

AGENDA # J.3
Scio Township Board of Trustees
Land Preservation Ballot Question

FOR MEETING DATE OF: May 10, 2022

PREPARED ON: 5/6/22

PREPARED BY: Will Hathaway

SUBMITTED BY: Land Preservation

ITEM TYPE: Possible Action

SUGGESTED ACTION: Approve language for renewal and the land preservation millage for its original purpose, to restore the millage to the original .5 mills and to place the proposal on the November 2, 2022 ballot.

BACKGROUND: Scio Township's land preservation program was funded in November 2004 with 75% of voters supporting a 0.5 mill, ten-year ballot proposal. The millage was renewed in November 2012 (two years before its expiration) for a second ten years with 70% support. Through FY 2020, the millage has generated \$9.575 million which has been matched with other sources (federal, State, county, Ann Arbor Greenbelt and landowner discounts) at an equal amount. That ratio is changing in Scio's favor with the closure of the Renz and Andres conservation easements, as Scio's share will be only 17% and 29% respectively for those large, innovative projects.

Township funds have been involved with permanently conserving 1,585 acres to date (to increase with several closings scheduled for the next few months), 567 (36%) of which are accessible to the public. Combined with lands conserved by other entities, the total amount of protected land in Scio is just over 2,800 acres representing almost 13% of the land base. The LPC has identified over 4,000 acres that have conservation value, of which 2,600 are high priority farmlands and natural areas. If all of those high priorities were conserved, the total protected lands in Scio would approach 25%.

NOTE: The resolution and ballot language are still being finalized and will be provided prior to the 5/10/22 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: At its December 2021 monthly meeting, the LPC recommended the land preservation millage be placed on the November 2022 ballot for renewal of another ten years and restored to the original 0.5 mill amount.

MODEL MOTION: ...to adopt the attached resolution placing the land preservation millage on the November 2022 ballot for renewal of another ten years and restoring it to the original 0.5 mill amount.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution Scio open space ballot language 2022.pdf](#)

QUESTION: Shall this Resolution be ADOPTED?