

OFFICIAL MINUTES

OTTAWA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

DATE: August 7, 2024
PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, Conference Room C
PRESENT: Chair Josh Hucul, Mike Bronkema, Kelly Goward, Nate Pyle, Paul Windemuller
ABSENT: Lukas Hill, Allison Miedema, Jasmine Kober (Ad Hoc Youth)
STAFF: Becky Huttenga, Julie Lamer
PUBLIC: Cliff Meeuwsen, Gary Boersen

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM / INVOCATION

The Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board met on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. Chair Hucul called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was present to do business. Windemuller gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

APB 24-20	Motion: To approve the agenda for the August 7, 2024 Moved by Bronkema	UNANIMOUS
APB 24-21	Motion: To approve the minutes from the June 5, 2024 meeting Moved by Pyle	UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cliff Meeuwsen, Gary Boersen

NEW BUSINESS

A. Rillema Farm

APB 24-22	Motion: To authorize staff to order a development rights appraisal of the Rillema farm at a not-to-exceed cost of \$3,000. Moved by Windemuller	UNANIMOUS
APB 24-23	Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners a Purchase Agreement for the development rights to the Rillema farm. Moved by Pyle	UNANIMOUS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Board reviewed the 3rd quarter Non-Endowed and Endowed funds.

B. FARM UPDATES

Veldheer property is moving towards close. The Rasch appraisal review resulted in final value of \$606,000. Hucul shared his observations regarding the Rasch

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appraisal. The Rasch property received funding from MDARD and an ACEP application will be submitted in the Fall. Huttenga shared there may be IRA funding available. Huttenga explained the current plan for the Rillema funding will be to use the ground water fund for county match and apply for ACEP funding in the Fall. Huttenga will work with Molyneux to become MAEAP verified for cropping. Staff will apply for MDARD funding in the Fall.

APB 24-24 Motion: To amend the June 2024 minutes under Farm Updates. The Board discussed reviewing the details of the original appraisal value with the appraisal company.
Moved by Goward UNANIMOUS

APB 24-25 Motion: to set the Development Rights Values of the Rasch property of \$606,000 as per the appraisal.
Moved by Bronkema UNANIMOUS

C. FUNDRAISING

1. Farms are the Tapas 2024! Lamer shared the latest flyer and encouraged Board members to invite guests to attend the event.
2. Culver’s Share Night Recap Huttenga share the event had a good turnout for the first farmland preservation share night. Gross proceeds were roughly \$3800. The outreach was very positive. Eight Culver restaurants participated. Bronkema and Goward volunteered at the Standale location. Ottawa County will investigate holding a Share night for Ottawa Couy Farmland Preservation.

D. 2025 SCORING CRITERIA

Discussion will be moved to the September Meeting

E. APPRAISAL PROCUREMENT UPDATE

The current contract is with Peoples and will expire in October 2024, Staff will provide a list of potential appraisers for the Board to review. Going forward, staff will distribute and an RFP for appraisal serviced for each property selected.

OLD BUSINESS

A. NRCS appeal

The Appeal decision favored the County and ACEP funding for the Molyneux property was restored.

NEXT MEETING

September 4, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

APB 24-26 Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:22 a.m.
Moved by Pyle UNANIMOUS