

LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Prepared by Will Weber, Chair

13 April 2023

Scio Township's Land Preservation Program closed two projects in FY 2023:

1. Rouse. Section 35, 4.076 acres as an addition to the west side of Scio Woods Preserve. Fee simple purchase by Washtenaw County Parks for \$90,000; Scio share \$30,000 (33%).
2. Renz. Section 35, 101.361 acres on the west side of Wagner Rd. south of Liberty Rd. Conservation easement purchase for \$2,997,000; Scio share \$509,524 (17%).

A couple major projects are in the works for FY 2024, and several new applications for high priority properties have been received. The Land Preservation Commission is actively targeting contact with high priority property owners.

For the 36 projects completed to through March 31, 2023, Scio Township has expended just over \$8.4 million in acquisition costs from its dedicated land preservation millage. Over \$12 million has been contributed by other sources: the City of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt program (\$2,196,326), Washtenaw County Parks' Natural Areas Preservation Program (\$3,405,036), the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) (\$3,859,428), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (\$200,400) and landowner discounts (\$1,829,236). Scio's share of the total appraised value is 41% for a match ratio of 1.5:1. The total land area protected with millage funds through FY 22 is 1,709 acres, with 45% of that land in natural features (woods, streams and wetlands). Half of the 36 properties can or will be accessed by the public. Non-acquisition costs—which include staff, due diligence (appraisal, survey, environmental assessment, legal review) and other budgeted items—is 11.8% of total expenditures through the program's first 18 years, with over 88% of millage funds going directly to land and conservation easement purchases.

Will Weber continued as LPC chair. Marty Mayo, Liz Wineman, Tim Redmond and Lisa Pappas continued as members. The LPC welcomed Jeannine LaPrad as a new member. The Board of Trustees representative slot was assigned to John Reiser. Barry Lonik continued to serve the Commission as its consultant.

The LPC is honored to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Scio Township and effectively apply their support toward the preservation of high quality natural and agricultural lands.