

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND BOARD

Meeting Location
Michigan Farm Bureau Corporate Office
Board Room
7373 W. Saginaw Hwy
Lansing, MI 48917

Optional Conference Call In: 888-636-3807
Access Code: 498 5308 #

Thursday, March 10, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM and Charman Bednarski announced he would be leaving at 2:00 PM and would call on Member Kohring to serve as temporary Chair at that time. No objections.

Attendance roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Carl Bednarski (Chairman)
Member Brian Bourdages
Member Ken DeCock
Member Peg Kohring
Member Stephen Shine

MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Jonathan Jarosz
Member Gary McDowell

BOARD STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Brost
Lindsay Woods (Minutes)

PUBLIC GUESTS PRESENT

Public attendees present in person and via conference call line.

1:05 PM Approval of Agenda

- Member Kohring motioned to amend the proposed agenda to move the Public Comment section to follow the Approval of August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes section.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Member DeCock proposed an amendment to the motion for an additional Public Comment section to follow the Approval of August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes section instead of replacing the original Public Comment section.
 - Vote occurred. 5 in favor/0 opposed
 - Motion carried.
- Member DeCock motioned to approve the agenda as amended.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Vote occurred. 5 in favor/0 opposed
 - Motion carried.

1:08 PM Approval of August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Member Kohring motioned to approve the Approval of August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes as proposed.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Vote occurred. 5 in favor/0 opposed
 - Motion carried.

1:10 PM Public Comment (*addition to agenda*)

Public comment was given.

Berrien County may be able to find the matching funds through American Farmland Trust, local conservancies, and Conservation District.

1:15 PM FY 2022 Application Scoring and Ranking Review

The proposed fiscal year 2022 scoring and ranking summary sheet was presented to the Board.

The Board could offer the remaining “New Program” funding, totaling \$147,970.00, to Berrien County or Dexter Township in order to fully utilize the full 2 million dollars this cycle.

1:30 PM FY 2022 Awards

- Member Kohring motioned to approve the funding for the top five scoring applications and the Barry-Wing application, then discuss the other available “New Program” funding.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Further discussion occurred.
 - Vote occurred. 5 in favor/0 opposed
 - Motion carried.

Staff contacted the Dexter Township representative during the meeting to determine if they have the matching funds available.

1:40 PM Follow-Up Items: Approval of minutes and installment payments

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) handbook had been provided prior to the meeting and there were copies available at the meeting for all attendees and page 15 of the handbook detailed the requirements of the Board's meeting minutes. The proposed minutes would be posted online and available for public inspection eight days after each Board meeting and the Board is only allowed to approve the meeting minutes during a Board meeting at which a quorum is established. Approved minutes shall be posted online for public inspection no more than five days after the Board's approval.

The Board is not permitted to approve minutes or make any decisions via email or online.

Staff will work with the budget office to draft language for installment payments and present the proposed language to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

1:50 PM Board Member Appointments

All Board Member's terms are up for expiration in June 2022. MDARD Director McDowell has notified the Governor's Office and has a meeting scheduled in April 2022 to discuss.

Any Board Member who will not be able to serve another term will notify Elizabeth via email.

- Member Kohring motioned for staff to propose recommendation to the Governor's Office for Board Member terms to be staggered.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Vote occurred. 5 in favor/0 opposed
 - Motion carried.

1:52 PM Public Comment

Public comment was given.

Representative from Dexter Township confirmed they have the matching funds available.

At 2:04 PM, Chairman Bednarski announced his departure from the meeting and called upon Member Kohring to take over as temporary Chair.

Chairwoman Kohring opened the floor for further discussion regarding the available funds for Berrien or Dexter.

Further discussion occurred.

- Chairwoman Kohring motioned to use the remaining available "New Program" funding of \$147,970.00 for the Berrien County application and grant one year to raise the matching funds, and if Berrien is unable to do so, the funding of \$147,970.00 would then roll over to Dexter Township.

- Motion seconded.
- Further discussion occurred.
 - Vote occurred. 4 in favor/0 opposed
 - Motion carried.

2:22 PM Fund Update

Michael Hetherington, MDARD Executive Financial Specialist, presented the MDARD Fund 1206 Ag Preservation report to the Board (see Exhibit A)

There is an option for the Board to submit a request for increase, or request for one time spending increase. To make the request, the Board would need to outline how the increase in funds would be spent, then submit the brief, high-level proposal to Jim Johnson, MDARD Environmental Stewardship Division Director, who would present it to Budget & Finance and the MDARD Legislative Liaison, which they would determine the best time to present it to the Governor's Budget Office.

- Member Bourdages motioned to work with staff and Director McDowell and other appropriate parties to look at what's been our historic demand for funds and what would be a realistic ask.
 - Motion supported.
 - Further discussion occurred.
 - Member Bourdages proposed an amendment to add Michael Hetherington to the motion and any other appropriate staff.
 - Vote occurred. 4 in favor/0 opposed
 - Motion carried.

2:38 PM Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Staff will send Doodle poll to Board to schedule next meeting for August 2022.

Member Bourdages requested an update on the Donated Easements program from Elizabeth at the next meeting.

- Member DeCock motioned to adjourn.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Vote occurred. 4 in favor/0 opposed
 - Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Exhibit A

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Fund Report								
Fund 1206 Ag Preservation								
	Fiscal Year							
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,797,512	\$ 3,082,611	\$ 4,690,676	\$ 6,227,496	\$ 7,134,731	\$ 6,846,906	\$ 6,446,906	\$ 6,046,906
Revenue	\$ 2,540,282	\$ 3,005,041	\$ 2,863,897	\$ 3,037,500	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Expenditures - Admin	\$ (1,255,184)	\$ (1,396,976)	\$ (1,327,077)	\$ (1,310,114)	\$ (1,400,000)	\$ (1,400,000)	\$ (1,400,000)	\$ (1,400,000)
Expenditures - Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (820,150)	\$ (1,887,825)	\$ (2,000,000)	\$ (2,000,000)	\$ (2,000,000)
End Balance	\$ 3,082,611	\$ 4,690,676	\$ 6,227,496	\$ 7,134,731	\$ 6,846,906	\$ 6,446,906	\$ 6,046,906	\$ 5,646,906
Grant Carry Forward	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,900,000)	\$ (2,983,850)	\$ (2,983,850)	\$ (2,983,850)	\$ (2,983,850)	\$ (2,983,850)
Unobligated Balance	\$ 3,082,611	\$ 4,690,676	\$ 4,327,496	\$ 4,150,881	\$ 3,863,056	\$ 3,463,056	\$ 3,063,056	\$ 2,663,056
Total Grant Budget Awarded	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,907,975	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Notes:	Fiscal Year 2021 and earlier are actual numbers and Fiscal Year 2022 - 2025 are projected.							