

Agenda
Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board
West Olive Administration Building – Conference Room C
12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, MI 49460
Wednesday, May 1, 2024
8:00am – 9:30am



- I. Call to Order
- II. Establish Quorum
- III. Invocation
- IV. Approval of the Agenda for May 1, 2024
- V. Approval of the [Minutes](#) from March 13, 2024
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Discussion Items
 - A. Financial Review
 - B. [Farm Updates](#)
 - C. Fundraising
 - i. Farms are the Tapas 2024!
 - ii. Culver's Share Night
 - D. Scoring Criteria Work Session – Criterion 4 Crop Production Type/Econ Impact discussion.
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Old Business
- X. Next Meeting Date: June 5, 2024
- XI. Adjournment

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**OTTAWA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD**

DATE: March 13, 2024

PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, Conference Room C

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

ABSENT: Paul Windemuller, Nate Pyle

STAFF: Becky Huttenga, Julie Lamer, Paul Sachs, Matt Chappuies

PUBLIC: Cliff Meeuwsen

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM / INVOCATION

The Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board met on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Chair Hucul called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. A quorum was present to do business. Hill gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

APB 24-10	Motion: Approve the agenda for the March 13, 2024 Moved by Bronkema	UNANIMOUS
APB 24-11	Motion: Approve the minutes from the February 7, 2024, meeting. Moved by Hill	UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS**A. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Huttenga shared that the unrestricted balance continues to grow.

B. FARM UPDATES

The Molyneux property was not awarded funding from the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund (MDARD). The property ranked very well and is positioned well for the next round of funding. The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) funding was not awarded this round. There is a good possibility the property will be funded in the next round. Staff will work with Molyneux to get the property MAEAP verified.

The Veldheer property was not awarded funding from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE). Staff will put the applications documents into The Regional Conservation

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Partnership Program (RCPP). A site visit is scheduled for March 18. Staff invited the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) staff and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) staff to attend the visit.

The Rasch property was awarded funding from the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund Board. Staff will put the Rasch application documents into the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Application is being processed by NRCS staff. Staff are working on the Deed.

The Holstege easement closed on Tuesday, February 27 and the Jongekrijg closing is scheduled for March 19, 2024. Both preservation signs are being printed by the Parks department. Staff is 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 – DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE
CRITERION 3 DISCUSSION**

Huttenga explained there are several ways to score development pressure and shared Berrien County's points scoring. Chappuies shared there is no one perfect way to score development pressure. It was decided to do a deeper dive into the top 1-3 scoring properties. Continue to score waterline locations, populations growth, score adjacent land use. Staff will draft a list of discretionary points to be a consideration in the scoring criteria. Sachs suggested an Ag industry feasibility study that highlights where infrastructure is located.

NEW BUSINESS

Bronkema suggested the Board investigate the Transfer of Developments Rights (TDR) program. Staff will reach out and schedule a TDR speaker. Staff will reach out to a few additional people in the Local Unit of Government to attend a future Agriculture Preservation Board meeting.

Huttenga shared that Denny Heffron from Kent County, has scheduled a meeting with Culver's to develop a Farmland Preservation promotional fundraising event. Ottawa County staff will be collaborating on this event.

OLD BUSINESS

Huttenga shared the success of the Farming Forward event that took place on February 27, 2024

NEXT MEETING

April 10, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

APB 24-12 Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m.
Moved by Hill

UNANIMOUS



Farm Updates – May 2024

Ottawa County
Farm Where You Belong

Molyneux Property – Wright Township

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

- A MAEAP technician from the Ottawa Conservation District is working with landowner to complete a MAEAP Risk assessment.

Rasch Property – Chester Township

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

- Waiting for preliminary deed approval from NRCS so appraisal can be ordered.
- Discussed with landowner there are other preservation options available if the required RCPP conservation practices are not acceptable.

Veldheer Property – Olive Township

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

- Deed received preliminary approval from NRCS-HQ; appraisal will be scheduled with Rasch appraisal.

Jongekrijg Property – Zeeland Township

92.55 acres; beef cattle and field crops; 2022 applicant; preserved for \$981,000 in March 2024

Holstege Property – Zeeland Township

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

Kruithoff Property – Chester & Wright Townships

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



Farm Updates – May 2024

Ottawa County
Farm Where You Belong

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

Total acres preserved to date: 696.93