB 24-07	Motion: Approve the minutes from the January 3, 2024, meeting. Moved by Hill	UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FINANCIAL REVIEW

NONE

B. FARM UPDATES

A site visit is scheduled for February 13 for the Molyneux and Rasch properties. Staff have invited staff from NRCS to attend the Molyneux visit and Staff from NRCS and RCPP to attend the Rasch site visit. Staff applied for funding for both Molyneux and Rasch with the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund Board Local Farmland Preservation Program FY2024 funding. The funding award will be announced on February 21. Staff are waiting to hear if the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easements grant funding will be awarded to the Veldheer and Molyneux property. The Holstege closing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 and Jongekrijg closing is scheduled for March 19, 2024. Both PDR signs are being printed by the Parks department. Staff are working on a joint press release for the Holstege and Jongekrijg properties. The presser will also include the PDR applications deadline of April 26, 2024.

C. SCORING CRITERIA WORK SESSION – ESTABLISH GOLAS; REVIEW SCORING FROM OTHR PROGRAMS; CRITERION 1 DISCUSSION

The Board reviewed scoring criteria from Ingham, Ann Arbor, Berrien, Kent, Washtenaw, and the current criteria for the Michigan Ag Preservation fund. After discussion, the Board decided to keep the ACEP section in the scoring and would like to focus on land that has permanent features, such as soil content, location/development pressure, adjacent preserved properties vs criteria that will change in the future such as where crops are currently being sold. The Baseline Documentation Report will continue to be used for yearly monitoring.

NEW BUSINESS

A. LETTER TO MDARD RE PA116

APB 24-08 Motion: To approve and authorize the board chair to sign a position letter regarding changes to how MDARD treats permanently preserved land that is also subject to a PA116 agreement.
Moved by Windemuller UNANIMOUS

OLD BUSINESS

Huttenga presented at the Port Sheldon Township Board meeting. Comments and questions were well received.
Future presentations - February 8, Innovation Underground, Frankenmuth, February 20th, MI Ag Ideas to Grow With - Beginning Farmer Track, virtual meeting.

NEXT MEETING

March 13, 2024 (unable to attend Pyle and Windemuller)

ADJOURNMENT

APB 24-09 Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m.
Moved by Windemuller UNANIMOUS



Agricultural Preservation Board

Ottawa County Farmland Preservation Non-Endowed Fund Statement of Activity - 4th Quarter 2023

Expenses

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
12/21/2023	Great Lakes Expo	Booth Staffing Fee	\$50.00
12/31/2023	Pitney Bowes Bank	Postage (1st Quarter)	\$15.36
12/31/2023	CFHZ	Administrative Expenses/Fees	\$19.87

Total Quarter Expenses: **\$85.23**

Revenue

Date	Description of Donation	Amount
10/1/2023	Interest on Allocations	\$235.56
10/20/2023	Farms are the Tapas Auction Item	\$400.00
10/20/2023	Farms are the Tapas Auction Item	\$925.00
12/31/2023	Interest & Dividends	\$2,067.47
12/31/2023	Realized Gains/Losses	\$1,582.33
12/31/2023	Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$9,632.26
12/31/2023	Other Additions/Subtractions	\$1,100.00

Total Quarter Revenue: **\$15,942.62**

Beginning Balance	\$237,273.03	9/30/2023
Expenses	-\$85.23	
Revenue	\$15,942.62	
Ending Balance	\$253,130.42	12/31/2023
Restricted Funds	\$72,000.00	Veldheer Farm \$72,000
Available Balance	\$181,130.42	



Ottawa County
Farm Where You Belong

Agricultural Preservation Board

Ottawa County Farmland Preservation Non-Endowed Fund #2
Statement of Activity - 4th Quarter 2023

Expenses

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount

Total Quarter Expenses: **\$0.00**

Revenue

Date	Description of Donation	Amount
12/31/2023	Interest & Dividends	\$8,225.04

Total Quarter Revenue: **\$8,225.04**

Beginning Balance	\$1,007,975.26	<i>9/30/2023</i>
Expenses	\$0.00	
Revenue	\$8,225.04	
Ending Balance	\$1,016,200.30	<i>12/31/2023</i>
Restricted Funds	\$0.00	
Available Balance	\$1,016,200.30	



Agricultural Preservation Board

Ottawa County Farmland Preservation Endowed Fund Statement of Activity - 4th Quarter 2023

Expenses

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
10/11/2023	Great Lakes Expo	Booth Staffing Fee	\$225.00

Total Quarter Expenses: **\$225.00**

Revenue

Date	Description of Donation	Amount
12/31/2023	Interest & Dividends	\$481.59
12/31/2023	Realized Gains/Losses	\$374.21
12/31/2023	Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$2,221.06

Total Quarter Revenue: **\$3,076.86**

Beginning Balance	\$49,099.02	<i>9/30/2023</i>
Expenses	-\$225.00	
Revenue	\$3,076.86	
Ending Balance	\$51,950.88	<i>12/31/2023</i>
Restricted Funds	\$0.00	
Available Balance	\$51,950.88	



Farm Updates – March 2024

Ottawa County
Farm Where You Belong

Molyneux Property – Wright Township

155.1 acres; field crops; 2023 applicant; appraised at \$1,239,000

- The property was not awarded funding from the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund
- Awaiting award announcements from Agricultural Conservation Easements Program

Rasch Property – Chester Township

74.32 acres; apples and peaches; 2023 applicant; estimated value of \$418,000

- The property was awarded \$205,971 from the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund Board
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) application is being processed by NRCS staff

Veldheer Property – Olive Township

36 acres; cattle, sheep, and field crops; 2022 applicant; appraised at \$288,000

- Awaiting award announcements from Agricultural Conservation Easements Program
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) application is being processed by NRCS staff

Jongekrijg Property – Zeeland Township

92.55 acres; beef cattle and field crops; 2022 applicant; appraised at \$981,000

- Closing is scheduled for March 19, 2024

Holstege Property – Zeeland Township

38.1 acres; beef cattle and field crops; 2021 applicant; preserved for \$393,000 in 2024

- Easement closed on February 27. A press release will go out announcing the 7th preserved property combined with the PDR application cycle is open until April 26, 2024.

Bronkema Property – Olive Township

123.12 acres; sheep, dry beans, and field crops; 2020 applicant; preserved for \$675,000 in December 2022

DeHaan Property – Blendon Township

37 acres; beef cattle and field crops; 2019 applicant; preserved for \$315,000 in September 2021

Jim Klein Property – Chester Township

168.2 acres; field crops; 2019 applicant; preserved for \$585,000 in November 2020



Farm Updates – March 2024

Ottawa County
Farm Where You Belong

Kruithoff Property – Chester & Wright Townships

147.43 acres; hog & cash Crop; 2018 applicant; preserved for \$405,000 in July 2020

Klein Property – Chester Township

55.63-acres; beef cattle and field crops; 2017 applicant; preserved for \$160,000 in July 2018

Hehl Property – Polkton Township

34.9-acres; hogs, beef cattle, and poultry; 2015 applicant; preserved for \$87,000 in August 2016