

BERRIEN COUNTY LAND PRESERVATION BOARD
BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
MINUTES

Wednesday, November 5, 2019 at 9:30 am

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	ALSO PRESENT
Donald Baiers	X		Katie Montoya, Berrien County
David Chandler	X		Jennifer Arent, Berrien County
Brian Dargus		X	Ryan Postema, Chikaming Open Lands
Lois Foster	X		
Jon Hinkelman		X	
Ed Kretchman	X		
Rodney Krieger		X	
Chris Marzke	X		
Richard Schinkel	X		

Call to Order

Chairman Kretchman called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Minutes

Motion by Schinkel, supported by Barnes, to approve the April 30, 2019 minutes. Motion Carried.

Correspondence

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – Announcement of PDR Funding Round

Montoya reported the funding was \$1.9M. Notices were sent to Townships that are participating to make sure their Master Plans identified Land Preservation and are ready to allow for applications. Montoya reviewed the County ordinance and there is a notice requirement in Article 6 that specifically states it shall be published not less than 90 days prior to the submission deadline. The State’s application round is 60 days. Unfortunately, the timing did not work out to be included this year. However, it is an allocated budget item and should be funded every year. Discussions ensued regarding the possibility of amending the ordinance.

Motion by Schinkel, supported by Foster, to continue with the ordinance as-is and work on next year’s round. Motion Carried.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

PDR Ordinance Review

The County Master Plan is currently active and will be considered certified and eligible for FY2020 funding round. Montoya reviewed the other Counties and Townships that have current programs. Montoya sent notices in May, after the last meeting, with a checklist of requirements for inclusion in the PDR program. Foster suggested periodic newsletters reminding townships and providing updates, making sure FY2020 is prominently written on the correspondence. Discussions ensued regarding the possibility of hosting meetings with presentations. Montoya would like one for the township officials, sometime in February or March, and a second one for farmers, with townships welcome to attend as well. Kretchman stated Farm Bureau has been working on land preservation planning and suggested including them.

Discussions ensued regarding other non-profits, programs and funding. Ryan Postema, Chikaming Open Lands, discussed some programs and offered to help promote the PDR. He will share easement and other data as well. Discussions ensued regarding federal and state funding.

Miscellaneous

Privilege of the Floor

Schinkel – Stated the controversial burn in Berrien Township took place yesterday and was successful.

Adjourn

Motion by Schinkel, supported by Foster, to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 a.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary