

OTTAWA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

- DATE: November 6, 2024
- PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, Conference Room C
- PRESENT: Chair Josh Hucul, Mike Bronkema, Kelly Goward, Nate Pyle, Lukas Hill, Jasmine Kober (Ad Hoc Youth), Paul Windemuller (virtual)
- ABSENT: Allison Miedema
- STAFF: Becky Huttenga, Julie Lamer, Paul Sachs, Rich Lakeberg
- PUBLIC: Andy Huddy, GVSU

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM / INVOCATION

The Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board met on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Chair Hucul called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. A quorum was present to do business. Bronkema gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

- APB 24-32 Motion: To approve the agenda for the November 6, 2024, meeting
Moved by Bronkema UNANIMOUS
- APB 24-33 Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 4, 2024 meeting
Moved by Hill UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Huddy, GVSU

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 Scoring Criteria

The Scoring Criteria discussed on September 4, 2024 meeting required additional follow up discussion regarding the Economic Impact Criteria Revisions. The follow up discussion was shared in an email sent to the Ag. Board on September 4, 2024, from Huttenga.

- APB 24-34 Motion: To recommend and forward to the Board of Commissioners the 2025 Purchase of Development Rights Scoring Criteria, contingent upon inclusion of the final edits recommended by Ag Board members.
Moved by Bronkema UNANIMOUS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Huttenga shared that the 4th quarter Non-Endowed and Endowed funds were not available for review. If available by the December meeting they will be added to the packet.

B. FARM UPDATES

Huttenga included an in-process property summary chart. Hucul requested the chart include an estimate closing date and the amount of funds secured for each property. Agricultural Conservation Easements Program applications were submitted for the Rillema and Rasch property. Announcement for Agricultural Conservation Easements Program funding could be announced as early as December 2024. Molyneux completed a Conservation plan, and a Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program verification is being considered. Lamer is in the process of updating the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund application for the Molyneux property. The Veldheer Baseline Documentation Report has been submitted to Natural Resources Conservation Services for review. Huttenga made the Board aware that there are changes taking place with the PA116 tax credit program. Huttenga is working with Michigan Department Agricultural & Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Services regarding Jim and Don Klein PA116 tax credit and will keep the Board updated on the changes.

C. FUNDRAISING

Farms are the Tapas 2024! Lamer shared a power point highlighting photos, revenue and expenses. Feedback/suggestions were shared by the Board members that attended. Additional sound speakers were requested. At the start of the event, announce a time when the program will start. This may help eliminate some of the attendee chatter during the panel discussion or program. Add more high-top tables. Next year's event, offer a Chef panel.

D. BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Huttenga shared in 2025 there are two (2) open seats: Local Conservation and Agricultural. Multiple applications have been submitted for both seats. The applications will be reviewed on December 17, 2024, at the Talent & Recruitment meeting. Eligible applicants will be placed in nomination and recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee and will then be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates

- Huttenga shared two documents for review, By-laws and Ordinance. The revisions suggested on the Ordinance and Bylaws will be presented at the November 8, Planning and Policy meeting. After discussion, the Board

OFFICIAL MINUTES

requested, time to review the documents before they are presented to the Board of Commissioners, Hucul will email Corporate Counsel and request an opportunity for the Ag Preservation Board to review the Ordinance and Bylaws and request they be pulled from the November 8 meeting.

- Kent County has a new Community Development Coordinator staff member. Staff will continue to work collaboratively with Kent

- Huttenga and Hucul attended the Ag Preservation Boards of Michigan Meeting. Both felt like there was a lot of good discussion and a good opportunity to work together and raise awareness to sell development rights.

-The Land Transfer Navigator program has a new succession planning grant for landowners with preserved properties.

NEXT MEETING

December 4, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

APB 24-35 Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:58 a.m.
Moved by Bronkema

UNANIMOUS