

**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.

## OFFICIAL MINUTES

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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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