

OTTAWA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD

- DATE: September 4, 2024
- PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, Conference Room C
- PRESENT: Chair Josh Hucul, Mike Bronkema, Kelly Goward, Nate Pyle, Lukas Hill, Allison Miedema, Jasmine Kober (Ad Hoc Youth)
- ABSENT: Paul Windemuller
- STAFF: Becky Huttenga, Julie Lamer, Paul Sachs, Rich Lakeberg
- PUBLIC: None

CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM / INVOCATION

The Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board met on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Chair Hucul called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. A quorum was present to do business. Pyle gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

- APB 24-27 Motion: To approve the agenda for the September 4, 2024 meeting  
Moved by Hill UNANIMOUS
- APB 24-28 Motion: To approve the minutes from the August 7, 2024 meeting  
Moved by Bronkema UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 Scoring Criteria

Huttenga shared the scoring outcome from the 2023 and 2024 scoring results to the suggested 2025 scoring.

- APB 24-29 Motion: To recommend and forward to the Board of Commissioners the 2025 Purchase of Development Rights Scoring Criteria, contingent on the Board’s consensus approving Economic Impact Criteria Revision: and 2024 applicant ranking, as per the Farmland Development Rights Ordinance Sections 6 and 7G, respectively.  
Moved by Miedema UNANIMOUS

B. Jongekrijg Easement

Huttenga shared Jongekrijg’s request to build a barn on his easement. Huttenga is working with the NRCS for approval.

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

APB 24-30 Motion: To approve construction of a 42X64 pole barn within the easement boundary, consistent with the provisions in Section I, Paragraph 2(C) in Exhibit B of the easement deed and contingent on approval by the Chief of NRCS.  
Moved by Hill UNANIMOUS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FINANCIAL REVIEW

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

B. FARM UPDATES

Rillema appraisal has been completed. Huttenga shared that funding options are being explored for the Rillema property. Two rounds of funding for the IRA-ACEP grant are being offered, one due Oct 4, 2024 and a second one due December 20. The general ACEP application due date is expected to be January 2025. Staff will submit ACEP applications for the Rillema and Rasch properties. The ACEP funding for Molyneux property was reinstated and staff will apply for MDARD funding for that property also.

C. FUNDRAISING

Farms are the Tapas 2024!

Lamer shared the latest flyer and encouraged Board members to invite guests to attend the event. Hucul or Windemuller will be the emcee.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Appeal Hearing

Appeal decision letter favoring the County was included in the packet.

NEXT MEETING

October 2, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

APB 24-31 Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:31 a.m.  
Moved by Pyle UNANIMOUS