Land Preservation Millages in Washtenaw County Townships

Barry Lonik
Treemore Ecology & Land Services
Ann Arbor Township 2003

0.7 mills, 20 years
$6 million generated
Passed with 80% support
Scio Township 2004

- 0.5 mills, ten years
- $6 million generated
- Passed with 75% support
Webster Township 2005

0.5 mills for five years

$850,000 generated

First rural township, 70% support
Millage Renewals

- Webster Township 2009, 60% support
- Webster Township 2014, 73% support
- Scio Township 2012, 70% support
- Washtenaw County 2010, 58% support
  - Amended ordinance to specify farmland as a “natural resource”
  - 25% of renewal funds for farmland CEs
Motivations

AAT: economics
Scio: support planning
Webster: counter development
Use of Funds

- Purchase of Conservation Easements
- Difference between development value and farmland value
- Land remains in private ownership
- Subject to permanent deed restriction
- Scio Township purchases title to land
Protecting Water Quality

Honey Creek—Scio Township
Arms Creek—Webster Township