

OTTAWA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

- DATE: January 3, 2024
- PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, Conference Room C
- PRESENT: Chair Josh Hucul, Mike Bronkema, Allison Miedema, Paul Windemuller, Nate Pyle, Lukas Hill
- ABSENT: Kelly Goward, Jasmine Kober (Ad Hoc Youth)
- STAFF: Becky Huttenga, Julie Lamer
- PUBLIC: Cliff Meeuwsen, Jade Larrison

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM / INVOCATION

The Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board met on Wednesday, January 3, 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 24-01 Motion: Approve the agenda for the January 3, 2024
Moved by Hill UNANIMOUS
- APB 24-02 Motion: Approve the minutes from the December 6, 2023, meeting.
Moved by Pyle UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Board reviewed the 4th quarter Non-Endowed and Endowed fund

B. FARM UPDATES

Staff is ready to submit the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund Board Local Farmland Preservation Program FY2024 Application for the Molyneux and Rasch property. The applications are due January 9, 2024. Staff are waiting to hear if funding for the Veldheer property will be approved from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easements grant. There have been a few minor hold-ups that need to be finalized before closing can take place on the Holstege and Jongekrijg properties. Closing is slated for February 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

APB 24-03 Motion: To nominate Hucul as Chair, Goward as Vice Chair, and Pyle as Secretary
Moved by Hill UNANIMOUS

B. FARMING FORWARD EVENT - FEBRUARY 27, 2024

The event is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Yacht Basin in Holland from 8:30-11:30. Staff will send out a calendar invitation.

APB 24-04 Motion: To approve including event information on PDR application postcards.
Moved by Miedema UNANIMOUS

OLD BUSINESS

Huttenga and Kent County PDR staff member developed a 14 question PDR program survey. Staff will send the survey to local farmland preservation practitioners. The survey is designed to gather basic information about other qualified local PDR programs. The information gathered will be used for benchmarking our own programs, and support farmland preservation funding requests from both MDARD and USDA-NRCS

Upcoming public education speaking/presentations events. Huttenga will be presenting January 10, Port Sheldon Twp Board of Trustees meeting. February 6th Ottawa County Planning & Policy meeting. February 8, Innovation Underground, Frankenmuth, February 20th, MI Ag Ideas to Grow With - Beginning Farmer Track, virtual meeting.

NEXT MEETING

February 7, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

APB 24-05 Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:49 a.m.
Moved by Windemuller UNANIMOUS