



Jackson County Planning Commission

Staffed by the Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC)

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MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2019

Jackson County Tower Building • Jackson, Michigan

Members Present: Roger Gaede, Environment; Nancy Hawley, At Large; Ted Hilleary, Education; Russ Jennings, At Large; Corey Kennedy, Jackson County Board of Commissioners; and Jim Videto, Agriculture

Members Absent: Timothy Burns, At Large; Amy Guerriero, Industry and Economics; and Jennifer Morris, At Large

Liaisons Present: Grant Bauman, Principal Planner

Others Present: None

Item 1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by staff since the Chair and Secretary were absent. Those in attendance rose and joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Comm. Videto, and seconded by Comm. Jennings, to appoint Comm. Hawley as the Acting Chair for the March 14, 2019, meeting. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

Item 2. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

Item 3. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Comm. Videto, and seconded by Comm. Hilleary, to **approve** the minutes of the February 14, 2019, meeting as presented. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

Item 4. **Approval of the Agenda.** Staff requested that letters of support for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant applications be added under new business as agenda item #6.b.(1). A motion was made by Comm. Hilleary, and seconded by Comm. Videto, to **approve** the March 14, 2019, meeting agenda as amended. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

Item 5. **Request(s) for Review, Comment, and Recommendation.**

a. **Consideration of Township Zoning Amendment(s).** None.

b. **Consideration of Master Plan(s).** None.

c. **Farmland & Open Space Preservation Program (PA 116) application(s).**

(1) **FA19-01 – Henrietta Township**

Staff summarized his cover memo explaining that the applicant, Chrisinske Farms, LLC, submitted three farmland agreement applications for seven properties. After studying the applications, staff had some concerns. Ultimately, staff met with the applicant to review them. The applicant stated its intent to resubmit a series of five applications, separating non-contiguous properties and removing duplications and a

property already covered by an existing agreement. Staff told the applicants that there is no reason to pass those applications through the JCPC as long as the comments concerning the original applications are addressed. In the meantime, staff requested that the JCPC make recommendations on those original applications.

(a) **FA #19-01-a – Henrietta Township**

Staff summarized its report regarding the application to enroll the subject property—known as Parcel ID# 000-04-11-202-001-02, and located in Section 11 (T1S,R1E) of the Township—in the PA 116 program. Staff identified some errors/omissions regarding the application (please see the staff report).

A motion was made by Comm. Videto, and seconded by Comm. Hilleary, to recommend **approval** of the application with staff comments. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

(b) **FA #19-01-b – Henrietta Township**

Staff summarized its report regarding the application to enroll the subject property—known as Parcel ID# 000-04-15-276-001-00, and located in Section 15 (T1S,R1E) of the Township—in the PA 116 program. Staff identified significant errors/omissions regarding the application (please see the staff report).

A motion was made by Comm. Kennedy, and seconded by Comm. Jennings, to recommend **disapproval** of the application. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

(c) **FA #19-01-c – Henrietta Township**

Staff summarized its report regarding the application to enroll the subject properties—known as Parcel ID#s 000-04-02-400-001-05, 000-04-10-426-001-00, 000-04-10-451-001-02, 000-04-14-400-001-00, 000-04-15-176-001-00, and 000-04-15-276-001-00, and located in Sections 2, 10, 14, and 15 (T1S,R1E) of the Township—in the PA 116 program. Staff identified significant errors/omissions regarding the application (please see the staff report).

A motion was made by Comm. Kennedy, and seconded by Comm. Jennings, to recommend **disapproval** of the application. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

Commissioner Gaede asked about the purpose of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program. He was informed that its purpose is to preserve land for agriculture by giving tax relief on property taxes via Michigan's income tax. However, there are penalties for removing properties before their terms of enrollment expire.

Item 6. **Other Business.**

a. **Unfinished Business.**

- (1) **Jackson County Master Plan.** Staff summarized his staff report which outlines the progress made on the master plan since the last JCPC meeting (please see the staff report). New maps showing the gas and liquid pipelines traversing Jackson County, and their ownership, were also presented to Commissioners. Staff went on to explain that a primary purpose of a municipal master plan is to provide guidance to a

municipal planning commission, and the legislative body it serves, regarding rezoning requests. Since the County does not have its own zoning ordinance, that is not the case for the Jackson County Planning Commission. Rather, the vision of staff is to provide sufficient maps that illustrate the physical conditions of Jackson County and the physical infrastructure serving it. Those maps will then be available to municipalities in Jackson County when they update their master plans, thereby encouraging some consistency across the County.

b. **New Business.**

(1) **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Letter of Support.**

Staff explained that Jackson County Parks requested letters of support for the two grant applications it is submitting to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund on April 1, 2019.

(a) **Vandercook Lake County Park Development Project**

Staff reviewed the letter of support drafted for the proposed kayak launch site on Vandercook Lake, citing support for the proposed facility in the *Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan* and the *City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan* (please see the letter of support).

A motion was made by Comm. Kennedy, and seconded by Comm. Hilleary, **authorizing** the Recording Secretary to submit the letter of support. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

(a) **Vandercook Lake County Park Development Project**

Staff reviewed the letter of support drafted for the proposed kayak launch site on Little Wolf Lake and the fishing pier on Mellen Camp Lake, citing support for the proposed facilities in the *Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan* and/or the *City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan* (please see the letter of support).

A motion was made by Comm. Hilleary, and seconded by Comm. Videto, **authorizing** the Recording Secretary to submit the letter of support. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

Item 7. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

Item 8. **Commissioner Comment.** Comm. Videto stated that Comm. Hawley did a good job as Acting Chair of the Commission.

Item 9. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned by Acting Chair Hawley at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Grant Bauman, Recording Secretary