

## MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND BOARD

Location:  
Microsoft Teams  
Call In Code: 248-509-0316  
Access Code: 391 366 580#

Thursday, August 19, 2021

### MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bednarski called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Lindsay Woods (MDARD) took attendance roll call.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Carl Bednarski (Chairman)  
Member Brian Bourdages  
Member Ken DeCock  
Member Jonathan Jarosz  
Member Peg Kohring  
Mr. Forest (Chip) Kraus on behalf of Member McDowell  
Member Stephen Shine

#### STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Brost (Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, MDARD)  
Lindsay Woods (MDARD)

#### PUBLIC GUESTS PRESENT

Public attendees present.

- Member Kohring motioned to approve the February 16, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion seconded.

Further discussion occurred.

Counted vote: 6 Yays 1 Nay.

- Motion carried.
- Member DeCock motioned to add statement from February 16, 2021 meeting “Where was the vote to increase to 7,500 dollars per acre? Also, “Where is the support to increase to \$7,500 per acre?”

Motion not seconded.

- Motion failed due to lack of support.

Chairman Bednarski noted all public attendees will only identify themselves during a meeting on a voluntary basis.

- Member Bourdages motioned for Elizabeth Brost (MDARD) to provide an update on donated easements as an additional agenda item.

Motion seconded.

Counted vote: 7 Yays 0 Nays

- Motion carried.

Elizabeth Brost provided an update on the status of the fiscal year 2020 grants.

Due to increasing land values, Elizabeth is working with Laura Rigan on a reduced easement size for Acme Township and will send to the Board for approval. If the Board does not approve at that time, a special meeting will be held.

Further discussion occurred.

Chairman Bednarski requested the issue of increasing land values be discussed at a future meeting.

Elizabeth provided an update on the status of fiscal year 2021 grants.

Further discussion occurred.

Elizabeth provided an update on donated easements.

The University of Michigan provided two students, already funded, to assist Elizabeth, for 6 weeks.

Work was done on the state's website and template language for master plan agricultural components, to better assist local programs. Elizabeth will notify the Board when this is posted.

There are four students available through the fall and winter terms and will begin mid-September.

Elizabeth requested student project ideas from the Board.

Member Kohring noted some possible projects for students regarding land values and local program virtual support clinics.

Member Jarosz will be researching non-governmental and governmental permanent funding sources and will loop in Board for questions and findings.

Mr. Barry Lonik presented Buy-Protect-Sell policy to the Board. This process allows the land to be preserved and saves the landowner from having to go through the work of an easement process.

The Board and a public attendee raised questions to Mr. Lonik.

Mr. Lonik presented Installment Payments to the Board. This process allows the payments to be made over a designated period, instead of one lump sum and may save interest.

Member Kohring requested staff to present a proposal to the Board for using installment payments for the next grant cycle. Possibly a student project.

Chairman Bednarski opened the meeting for public comments.  
No public comments.

Member DeCock inquired if the Board is allowed to approve meeting minutes by email or if it must be done during a meeting. Staff will bring information to next meeting.

Member Bourdages will connect staff with other states incorporating installment payments in their local grant making.

The next meeting will be scheduled for early February and Jonathan will give update on land value research with interns.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM.